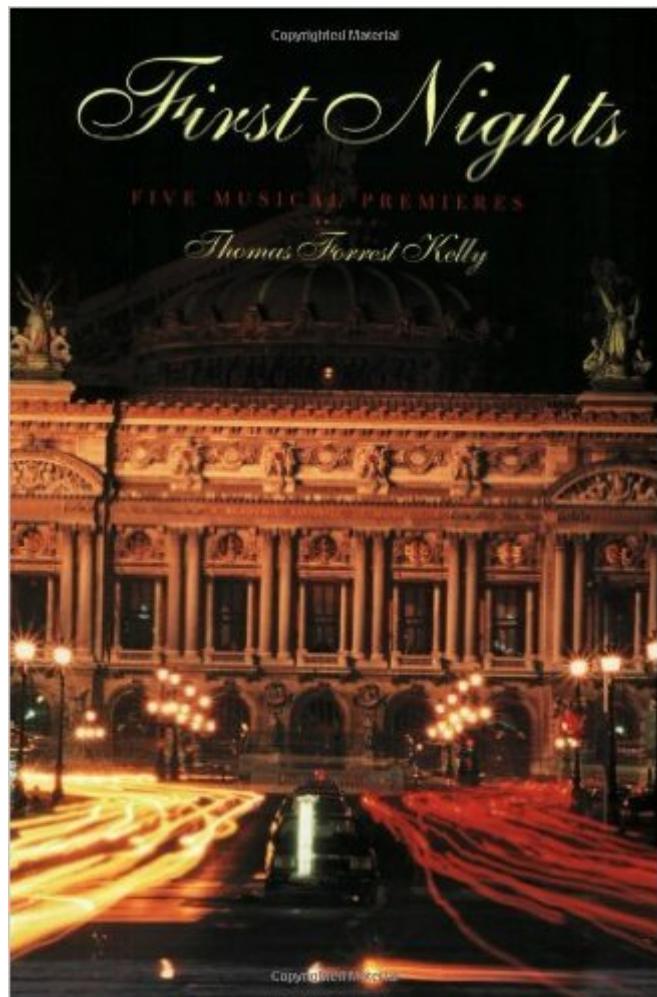


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# First Nights: Five Musical Premiers



## Synopsis

This text takes a look back at the debut performances of five famous musical compositions: Monteverdi's *Orfeo*, Handel's *Messiah*, Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique* and Stravinsky's *Sacre du Printemps*. It aims to recapture the atmosphere of these events.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I took Professor Thomas Kelly's "First Nights: Five Performance Premieres" class at Harvard, and it was an amazing experience. His lectures were loosely based off of this book, and always garnered curious visitors in the lecture hall. While I didn't read the book during the course, because the material was repetitive with his lectures, I read all of it in anticipation for the final, and it was as if Professor Kelly was giving a personal lecture to me, all without leaving the comfort of my room. It is well written, well researched, anecdotal without being too convoluted, and entertaining, most importantly! I highly recommend this book! I am looking forward to reading his First Nights at the Opera book soon. If you ever have a chance to visit Harvard, do come by to listen to one of his lectures (Fall semester, Tu/Th at 10 AM in Sanders Theater)

Excellent book giving details of composers, singer and orchestral musicians, the first-night concerts and venues/theater where 5 landmark first-nights performances took place. These are Monteverdi's *Orfeo*, Handel's *Messiah*, Beethoven's 9th Symphony premier which is most informative, Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique* and Stravinsky's *Rites of Spring*. The book is well-researched and

presented, a great book.

This book chronicles several "first nights" of different composers, including Stravinsky's disastrous "Rite of Spring," which audiences clearly weren't ready for at the time. Very enjoyable musical history.

Relive the premiere performances of Monteverdi's *Orfeo*, Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*, Berlioz' *Symphonie Fantastique* | Documented and vivid!

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