

49-5574ML4222011-4243 CIP Humanities \ Performing Arts \ MusicHoloman, D. Kern. **Charles Munch.**

Oxford, 2012. 296p bibl index afp ISBN [0-19-977270-3](#), \$35.00; ISBN [9780199772704](#), \$35.00. Reviewed in 2012jun CHOICE. The Alsatian conductor Charles Munch (1891-1968) has not inspired quite the same level of posthumous enthusiasm as some of his contemporaries, e.g., Fritz Reiner and George Szell. However, interest has risen a bit lately: some of his recordings have been reissued in audiophile formats, and the Boston Symphony Orchestra, which Munch led for 13 years, is searching for a new music director. (One suspects that the BSO would be thrilled to find another Munch, someone who pleased both his players and his audience.) The current volume, beautifully written and arranged in every respect, provides a congenial view of its subject as it demonstrates that the professional music world in the middle of the 20th century was vastly different from that world today. Michael Churry's recent *George Szell: A Life of Music* (CH, Dec'11, 49-1968) covers some of the same turf, but Holoman (Univ. of California, Davis) delves more deeply into the various social and political currents that influenced postwar musical life in both the US and Europe. Certainly the book is accessible to a wide audience.

Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals; general readers. -- *B. J. Murray, Brevard College*