



What is the curious connection between these

*Master Musicians?*

ANSWER: They all studied law.

The Hon JB Thomas explores the connection between the disciplines of music and law, and the remarkable people who have been scholars of both, in the Library's newest publication:

## CURIOUS CONNECTIONS

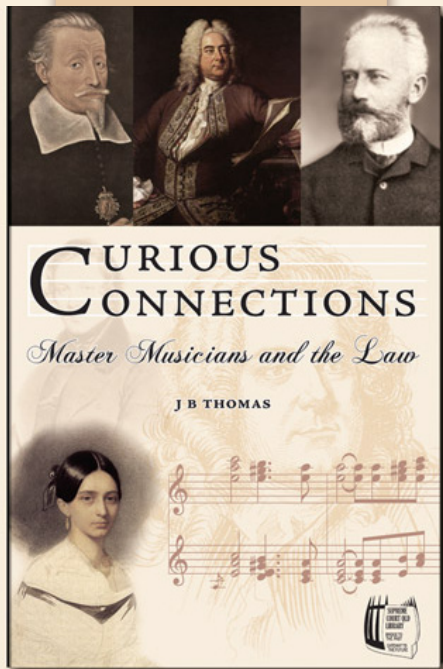
### *Master Musicians and the Law*



AUTHOR J B THOMAS

From Telemann to Cole Porter, *Curious Connections* presents a wealth of musical information on these musico-legal characters and also the reasons behind the relationship of these two seemingly dissimilar subjects.

JB Thomas is well-versed in law and music. Best known as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland from 1982 to 2002. Less well-known is that he studied piano and was awarded an A.Mus.A. in 1951 at age 16.



## ADVANCED ACCLAIM FOR CURIOUS CONNECTIONS

"In this fascinating study Jim Thomas casts a judicial and musically judicious eye upon the lives and music of over thirty great composers with backgrounds in the law and in the process entertains, educates and gently provokes. There's plenty here to beguile and inform the layman and the professional alike."

### Piers Lane

Concert Pianist, London

Professor of piano and Honorary Member of the Royal Academy of Music.

"A fascinating and original subject. The intellectual rigour required of the composer of music may require a modification of Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr's dictum: "The law is not the place for poets and artists. The law is a calling for thinkers."

### The Honourable J J Spigelman AC

Chief Justice of New South Wales

"*Curious Connections* is a totally absorbing work and makes a unique contribution to the history of music.

... an inspired conception with an exposition of great composers and performers who studied law before heeding the call to a life in music.

The research is superbly realized in *The Death of Tchaikovsky* chapter in which documented evidence is presented and sifted thoroughly before the author presents his convincing conclusions."

### Ronald Farren-Price AM,

Concert Pianist, D Mus

Associate Professor, Faculty of Music,

Principal Fellow, University of Melbourne

"*Curious Connections* is a wonderful book. It is quite unique in that it brings people from these two seemingly unrelated professions (music and law) closer to one another

It also makes one think more broadly about the nature of music and draws similarities between the main principles of creativity and forms of expression.

The chapter on Tchaikovsky's death is particularly fascinating. It reads like a detective story with a logical conclusion."

### Natasha Vlassenko

Concert Pianist

Head of Keyboard Department,

Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University.

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