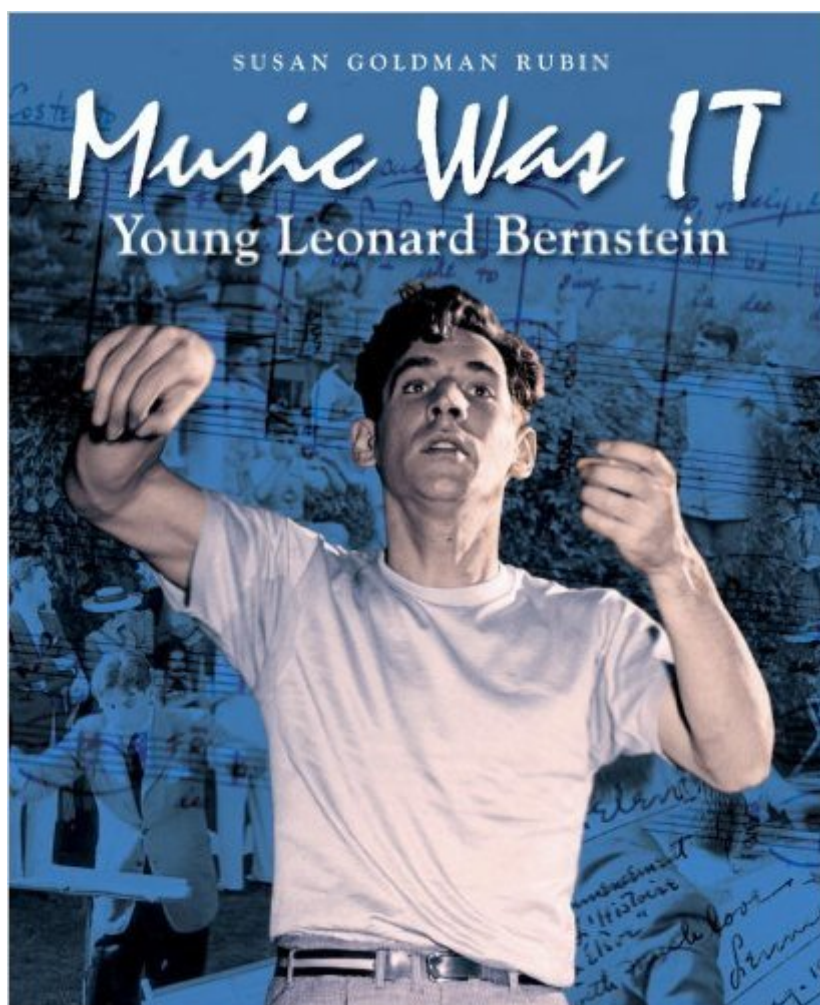


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# Music Was IT: Young Leonard Bernstein



## Synopsis

Beginning with Lenny's childhood in Boston and ending with his triumphant conducting debut at Carnegie Hall with the New York Philharmonic when he was just twenty-five, *Music Was IT* draws readers into the energetic, passionate, challenging, music-filled life of young Leonard Bernstein. Archival photographs, mostly from the Leonard Bernstein Collection at the Library of Congress, illustrate this fascinating biography, which also includes a foreword by Bernstein's daughter Jamie. Extensive back matter includes biographies of important people in Bernstein's life, as well as a discography of his music.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0970 (What's this?)

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Charlesbridge; Reprint edition (February 10, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1580893457

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Product Dimensions: 7.4 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars See all reviews (8 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,072,057 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #73 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > History #213 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Performing Arts #264 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Musical

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Rubin's well-written biography covers Leonard Bernstein's life and his passion for music from his childhood growing up in Boston through his brilliant conducting debut at age 25 with the New York Philharmonic in 1943 at Carnegie Hall. As all the famous conductors of classical music at that time were older Europeans, the young, American, Jewish "Lenny" created a tremendous sensation when he stepped in at the last minute to substitute for a conductor who had become ill. Lenny realized from a young age that "music was IT;" that music was what his life was going to be about. The author writes humorously of the resourcefulness Lenny had to use to earn money for his musical studies because his father, Sam, did not support a career in music for his son. Sam felt that

musicians would always be poor, like the klezmers in the old country. He wanted Lenny to join the family beauty business, or become a rabbi. Rubin's lively writing captures Bernstein's larger-than-life personality and transmits the great joy he found in music throughout his life. She handles the subject of his sexual orientation tactfully in the epilogue, writing that "In his personal life Lenny felt attracted to both men and women and had many romantic relationships." The book is well designed, with a cover picture of young Bernstein characteristically conducting with his whole body rather than a baton. Engaging black and white photographs combine with the text to highlight his tremendous contributions to the music world through conducting, composing, and writing classical music, as well as composing for musical theater such groundbreaking masterpieces as *West Side Story*. As a teacher he communicated the joy he felt about music through his innovative televised lectures, the Young People's Concerts.

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