

Harry Haskell Biography

Brief version

A former acquiring editor for Yale University Press and classical music critic for the *Kansas City Star*, Harry Haskell is the grandson of the *Star*'s Pulitzer Prize-winning editor, Henry J. (Harry) Haskell. He is the author of three previous books, including *Boss-Busters and Sin Hounds: Kansas City and Its "Star"* and *The Early Music Revival: A History*. He lives in Guilford with his wife, Ellen Cordes, a librarian at Yale University, and their daughter Lucy.

Long version

A former acquiring editor for Yale University Press and classical music critic for the *Kansas City Star*, Harry Haskell is the grandson of the *Star*'s Pulitzer Prize-winning editor, Henry J. Haskell. His previous book, *Boss-Busters and Sin Hounds: Kansas City and Its "Star,"* winner of the 2009 Missouri History Book Award, told the colorful story of the newspaper's rise and decline in the first half of the 20th century. In *Maiden Flight*, he focuses on a more intimate and dramatic subject: his grandfather's marriage to Katharine Wright, sister of the world-famous Wright brothers, and the tragic rift it caused with her highly possessive brother Orville.

Haskell is also the author of two nonfiction books on musical subjects: *The Early Music Revival: A History*, which received full-page reviews in the *New York Times Book Review* and the *London Times Literary Supplement*; and *The Attentive Listener: Three Centuries of Music Criticism*, which the *Boston Book Review* praised as "a beautifully collected and annotated anthology of occasional writings about music." The recently published French edition of *The Early Music Revival*, titled *Les Voix d'un renouveau*, won the 2014 Prix des Muses in musicology awarded by the Fondation Singer-Polignac in Paris.

Maiden Flight, based largely on Katharine Wright's articulate and highly revealing love letters, straddles the line between historical fiction and creative nonfiction. As such, it represents a new departure for the author. But whatever genre his books fall into, Haskell considers himself first and foremost a storyteller who aims to bring historical personalities and events to life for contemporary readers. He is currently at work on a biography of the early-20th-century attorney and social activist Frank P. Walsh, a stalwart champion of organized labor and civil liberties who was one of the Progressive Era's unsung heroes.

In addition to working as a free-lance book and journal editor, Haskell serves as program annotator for Carnegie Hall and the 92nd Street Y in New York. An avid cellist and gardener, he lives in Guilford, Connecticut, with his wife, Ellen Cordes, a librarian at Yale University's Lewis Walpole Library, and their book-loving daughter Lucy, a student at Oberlin College.