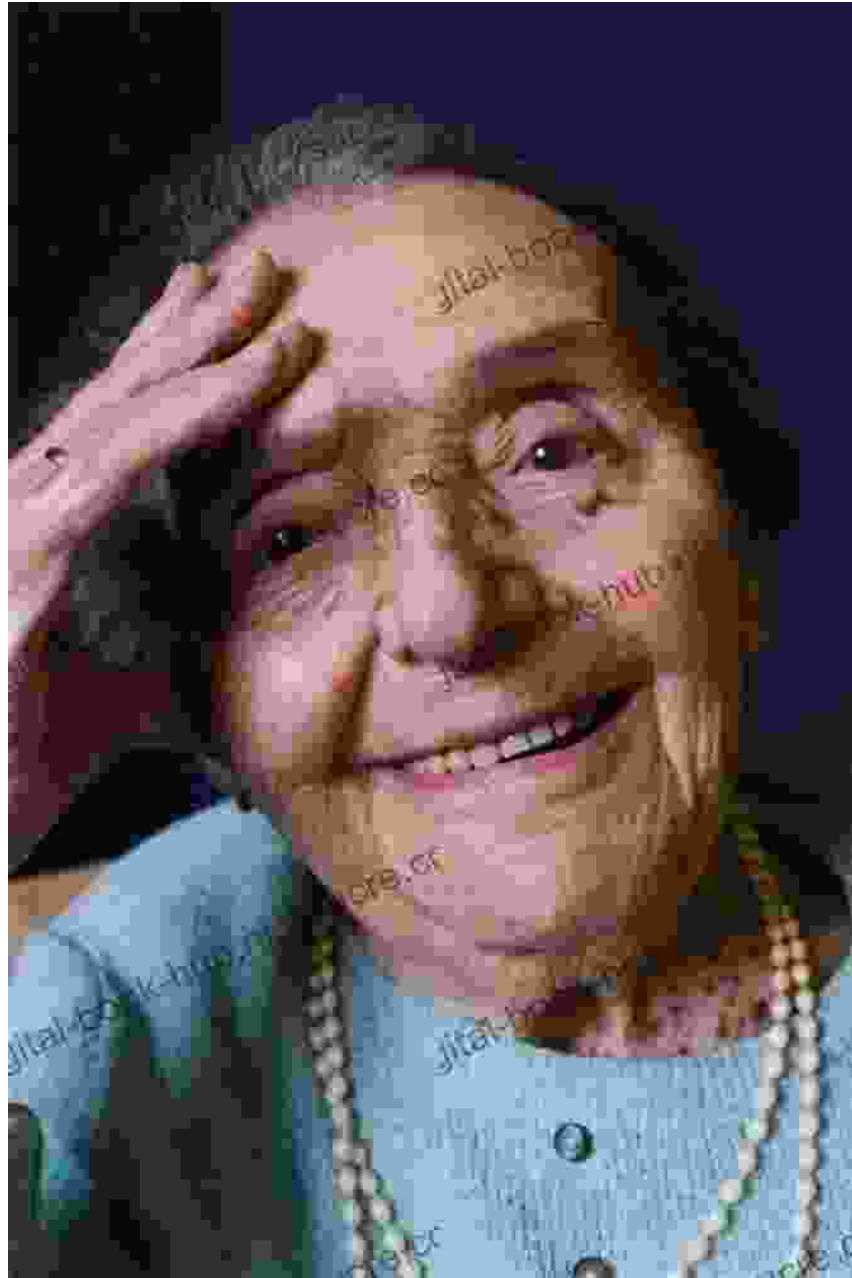
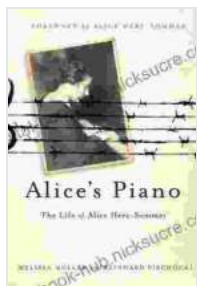


# Alice Herz-Sommer: A Remarkable Life of Resilience, Love, and Music



Alice Herz-Sommer, who lived an extraordinary life spanning 110 years, was a remarkable woman whose story of resilience, love, and music continues to inspire people around the world. Born in Prague,

Czechoslovakia, in 1903, she witnessed the horrors of both World Wars, including her imprisonment in the notorious Nazi concentration camp Terezin. Through it all, music remained her constant companion, offering her solace and strength.



## Alice's Piano: The Life of Alice Herz-Sommer

by Melissa Müller

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 4684 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 366 pages



### Early Life and Musical Education

Alice Herz grew up in a wealthy and cultured family. Her father was a lawyer and her mother a gifted pianist. From a young age, Alice displayed a natural talent for music. She began taking piano lessons at the age of five and soon became a highly accomplished pianist. She studied with renowned teachers in Prague and Vienna, and by her early twenties, she was performing as a concert pianist throughout Europe.

### Marriage and Family Life

In 1931, Alice married Leopold Sommer, a wealthy industrialist. They had two children, Stephan and Alice. Alice continued to pursue her musical career, balancing her performances with her responsibilities as a wife and

mother. However, with the rise of the Nazis in the late 1930s, her life took a dramatic turn.

## **Imprisonment in Terezin**

In 1942, Alice's family was arrested by the Nazis and sent to the Theresienstadt concentration camp, also known as Terezin. Conditions in the camp were horrific, with overcrowding, starvation, and disease rampant. Alice and her family were confined to a single room with seven other people.

Despite the unimaginable circumstances, Alice found solace in music. She organized concerts and recitals within the camp, using a small piano that was miraculously smuggled in. The music became a beacon of hope for the prisoners, providing them with a sense of humanity and dignity. Alice's husband, Leopold, passed away in the camp in 1944.

## **Liberation and Post-War Life**

In 1945, Alice and her children were liberated from Terezin by the Soviet Army. She returned to Prague, where she rebuilt her life and resumed her musical career. In the years that followed, she toured the world, performing as a concert pianist and sharing her experiences of the Holocaust.

In 1986, at the age of 83, Alice immigrated to London, England, to be closer to her son, Stephan. She continued to perform and give talks until her death in 2014 at the age of 110.

## **Legacy**

Alice Herz-Sommer's life story is a testament to the indomitable human spirit. Despite experiencing unimaginable suffering, she never lost her love

of life, her faith in humanity, or her passion for music. Her legacy continues to inspire and empower countless people around the world.

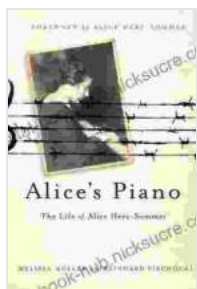
She has been the subject of numerous books, documentaries, and films. In 2015, a documentary titled "The Lady in Number 6: Music Saved My Life" was released, which chronicles Alice's life and the power of music to heal and inspire.

## Awards and Recognition

Throughout her life, Alice Herz-Sommer received numerous awards and accolades for her musical accomplishments and her humanitarian work. Some of the most notable include:

\* The Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany \* The Crystal Globe Award from the World Economic Forum \* The B'nai B'rith International Peace Award \* The Yad Vashem Medal

Alice Herz-Sommer's life was a symphony of resilience, love, and music. Through her unwavering spirit and the power of her music, she overcame adversity and became a symbol of hope and inspiration for generations. Her story continues to remind us that even in the darkest of times, the human spirit has the capacity to triumph over adversity.



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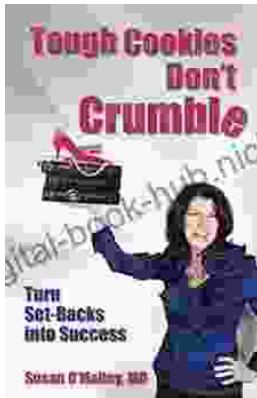
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