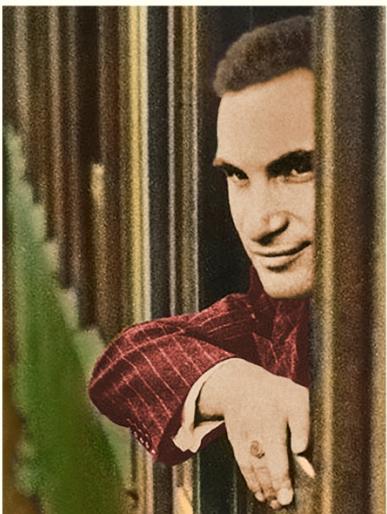


# Diogenes

Lukas Hartmann  
*The Singer*

Published by Diogenes as *Der Sänger*  
Original title: *Der Sänger*



## Lukas Hartmann *Der Sänger*

Roman · Diogenes

From global star to refugee – the incredible story of Joseph Schmidt, one of the most beautiful voices of the 20th century. His voice filled concert halls, beguiled women, captured an audience of millions in Germany, Europe, and America, where they called him »the small man with the great voice«. Joseph Schmidt, the son of orthodox Jews from Czernowitz, Ukraine, made an incredible success of himself. What a journey from an unknown Eastern European Shtetl to the famous Carnegie Hall! In 1942, however, fame and talent are worth nothing. On the run from the Nazis, the famous tenor becomes ill and is just one of thousands of exhausted refugees stuck at the Swiss border. Will he make it to the other side, to safety?

## Book factsheet

General Fiction  
288 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 x 2.3 cm  
May 2019

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### Translation rights currently sold:

Italian (Ugo Guanda)  
Russian (Knizhniki)  
Ukrainian (Books XXI)

### Bestseller

# 1 Swiss Bestseller

### Movie adaptations

**2007: Die Prinzessin von Sansibar**  
Director: Tina Diaz  
Screenplay: Tina Diaz  
Cast: Dokumtarfilm mit Spielszenen

### 1992: Anna annA

Director: Greti & Jürgen Brauer Kläy  
Screenplay: Lukas & Greti Kläy Hartmann  
Cast: Lea Hürlimann, Wanda Hürlimann, Ilona Schulz

### 1989: Pestalozzis Berg

Director: Peter von Gunten  
Cast: Gian Maria Volonté, Rolf Hoppe, Mathias Gnädinger, Corinna Harfouch

### Awards

- 2018 »Literaturpreis« Kanton Bern für *Ein Bild von Lydia*
- 2016 Generationenbuchpreis »Prix Chronos« für *Mein Dschinn*
- 2010 »Grosser Literaturpreis von Stadt und Kanton Bern« für sein Gesamtwerk
- 2010 »Sir Walter Scott-Literaturpreis« für *Bis ans Ende der Meere*
- 2001 Ehrenliste des Österreichischen Kinder- und Jugendbuchpreises: *Leo Schmetterling*
- 1996 Preis der Schweizerischen Schillerstiftung für *Die Mohrin*
- 1995 Schweizer Jugendbuchpreis für *So eine lange Nase*
- 1995 »Luchs 108« von *Die Zeit* und Radio Bremen für *Die Mohrin*
- 1993 Buchpreis der Stadt Bern für *Die Seuche*
- 1988 Werkjahr der Pro Helvetia sowie von Stadt und Kanton Bern für *Einer stirbt in Rom*
- 1983 Werkjahr der Pro Helvetia für *Aus dem Innern des Mediums*
- 1980 Buchpreis der Stadt Bern für *Pestalozzis Berg*
- 1980 Buchpreis der Schillerstiftung für *Pestalozzis Berg*

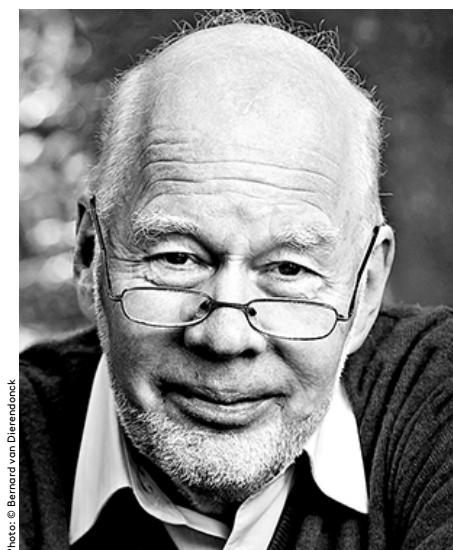
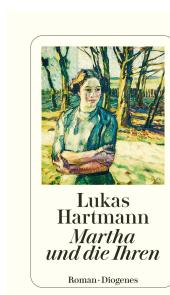
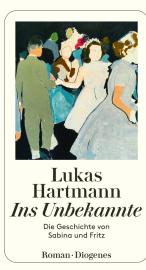


Photo: © Bernard van Dierendonck

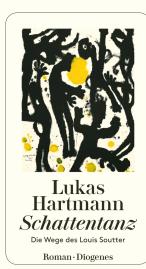
Lukas Hartmann, born in Berne in 1944, studied German and psychology. He was a teacher, journalist and media consultant. Today, he is a freelance writer living in Berne, writing books for adults and children. He is one of Switzerland's best-known authors and his novels regularly feature on the bestseller lists.



**Lukas Hartmann**  
*Martha und die Ihnen*  
Roman · Diogenes



**Lukas Hartmann**  
*Ins Unbekannte*  
Die Geschichte von Schino und Toto  
Roman · Diogenes



**Lukas Hartmann**  
*Schattentanz*  
Die Wege des Louis Seutter  
Roman · Diogenes



**Lukas Hartmann**  
*Ein Bild von Lydia*  
Roman · Diogenes

*Martha and Her Kin*

304 pages

2024

Bestseller

*Into the Unknown*  
288 pages  
2022  
Bestseller

*Shadow Dance*  
256 pages  
2021  
Bestseller

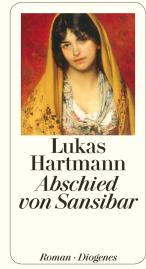
*A Picture of Lydia*  
368 pages  
2018  
Award winner  
Bestseller



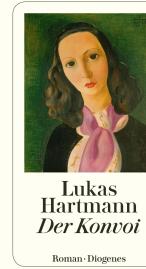
**Lukas Hartmann**  
*Ein passender Mieter*  
Roman · Diogenes



**Lukas Hartmann**  
*Auf beiden Seiten*  
Roman · Diogenes



**Lukas Hartmann**  
*Abschied von Sansibar*  
Roman · Diogenes



**Lukas Hartmann**  
*Der Konvoi*  
Roman · Diogenes

*A Suitable Tenant*  
368 pages

2016

Bestseller

*On Both Sides*  
336 pages  
2015  
Bestseller

*Goodbye to Zanzibar*  
336 pages  
2013  
Movie Adaptation  
Bestseller

*The Convoy*  
208 pages  
2013

## Praise

### The Singer

»[With his language] Hartmann succeeds in striking a soft chord, and he also manages to describe the horror [of war camps].«  
– Christian Berzins / *Tages-Anzeiger*, Zurich

»A masterful balancing act.« – Elmar Krekeler / *Die Welt*, Berlin

»The Swiss author, who repeatedly shows in his novels that the present cannot exist without the past, lambastes his homeland for self-righteously extolling itself as a bastion of democracy throughout history.« – Lilo Solcher / *Augsburger Allgemeine*

»[. . .] the book's real strength lies in its unspoken topicality, this recurring conflict between humanity and a rationally comprehensible yet often cruel political pragmatism.« – Jutta Duhm-Heitzmann / *WDR 3*, Cologne

»Through these characters, Hartmann asks questions of history, of the Switzerland from that time, and of his readers too. He doesn't answer them. And that's exactly as it should be.« – Susanne Kübler / *Tages-Anzeiger*, Zurich

»On the occasion of the author's anniversary, Lukas Hartmann presents his compatriots with a novel which is both gripping and bitterly angry.« – *Deutsche Welle*, Bonn

»Joseph Schmidt's voice did not leave anyone cold, and nor does this novel about the tenor's life.« – Rose-Maria Gropp / *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

»This is an exemplary piece of genre fiction, which records a tragic life dispassionately and without intrusive moral judgement.« – *New Books in German*, London

»Hartmann dispenses with any pathos and bias, making his realistic novel even more gripping in the process.« – *Badische Neueste Nachrichten*, Karlsruhe

### Lukas Hartmann

»Lukas Hartmann develops great poetic power, full of sensibility and eloquent silence.« – *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*

»Lukas Hartmann immerses himself totally in his characters. He has a particular interest in figures who are in danger of being swallowed up by history. He is driven by a strong sense of justice, empathy and meticulousness.« – Beatrice Eichmann-Leutenegger / *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*

»A virtuoso of the historical novel.« – Charles Linsmayer / *NZZ am Sonntag*, Zurich

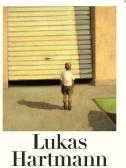
»Lukas Hartmann knows how to write history in a way that puts the present in a different light.« – *Augsburger Allgemeine*



Lukas  
Hartmann  
*Räuberleben*

Roman · Diogenes

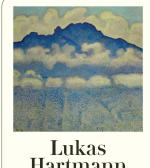
A Robber's Life  
352 pages  
2012



Lukas  
Hartmann  
*Finsternes  
Glück*

Roman · Diogenes

Dark Bliss  
320 pages  
2010



Lukas  
Hartmann  
*Pestalozzis  
Berg*

Roman · Diogenes

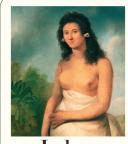
Pestalozzi's Mountain  
208 pages  
2009



Lukas  
Hartmann  
*Die Seuche*

Roman · Diogenes

The Plague  
224 pages  
2009



Lukas  
Hartmann  
*Bis ans Ende  
der Meere*

Roman · Diogenes

To the End of the Sea  
496 pages  
2009

