

THE VIVALDI CIPHER

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The Vivaldi Cipher

AUTHOR

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gary McAvoy is a veteran technology executive, entrepreneur, and author of several books including his bestselling series *The*

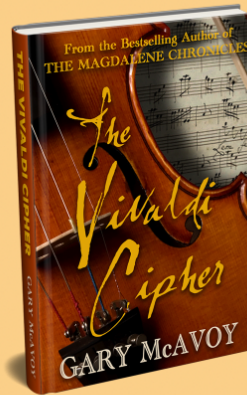
Magdalene Chronicles, and his award-winning nonfiction work *And Every Word Is True*, a sequel to Truman Capote's landmark book *In Cold Blood*. Gary is also a professional collector of ancient manuscripts and historical documents, much of which informs his writing projects.



THE VIVALDI CIPHER

A NOVEL

GARY McAVOY



During the election of a new Pope in the mid-18th century, famed violinist Antonio Vivaldi learns of a ring of art forgers who are replacing the Vatican's priceless treasures with expertly-painted fakes. Desperate, the composer hides a message in a special melody, hoping someone, someday, will take down the culprits . . .

Nearly three hundred years later, the confession of a dying Mafia Don alerts a Venetian priest to a wealth of forged paintings in the Vatican Museum, and the key to their identities lies hidden in a puzzling piece of music. Father Michael Dominic, prefect of the Secret Archives, investigates, and is mystified when he finds a cipher in an old composition from Vivaldi. Desperate to stop this centuries-long conspiracy, he calls on fellow sleuth Hana Sinclair and Dr. Livia Gallo, a music cryptologist, to help him crack the code and learn the truth.

But the Camorra, a centuries-old Italian Mafia clan, won't stand by while some interfering priest ruins their most lucrative operation. Along with a French commando and two valiant Swiss Guards, Dominic explores the dark canals and grand palazzos of Venice to uncover the evidence he needs to stop the sinister plot. Can he unearth it in time, or will the Church's most valuable artworks fall prey to this massive conspiracy?

THE VIVALDI CIPHER

EDITORIAL REVIEWS

"Gary McAvoy returns to continue building on his previous series, though the shift away from all things Magdalene has not lessened the impact of the writing. There is still a great deal to discover in the secret archives of the Vatican and who better to bring them to light than Father Michael Dominic. It was during the election of the new pontiff in the mid-18th century that famed violinist Antonio Vivaldi came to learn a dreadful secret, one that could scandalize the Holy See for centuries. Using his skills in musical composition, Vivaldi hid a message in his music, hoping that it would be found and those responsible revealed. Today, Father Dominic comes upon one of these compositions and enlists some help to crack the code. Soon, a long-held secret that will surely tarnish the Vatican comes to light. However, its revelation comes at a price, specifically the ire of a powerful branch of the Italian mob. Dominic will have to stay one step ahead of these ruthless men to ensure the truth is revealed, but staying alive may be a larger concern. It was just last summer that I discovered the work of Gary McAvoy and I have not been able to say enough about him since. Using a backdrop of the Vatican, McAvoy pens a wonderful series of thrillers that push mysteries beyond what most writers would concoct and keeps the reader guessing until the end. Use of two forms of art in this piece make for added thrills in a book that tries to serve as a standalone, but is also wonderfully complements McAvoy's past trilogy. I cannot get enough of these books, as my binge reading has proven repeatedly. Kudos, Mr. McAvoy, for another winner. You sure know how to spin a tale, with equal parts mystery and historical possibility." — **MATT PECHEY**, Reedsy Discovery

"This was an intense, thrilling, and fast-paced historical novel containing plenty of action and heightened danger. The author has once more seamlessly blended well-researched historical facts into a suspenseful, believable adventure with intriguing characters. References have been added at the end of the book explaining what is fact and which fictional parts were inserted to make this a gripping story. The city of Venice is the major location and adds to an immersive, vibrant sense of place. Highly recommended to readers who enjoy a tense, action-packed historical novel containing crime, dangerous villains, cryptic clues, and endearing, undaunted protagonists. A stimulating, impeccably researched, well-plotted story."

— **CAROLYN WALSH REVIEWS**, New Brunswick, Canada

"When you read a book by Gary McAvoy you know exactly what you are going to get: high quality, incredibly well researched and detailed suspense, with a theme of ciphers and codes, and this book is no different. Moving away from the theology somewhat now, *The Vivaldi Cipher* moves into the arena of fine art, the setting now from the Vatican to Venice, but with the same cast of characters – a clergyman, a reporter, a couple of Swiss Guard soldiers – that Gary has clearly come to know and love. They are all endearing, and the author is adding layers to their overall narrative with every installment. I like Gary and his writing a great deal. It is well presented, entertaining and intriguing Sunday afternoon mystery, and his intellect shines through, treating his reading audience like grown-ups, which I always appreciate."

— **MATT McAVOY**, Matt McAvoy Reviews UK (*no relation to author*)


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