

## Faculty Member Allen Shawn's New Memoir Excerpted in New York Times

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An excerpt from author and music faculty member [Allen Shawn](#)'s forthcoming memoir *Twin*, to be published in January by Viking, appeared in last Sunday's (Dec. 4) *New York Times*.

Shawn's new book offers a poignant reflection on the inextricable bond and life-defining relationship he's shared with his autistic twin sister, Mary, who was placed in an institution for the mentally disabled at the age of eight.

"It wasn't until I reached late middle age that I could even begin to acknowledge that being Mary's twin was a central fact, perhaps the central fact, of my life," Shawn writes. "All I did feel was a kind of blank place inside, where memories and feelings should have been."

Read the entire excerpt [here](#).

An award-winning composer, Shawn is also author of *Arnold Schoenberg's Journey*—which won the 2003 ASCAP Deems Taylor Award—and the critically acclaimed memoir *Wish I Could Be There: Notes From a Phobic Life*. His essays have also appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *The Musical Times*, and *The Times Literary Supplement*.