New Music Announcement

Hector Berlioz: Symphonie fantastique op. 14
(ISBN 978-3-7618-1601-1)

Composed in 1830, Symphonie fantastique is one of French Romantic composer Hector Berlioz’s most famous works, in part for its innovations in the form of the programmatic symphony. It tells the somewhat autobiographical story of a young artist and his unrequited love.

Published by Bärenreiter-Verlag Kassel and edited by Hugh Macdonald, Symphonie fantastique is part of the Bärenreiter Facsimile series. It can be purchased individually for EUR 720.00 or at a reduced price as part of one the following series, both of which are also available through HARRASSOWITZ:

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We hope you will find our selection to be of interest for your music collection and look forward to hearing from you in regard to this announcement.

Yours sincerely,
HARRASSOWITZ Music Services

February 2018

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“The story of my love … my torments, my harrowing dreams”

Hector Berlioz

Symphonie fantastique

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**Hugh Macdonald**, General Editor of the New Berlioz Edition, explains the work’s genesis and presents particular passages from each movement.

**Hector Berlioz**

**Symphonie fantastique op. 14**

Facsimile of the autograph score held in the Bibliothèque nationale de France

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Love and insanity, tenderness and vulgarity bordering on the grotesque:

Hector Berlioz never avoided extremes, neither in his life nor in his œuvre. His entire *Symphonie fantastique* is pervaded by a musical "idée fixe" representing a woman he adored. The symphony brought about his breakthrough and has remained popular ever since.

The impact of his masterly approach to composition, especially in the treatment of the orchestration, could still be felt in the 20th century. Berlioz revised the work for years before it finally reached its definitive version.

He entered many of these changes in the autograph score, which was also used for performances, by pasting strips of paper over the bars or parts in question.

**This facsimile edition**, in high-quality four-colour reproduction, presents the manuscript as it is today – with pieces of paper that can be folded out, making both versions visible.

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With a Commentary by Hugh Macdonald

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