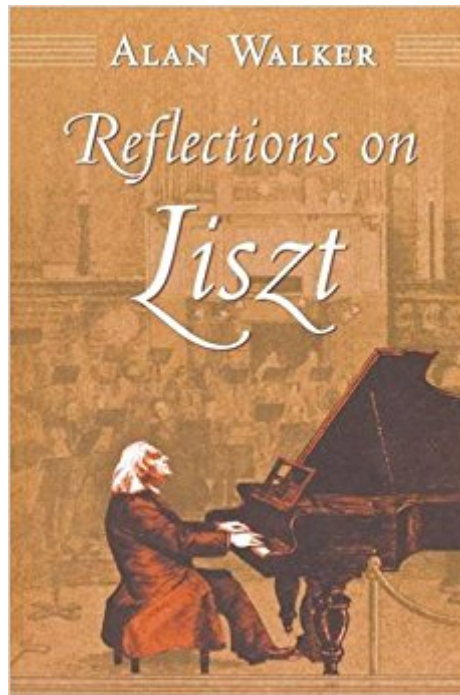




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Reflections On Liszt



Synopsis

"No one knows more about Franz Liszt than Alan Walker." — Malcolm Bowie, Times Literary Supplement
In a series of lively essays that tell us much not only about the phenomenon that was Franz Liszt but also about the musical and cultural life of nineteenth-century Europe, Alan Walker muses on aspects of Liszt's life and work that he was unable to explore in his acclaimed three-volume biography of the great composer and pianist. Topics include Liszt's contributions to the Lied, the lifelong impact of his encounter with Beethoven, his influence on students who became famous in their own right, his accomplishments in transcribing and editing the works of other composers, and his innovative piano technique. One chapter is devoted to the Sonata in B Minor, perhaps Liszt's single most celebrated composition. Walker draws heavily on Liszt's astonishingly large personal correspondence with other composers, critics, pianists, and prominent public figures. All the essays reveal Walker's broad and deep knowledge of Liszt and Romantic music generally and, in some cases, his impatience with contemporary performance practice.

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Customer Reviews

"The collection of essays is a sort of appendix to Alan Walker's three-volume biography of Liszt. That was not a study of the music, though it commented selectively on the music as part of the composer's life, but it was — is — one of the most readable and engrossing biographies of any subject ever written." — Adrian Jack, BBC Music Magazine (August 2005)
"Walker is unashamedly a Lisztian, of course, but his advocacy is never fanatical. Rather, it is

mantled in terse, accomplished prose, supported by faultless research, and buttressed by copious musical examples and musicological argument. In this indispensable book, Walker has strengthened his case for a reevaluation of the composer's accomplishments with care, detail, and – the word is not too strong – virtuosity." – Conor Farrington, Times Literary Supplement (24 November 2006)

Alan Walker is Professor of Music at McMaster University. He was awarded the Commemorative Plaque of the Budapest Liszt Society for his contributions to Liszt scholarship.

If the three volumes on the life of Franz Liszt by Mr. Alan Walker left you begging for more, then this book is for you. After reading *The Virtuoso Years*, *The Weimar Years* and *The Final Years* you are left satiated with the life and legacy of this virtuoso. But then you want your dessert....and this is it! Read this book and you'll get to know those details that were slightly touched on volumes I, II and III. It makes you wonder if Mr. Alan Walker still has one more under the sleeves...?

I've read the three Liszt biographical volumes a few times each already, and yet I find things I haven't caught previously. This is another of that type of book, where one can read it many times and still find it enjoyable. Mr. Walker is a fascinating author. His knowledge of Liszt is unsurpassed and, I hope, never ending..I am a devout Liszt admirer and this author is, by far, the best on this subject of any. This book goes into a bit more detail in some parts than I can grasp (discussing intricate areas of the Sonata), but, all in all, a very "readable" book.

Haven't finished it yet...I have read pretty much everything Alan Walker has written about Liszt, including his Von Bulow biography. As with the others, this is very well researched. Walker is definitely the authority on Liszt.

This is the book to have especially if you already have read Dr. Alan Walker's magnificent 3 volume trilogy on Franz Liszt which was the cumulative effort of some 25 years of painstaking research. The consensus is, remains, and I well share the view that Dr. Alan Walker is "the" world authority and foremost Lisztian scholar. This 2005 book essentially covers what was not included in the trilogy and hence "Reflections" but the material is all new and significantly adds to the Liszt literature. Three former Liszt pupils are presented with what Dr. Walker terms "Character Sketches" from Carl Tausig, Hans von Bülow and Walter Bache. Not to mention the era itself, additional Liszt

involvements during that era with ample musical/score citations and the musical personalities of the era. As I expressed to Dr. Walker in writing, there are those gifted pianists who have the experience and ability to interpret the music of Franz Liszt while Dr. Walker has the equal ability [and credentials therein] to interpret Franz Liszt the man. In my opinion, this latest work on Liszt is the capstone of a truly magnificent effort to bring Franz Liszt to readers albeit in a capacity that the reader gets the feeling of 'being there' as the action unfolds. I would also highly recommend Dr. Walker's book dealing with the Lina Schmalhausen diary concerning the death of Franz Liszt. There are many tomes and recitations, indeed even dedicated websites, about Franz Liszt but Dr. Walker's writings offer an almost You-Are-There quality of his narrative and thus you at least figuratively yet perceptively 'see' and 'hear' Liszt more so than you simply read of the man whether Liszt remarks to one of his students about certain "uninvited guests" [sic -- Liszt's buzz-word for 'wrong notes' or "clinkers"] or Liszt becoming yancy when pressured or indeed even very politely cajoled to play [which happened virtually everywhere he went] versus his own initiative and hence 'desire' to play, as Dr. Walker puts it, "because it is then within his gift to do so." Liszt's own papers over a lifetime provide a veritable goldmine in which to draw not to mention his voluminous correspondence and media extracts of the time. Get the book! It's that good! That informative and that intellectually stimulating. Doc Tony

A NICE ADDENDUM TO WALKER'S MAGNUM OPUS ON LISZT

hope my nephew likes this

for lisztomaniacs only. of which I am one.

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