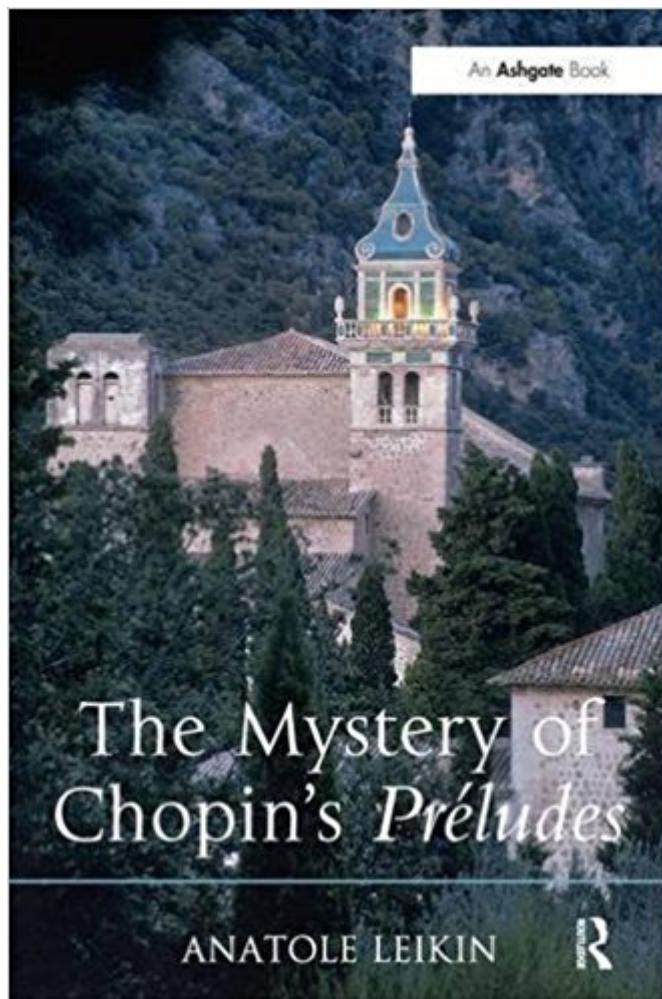


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The Mystery Of Chopin's Préludes



Synopsis

Chopin's twenty-four Préludes remain as mysterious today as when they were newly published. What prompted Franz Liszt and others to consider Chopin's Préludes to be compositions in their own right rather than introductions to other works? What did set Chopin's Préludes so drastically apart from their forerunners? What exactly was 'the morbid, the feverish, the repellent' that Schumann heard in Opus 28, in that 'wild motley' of 'strange sketches' and 'ruins'? Why did Liszt and another, anonymous, reviewer publicly suggest that Lamartine's poem Les Préludes served as an inspiration for Chopin's Opus 28? And, if that is indeed the case, how did the poem affect the structure and the thematic contents of Chopin's Préludes? And, lastly, is Opus 28 a random assortment of short pieces or a cohesive cycle? In this monograph, richly illustrated with musical examples, Anatole Leikin combines historical perspectives, hermeneutic and thematic analyses, and a range of practical implications for performers to explore these questions and illuminate the music of one of the best loved collections of music for the piano.

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"The rich, well-elaborated contextâ | The meticulous motivic analysis is impressiveâ | Most stunning of all is the cultural panoramaâ | At some moments, it is even as if this is not a twenty-first-century author writing, but an intellectual from Chopinâ ™s milieu who survived the composerâ | really a great discoveryâ | the book is written in the form of a musicological detective storyâ | Each new chapter strikes with the unexpectedness of its approaches and received dataâ | The book is a piece

Anatole Leikin is Professor of Music at the University of California, Santa Cruz. He has published in various musicological journals and essay collections worldwide and recorded piano works of Scriabin, Chopin, and Cope. His book *The Performing Style of Alexander Scriabin* was published by Ashgate. He also serves as an editor for *The Complete Chopin - A New Critical Edition*.

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