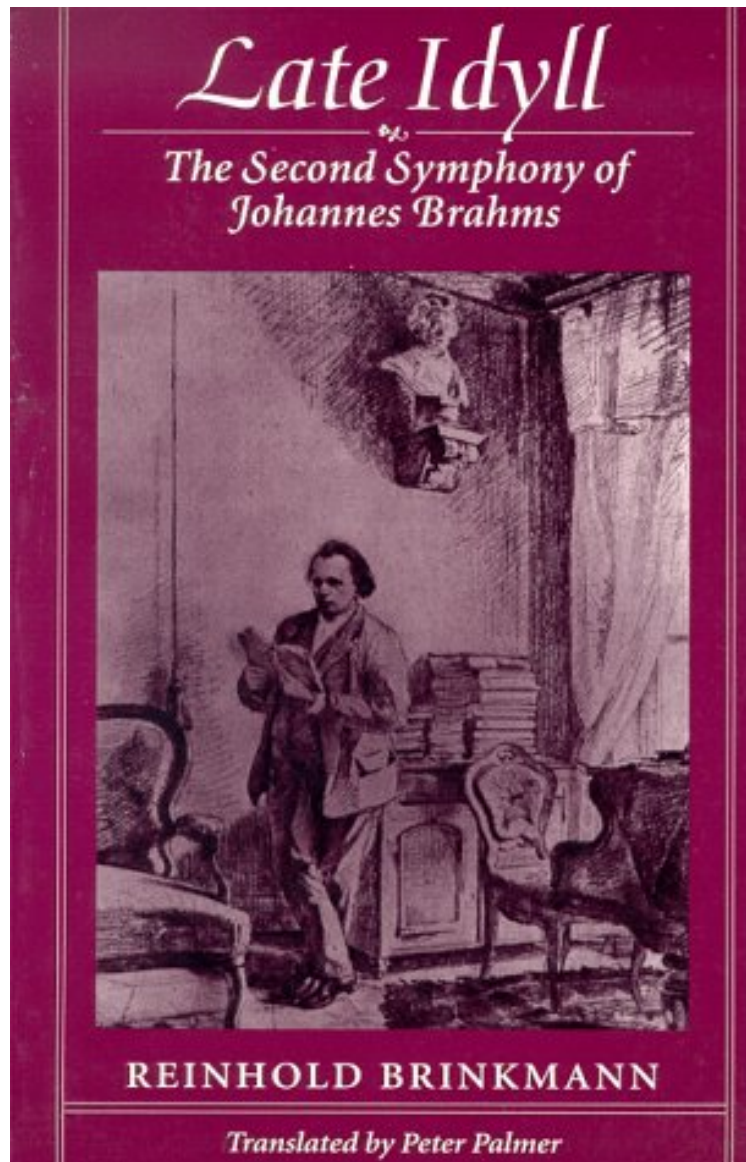


(Free) Late Idyll: The Second Symphony of Johannes Brahms

Late Idyll: The Second Symphony of Johannes Brahms

Reinhold Brinkmann

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Reinhold Brinkmann : Late Idyll: The Second Symphony of Johannes Brahms before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Late Idyll: The Second Symphony of Johannes Brahms:

Though central to our concert and recording repertory, and crucial to the history of the symphony, the four symphonies of Johannes Brahms have proved surprisingly resistant to critical analysis. In this brief, elegant book, a premier musicologist conducts us through the Second Symphony to show us what is unique and remarkable about this particular work and what it reveals about the composer and his time. Reinhold Brinkmann guides us through the symphony movement by movement, examining musical ideas in all their compositional facets and placing them in the context of major trends in the intellectual history of late nineteenth-century Europe. He delineates connections between this symphony and the composer's other works and traces its relation to the music of Brahms's predecessors, particularly Beethoven. The product of a long and deep engagement with the music of Brahms, *Late Idyll* captures the spirit of the composer, probes the impulses behind his revisions of the original manuscript, and explores the meaning of the disparity between the first two movements of the symphony and the last. The result is a penetrating reading of a perplexing and important composition, clearly placed within its biographical, historical, and artistic context. It will engage and enlighten students and concertgoers alike.

[*Late Idyll*] should be required reading, not only for listeners and students but for conductors as well...In Brinkmann's hands, [Brahms's Second Symphony] takes its rightful place in intellectual and social history. (Leon Botstein *Times Literary Supplement*) Mr. Brinkmann's monograph is a loving look at Brahms as exemplar of the melancholic temperament...[His book is] technical, but makes reasonable leaps from technical observations to aesthetic claims. That may be the only way to understand music in words: Immerse oneself in it, learn its jargon and come out the other side hearing connections previously only guessed at. (Kenneth LaFave *Washington Times*) Brinkmann guides the reader carefully through the entire composition, pausing occasionally to examine a detail here and there. He attractively combines analytical, hermeneutic, biographical, and historical material, relating the symphony to Brahms's other works and to those of his contemporaries and predecessors (particularly Beethoven), and making frequent reference to the cultural milieu of late 19th century Europe. (Choice) *Late Idyll* is not only a superlative study of Brahms but an indispensable study of nineteenth-century genre. (Charles Rosen) Language Notes Text: English (translation) Original Language: German