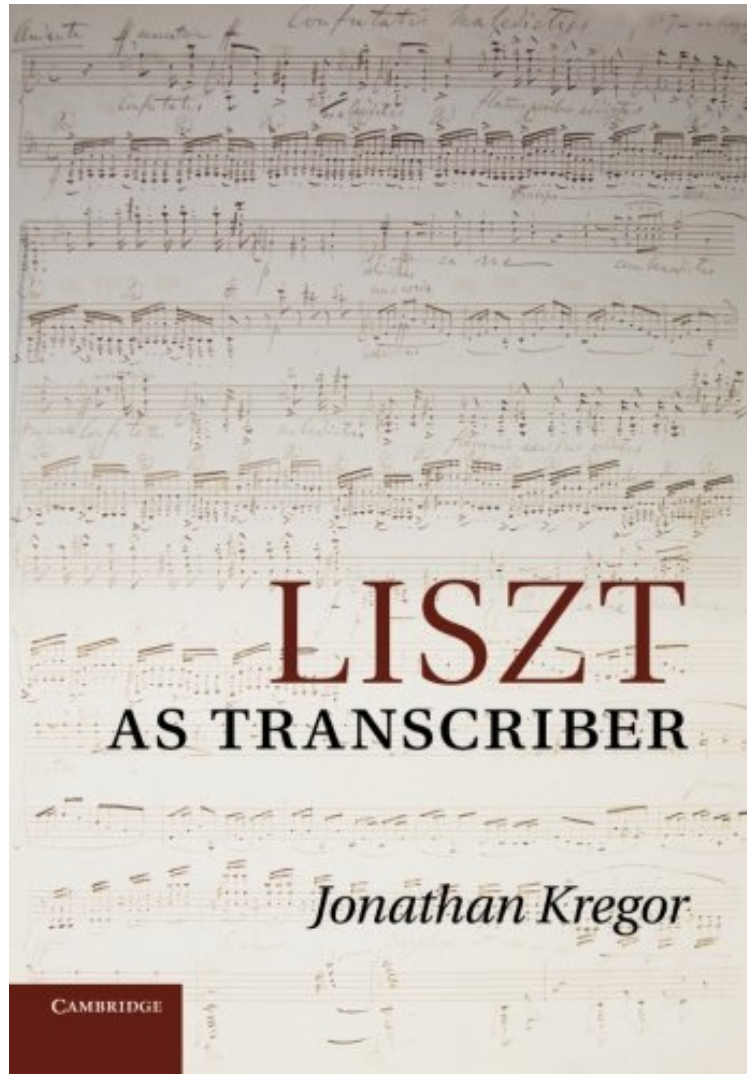


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Liszt as Transcriber

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Jonathan Kregor : Liszt as Transcriber before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Liszt as Transcriber:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Densely packed, solid musical study By klavierspiel Franz Liszt is such an all-encompassing, prolific figure in nineteenth-century music history that to approach his art in detail at all most historians scrutinize but a few facets of his output. Liszt as Transcriber whittles even the category of Liszt's oeuvre that is its topic to a relatively few essential works: his arrangements of Berlioz' *Symphonie Fantastique*, Beethoven's *Fifth Symphony*, Schubert's *Winterreise*, operatic paraphrases of works of Weber and Wagner, and finally a handful of late, and to this reader quite unfamiliar transcriptions. Author Jonathan Kregor examines the works he

chooses in detail for what they reveal about, among other topics: Liszt's attitude toward musical reproduction; the role that such reproductions played in nineteenth-century concert life; what they reveal about Liszt's relationships with the various composers involved; and the part they played in bridging the gap between the virtuoso performer and innovative (and frequently harshly criticized) composer. There is a lengthy introductory chapter that begins with an examination of the relationship between musical transcription and literary translation, then proceeds to a general discussion of the aesthetics of keyboard transcription itself. Kregor demonstrates a talent for alternating between the broadly historical and the minutely detailed in a convincing manner. While his method does result in long digressions from the main topic of study, sometimes to the point of reader impatience, the end result is a solidly researched and newly insightful study of this nowadays fairly widely performed, but as yet very incompletely understood corner of Liszt's output.

Franz Liszt's colleagues considered him to be one of the most accomplished and innovative practitioners in the field of musical reproduction, a reputation for which he is still admired today. Yet, while his transcriptions are widely performed, few studies have investigated the role that transcriptions played in Liszt's artistry, to say nothing of the impact they had on the music-making experience of his day. Using a host of interdisciplinary methods and primary source materials, this book provides a comprehensive survey of Liszt's lifelong involvement with the transcription, in which he assumed the roles of composer, collaborator, propagandist, commemorator, philosopher, and artist while simultaneously disseminating - often critically - the music of Beethoven, Berlioz, Schubert, Wagner, and other eighteenth- and nineteenth-century composers. By recognizing transcription as an extraordinarily flexible tool for Liszt and his contemporaries, *Liszt as Transcriber* provides numerous musical, cultural, and historical contexts for this fundamentally important practice of the period.

"Given Liszt's importance and lasting influence, this beautifully produced, excellently written and documented book will likely prove to be a useful-even necessary-addition to the personal libraries of pianists, students of the piano literature and researchers in the field of 19th century music/Romanticism, and to institutional music libraries with collections in these areas. Highly recommended." --*MusicMediaMonthly*"An excellent new book ... Kregor's book gives a persuasive account of the importance of Liszt's transcriptions in contemporary musical politics." --*NYRBA*
About the Author: Jonathan Kregor is Assistant Professor of Music at the College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati. He specializes in music of the long nineteenth century, and his articles and reviews have appeared in many publications, including *The Musical Quarterly*, *The Nineteenth-Century Music*, and *The Journal of Musicology*. He has edited volumes of C. P. E. Bach's keyboard music for *C. P. E. Bach: The Complete Works* and is preparing an edition of Clara Schumann's unpublished piano transcriptions.