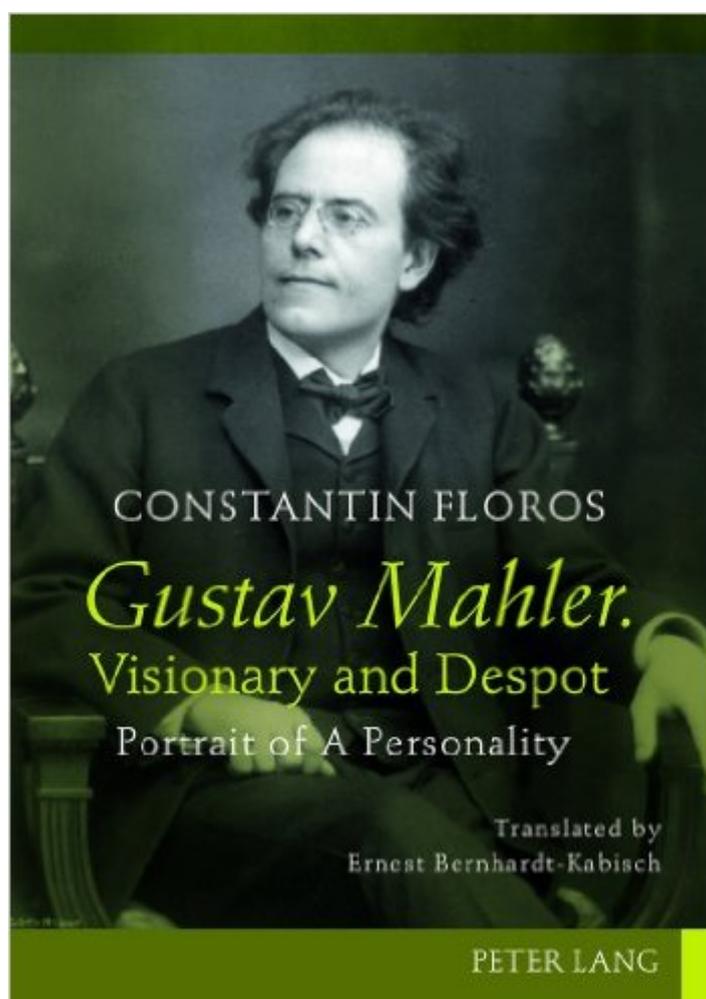


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Gustav Mahler. Visionary And Despot: Portrait Of A Personality- Translated By Ernest Bernhardt-Kabisch



Synopsis

With the terms "visionary" and "despot", the author seeks to circumscribe the multilayered personality of Gustav Mahler. Opening up a terra incognita, he draws a comprehensive map of the various aspects of Mahler's inner biography: his unshakable belief in the "sacredness of musical art" and strongly developed sense of mission, his double life as conductor and composer, his inexorability and refusal to compromise vis-à-vis himself and others, his discomfort with the world in which he lived, the complex facets of his psyche and his enormous energy potential. The result is the disclosure of new and unexpected connections between Mahler's personality and his "uvre.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This title is certainly not for Mahler newcomers--or even those who've read a book or two about the person or the work--but I found a lot of new and challenging observations to consider. I'll re-read after a several years, after I've absorbed some of the other promising Mahler material that has appeared lately. I do have one emphatic negative criticism, though: the book seems not to have gotten much attention from an editor or proofreader, and has more typographical errors than any book I can remember. The publisher, Peter Lang, could have found any of a dozen or more competent scholars to clean it up--or even a careful lay person.

I expected a great deal more from Constastine Floros, Mahler scholar from Hamburg. His analysis

of the Mahler Symphonies that were published in 1985, (English 1993) is an excellent Mahler reference. My first contact with this giant in Mahlerian scholarship was at the 2011 International Mahler Festival in Leipzig. I do not know why he wrote this book-- 200 pages of text - \$60.00, at this time. . The portrait of the personality is very weak in substance, and he rarely looks at anything for very long. I like his format and the questions he brings forth... but unfortunately there is little follow through. I would not recommend this book as a serious reference title. There is in fact very little new information or thoughtful discussion. I believe that one must wait for Henry-Louis de La Grange's revised Volume 1 from Oxford University Press for the next available authoritative reference on Mahler. Prof. La Grange is 89, and writing in Paris. Gary A. Baldwin Member: Gustav Mahler Society of New York; Gustav Mahler Society of the United Kingdom; Mediatheque Musicale Mahler, Paris.

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