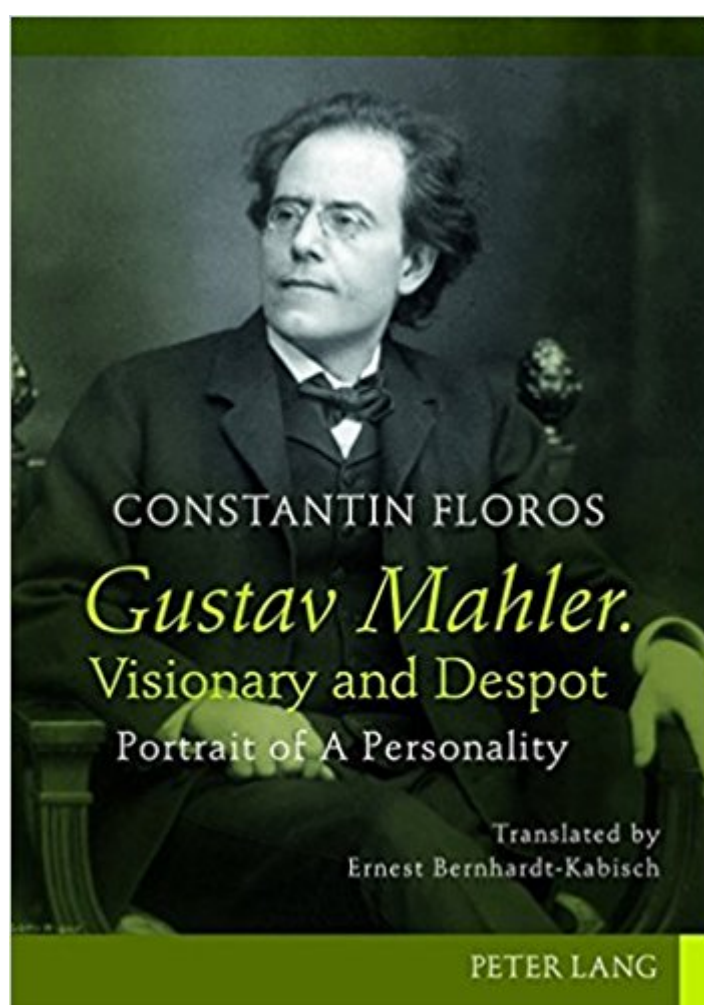


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Gustav Mahler. Visionary And Despot: Portrait Of A Personality- Translated By Ernest Bernhardt-Kabisch



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 "œuvre".

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Constantin Floros is professor emeritus of musicology at the University of Hamburg. He has published several volumes about Gustav Mahler. In recognition of his many years of researching, the International Mahler Society awarded him the Mahler Medal in gold in March of 2010. Ernest Bernhardt-Kabisch is professor emeritus of English and Comparative Literature at Indiana University. He has translated several books by Constantin Floros.

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 Constantine Floros, Mahler scholar from Hamburg. His analysis of the Mahler Symphoniesthat 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 thisbook-- 200 pages of text - \$60.00, at this time. . The portrait of the personality is very weak in substance, and he rarely looks atanything 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 thoughtfuldiscussion. I believe that one must wait for Henry-Louis de La Grange's revised Volume 1 from Oxford University Pressfor the next available authoritative reference on Mahler. Prof. La Grange is 89, and writing in Paris.Gary A. BaldwinMember: Gustav Mahler Society of New York; Gustav Mahler Society of the United Kingdom; Mediatheque Musicale Mahler,Paris.

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