

On the occasion of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fryderyk Chopin's birth many books have been published, and the composer is well known in the world. But this book is really worth recommending as it has been written by an extremely erudite person who is fascinated by the works, composers, and great singers of classical music someone who can talk for hours about the music and still keep his listener's attention. Now, through its translation into English, the book will also be of interest to an international audience.

The author not only presents Chopin as a composer, but even more interestingly, tries to show Chopin's life in Poland in relation to daily life in the country that was so influential on his music. An important part of the biography is his life as an émigré in France, documented by his relations with family and friends. Chopin's life is illustrated by original documents, such as his birth certificate, passport, letters, personal diary, and pictures (paintings and photographs), including those made by the composer himself.

An interesting addition to this book is a CD with concerts by Artur Rubinstein accompanied by the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Sir John Barbirolli. Pieces of Chopin music include: Concerto in F minor op. 21 (Maestoso, Larghetto, Allegro vivace); Barcarolle in F sharp major op. 60; Berceuse in D flat major op. 57; Nocturne in E flat major, Op. 9 no 2; Nocturne in A flat major, Op. 32 No. 2; Mazurka in A minor, Op. 17 No. 4; Mazurka in A flat major, Op. 24 No. 3; Mazurka in D flat major, Op. 30 No. 3; Andante Spianato and Grande Polonaise, Op. 22.

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