DISCOVERING BERLIOZ
ESSAYS, REVIEWS, TALKS

DAVID CAIRNS

Foreword by
SIR JOHN ELIOT GARDINER

David Cairns on Music
Volume One

Musicians on Music
No. 12

TOCCATA PRESS
## Contents

### Page

**Foreword**

*Sir John Eliot Gardiner* 11

**Prelude: Life with Berlioz**

Acknowledgements 21

**Preamble**

A Tragic Life 29

Autobiography/Biography 37

**I: Early Life**

The Distant God 59

Berlioz and Song 71

La Côte-Saint-André 82

Two Sisters 91

**II: Apprenticeship and First Maturity**

*Messe solennelle* 107

Shakespeare – Our Father 122

The Mighty Bird 138

The March to the Scaffold 152

‘Programme Music’ and the *Symphonie fantastique* 156

The Two Italies 171

*Harold en Italie*, the Viola and the Stage Directions in the Score 188

**III: The 1830s**

The Journalist, the Writer:

  *Berlioz and the Music of the Past* 191

  *Selected Letters of Berlioz* 193

  *Evenings in the Orchestra, Memoirs* 196

*Benvenuto Cellini* 208

The Dramatic Symphony *Roméo et Juliette* 219

*Roméo et Juliette*: An Alternative Reading 230

**IV: The 1840s**

The *Grand Traité*: Origins and Genesis 233

Holy Germany, a Nation of Musicians 251
### List of Illustrations

*Les Troyens*, Act 1, autograph full score  
David Cairns with Stella, Bamburgh, 1929  
58 Queen Anne St, London W1, with plaque  
Berlioz conductors II: Arthur Nikisch, Gustav Mahler, Charles Munch, Sir Hamilton Harty, Sir Thomas Beecham, Pierre Monteux  
Dr Louis Berlioz and his *Livre de Raison*  
Berlioz by Nadar  
Gluck, *Iphigénie en Tauride*, copied by Berlioz in 1822  
A page from chapter 22 of the *Memoirs*  
Alexander von Humboldt, by Julius Schrader, 1859  
Claude Lorrain, *View of Carthage with Dido and Aeneas*, 1675 or 1676  
*Grande Messe des morts*, autograph full score, p. 1  
A page from chapter 4 of the *Memoirs*  
The 'Chanson d’Hylas' from Act 5 of *Les Troyens*  
Anonymous caricature of Berlioz, La Côte-Saint-André, 1845  
The Berlioz garden and house, rue de la République,  

La Côte-Saint-André  
Adèle Suat née Berlioz  
Autograph letter to Nancy Berlioz, 28 July 1827  
Nancy Berlioz  
Autograph letter to Albert Du Boys, 20 July 1825  
The church of Saint-Roch, Paris  

Autograph title page of the *Messe solennelle*  
Jean-François Le Sueur  
First page of the Kyrie of the *Messe solennelle*  
First page of the Offertoire of the *Grande Messe des morts*  
A page from chapter 18 of the *Memoirs*: the advent of Shakespeare  
Harriet Smithson as the demented Ophelia in *Hamlet*  
A page from chapter 18 of the Memoirs: the impact of *Romeo and Juliet*  

Autograph letter to Princess zu Sayn-Wittgenstein, 24 June 1856  
*Landante de la symphonie en la*: watercolour by Eugène Lami, 1840  
Autograph letter to Humbert Ferrand, 6 February 1830
Page 2 of the autograph full score of the *Symphonie fantastique* 168
‘D’une image, hélas’ from Gluck’s *Iphigénie en Tauride* in Berlioz’s hand 179
The Villa Medici, Rome 180
Corot, *Roman Campagna with Claudian aqueduct*, 1826 182
Autograph letter to his sister Nancy, 9 May 1831 184
*Pifferari* in Rome 186
*Journal des débats*, 24 May 1846: Berlioz on the state of the Opéra 198
Title page of *Voyage musical*, inscribed to Berlioz’s son, Louis 204
Autograph full score of the Sextet from Act 2 of *Benvenuto Cellini* 214
Lithograph by Benjamin from *La Caricature provisoire*, 1 November 1838 217
Recording *Benvenuto Cellini*, Wembley Town Hall, July 1972 218
Charles Kemble and Harriet Smithson in the tomb scene from *Romeo and Juliet*, 1827 226
Autograph full score of *Roméo et Juliette*, finale 228
A page from chapter 4 of the *Memoirs* 235
Portrait of Gluck by Duplessis 237
Title page of the Grand *Traité d’instrumentation et d’orchestration modernes* 240
The *Grand Traité* on the flute 249
Sketch by August Prinzhofer, 1845 254
Lithograph by Prinzhofer, 1846 255
Painting by Richard Lauchert, 1855 258
Peter Cornelius 263
Liszt in 1858 267
Delacroix, lithograph of Faust and Mephistopheles, 1827 272
Jacques Barzun 277
Autograph first page of ‘Absence’ 290
Vladimir Vasilievich Stasov, painted by Repin in 1883 295
A page from chapter 2 of the *Memoirs*: the death of Dido 311
A study (1873) of Princess Carolyne zu Sayn-Wittgenstein by Ernest Hébert 313
Title page of the 1861 edition of the vocal score of *Les Troyens* 315
Mosaic of Virgil, flanked by muses 317
Set designs for the 1863 production of ‘Les Troyens à Carthage’ 321, 323, 325
Guérin’s *Énée racontant à Didon les malheurs de la ville de Troie* 326
Rafael Kubelik 335
A scene from the 1957 *Trojans* at Covent Garden 336
**List of Illustrations**

Amy Shuard, Blanche Thebom and Jon Vickers 339
Colin Davis by June Mendoza 357
Minutes of the Athenaeum, recording Berlioz’s temporary membership, 1848 366
George Bernard Shaw 368
Berlioz torchbearers: Russell Brown, David Cairns, Hugh Macdonald, Richard Macnutt, Julian Rushton and John Warrack 370
Sir Roger Norrington 371
Sir John Eliot Gardiner 371
Catherine Reboul-Berlioz-Vercier, with François Lesure and Lucien Chamard-Bois 378
Ian Kemp 379
Pierre Citron 381