

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00472-5 - Half a Century of Music in England, 1837-1887: Essays Towards a History

Francis Hueffer

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

Music

The systematic academic study of music gave rise to works of description, analysis and criticism, by composers and performers, philosophers and anthropologists, historians and teachers, and by a new kind of scholar - the musicologist. This series makes available a range of significant works encompassing all aspects of the developing discipline.

Half a Century of Music in England, 1837-1887

This collection of essays by the music critic Francis Hueffer (1843-1889) is a lively contemporary account of musical life in Victorian England. First published in 1889, it records the influence of leading foreign composers on English music. Ranging from the music of Handel, Gluck and Haydn to Weber, Rossini, and Mendelssohn, composers who have had a lasting influence on the British musical world, Hueffer, who did not live to see the publication of his book, offers a panoramic view of the rapid development of musical culture in England during the nineteenth century. Starting with a historical introduction to the roles played by the Royal Academy and the Royal College of Music, and moving on to the specific contributions of 'new' composers including Berlioz, Wagner and Liszt, this book is a valuable guide to the history and criticism of music in Victorian England as it was understood at the time.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00472-5 - Half a Century of Music in England, 1837-1887: Essays Towards a History

Francis Hueffer

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection will bring back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00472-5 - Half a Century of Music in England, 1837-1887: Essays Towards a History

Francis Hueffer

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Half a Century of Music in England, 1837-1887

Essays Towards a History

FRANCIS HUEFFER



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00472-5 - Half a Century of Music in England, 1837-1887: Essays Towards a History

Francis Hueffer

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108004725

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2009

This edition first published 1889

This digitally printed version 2009

ISBN 978-1-108-00472-5 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with, or with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00472-5 - Half a Century of Music in England, 1837-1887: Essays Towards a History

Francis Hueffer

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

HALF A CENTURY OF MUSIC IN ENGLAND.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00472-5 - Half a Century of Music in England, 1837-1887: Essays Towards a History

Francis Hueffer

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

HALF A CENTURY
OF
MUSIC IN ENGLAND

1837—1887.

ESSAYS TOWARDS A HISTORY.

BY

FRANCIS HUEFFER.

LONDON: CHAPMAN AND HALL,

LIMITED.

1889.

[All rights reserved.]

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00472-5 - Half a Century of Music in England, 1837-1887: Essays Towards a History

Francis Hueffer

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

TO HER MAJESTY

The Queen,

THE FRIEND OF MENDELSSOHN,

AND

THE FIRST ENGLISHWOMAN TO RECOGNISE THE GENIUS OF WAGNER,

THIS BOOK

IS BY PERMISSION RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED BY

THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

A FEW introductory words as to the title and the contents of the present volume may not seem out of place. The title denotes the plan of a comprehensive work dealing with the history of Music in this country during the reign of Queen Victoria—a reign which, amongst other important events, has witnessed the revival of Music as a national art in England; the contents are a first instalment of such a work, on the reception of which the completion of the whole must largely depend. A chronological arrangement of the vast material at hand, an account of musical events from day to day, from season to season, might have produced a very learned, but would to a certainty have produced a very dull work, useful perhaps to the historian and critic, but religiously shunned by the general public. I have therefore preferred to group dates and facts round

certain men of light and leading, and I shall be glad to think that the care and trouble with which those dates and facts have been collected and verified from contemporary sources may not be noticed by the ordinary reader at all.

As a matter of courtesy, I have given the *pas* to the great foreign masters who have visited our shores during the period under notice. How they have fared amongst us, what they have done and left undone, how they have permanently influenced the current of English Music—all this, for the first time, will be discussed in the following pages, with such care and minuteness of research as have not to my knowledge been previously bestowed upon so interesting a subject. Apart from courtesy, it must be owned that the greater portion of musical work in England during the last half-century has been done by foreigners. The premature death of Purcell and the advent of Handel were equally conducive to crushing the singularly rich development of early English Music, and to ushering in a long line of illustrious foreigners, from Handel, and Gluck, and Haydn, to Weber, and Rossini, and Mendelssohn. To these the English nation pinned their faith, withdrawing that faith from native composers, who in

PREFACE.

ix

consequence no longer believed in themselves; not at least outside the walls, or, more properly speaking, the organ-lofts of churches and cathedrals. Within the last ten years a change for the better has come over English Music, reviving the confidence at once of the worker and of those for whom the work is intended.

With English Music during the last fifty years, and more especially with our contemporary school of composers, I propose to deal in a subsequent volume, provided such a volume should be called for. For purposes of reference I have here thought it sufficient to introduce the separate chapters by a general synopsis of the period, which had previously appeared in *The Fortnightly Review*. Portions of the chapter on Liszt are republished from the same periodical, while some of the materials of the Wagner chapter were previously used for an article in *The Quarterly Review* of July, 1888.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00472-5 - Half a Century of Music in England, 1837-1887: Essays Towards a History

Francis Hueffer

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

NOTE.

THE ink was scarcely dry upon the final pages of this book, when the hand which wrote them ceased work for ever ; a wide circle of friends mourned the sudden removal from their midst of an amiable, clear-minded, and highly-gifted companion ; and musical art in England sustained a loss the full extent of which will be realised as time goes on. It has been the earnest endeavour of the friend who has undertaken the task of preparing the present volume for the press, to avoid all unnecessary alteration, and to follow in the minutest detail what he believes would have been the writer's wishes. Readers will observe with satisfaction that the author had chosen for this first instalment of his work a section of the subject upon which, by reason of his superior knowledge and known predilections, he was entitled to speak with special authority ; and it may be regarded as a singular coincidence that the last chapter should have been devoted to a declaration of certain opinions, his able advocacy of which during many years past has contributed not a little towards the making of that history it was his intention to write.

H. A. RUDALL.

LONDON, *March*, 1889.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
CHAPTER I.	
INTRODUCTORY—GENERAL MUSIC DURING THE QUEEN'S REIGN	
IN ENGLAND	1
CHAPTER II.	
WAGNER IN ENGLAND	29
CHAPTER III.	
LISZT IN ENGLAND	85
CHAPTER IV.	
BERLIOZ IN ENGLAND	151
CHAPTER V.	
CONCLUSION	235