

Schumann: The Faces and the Masks

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## Summary:

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Schumann: The Faces and the Masks is a groundbreaking account of a major composer whose life and works have been the subject of intense controversy ever since his attempted suicide and early death in an insane asylum. Schumann was a key figure in the Romanticism which swept Europe and America in the 19th century, inspiring writers, musicians and painters, delighting their enthralled audiences, and reaching to the furthest corners of the world. All the contradictions of his age enter Schumann's works, from the fantastic disguises of his carnival masquerades and his passionate love songs to his great 'Spring' and 'Rhenish' Symphonies. He was intensely original and imaginative, but he also worshipped the past-especially Shakespeare and Byron, Raphael and Michelangelo, Beethoven and Bach. He believed in political, personal and artistic freedom but struggled with the constraints of artistic form. He turned his tumultuous life into music that speaks directly to the heart, losing none of its power with the passage of time.

Drawing on hitherto unpublished archive material, Chernaik sheds new light on Schumann's life and music, his sexual escapades, his fathering of an illegitimate child, the true facts behind his courtship of his wife Clara and the opposition of her monstrous father, and the ways in which the crises of his life, his dreams and fantasies, entered his music. Schumann's troubled relations with his fellow-Romantic composers Mendelssohn and Chopin are freshly explored, and the full medical diary kept at Endenich Asylum, long withheld, enables Chernaik to look again at the mystery of Schumann's final illness. Using her wide experience as a scholar of Romanticism and a novelist, Chernaik vividly brings Schumann's world and his extraordinary artistic achievement to life in all its rich complexity.

â€”Schumann: The Faces and the Masksâ€™ Review: A Dreamer at ... Robert Schumann not only embodied the spirit of his age, he converted his existential anguish and romantic ardor to music. Schumann: The Faces and the Masks - Kindle edition by ... Schumann: The Faces and the Masks - Kindle edition by Judith Chernaik. Download it once and read it on your Kindle device, PC, phones or tablets. Use features like bookmarks, note taking and highlighting while reading Schumann: The Faces and the Masks. Book giveaway for Schumann: The Faces and the Masks by ... Enter to win one of 20 free copies available. Giveaway dates from Sep 20-Oct 02, 2018. Enter to win a finished book! A groundbreaking account of Robert.

Schumann: The Faces and the Masks: Judith Chernaik ... Schumann: The Faces and the Masks is a well-proportioned, highly readable biography for general readers that establishes Schumann as a man thoroughly of his time. The bookâ€™s greatest contribution is to situate Schumann in a remarkable fraternity of 19th-century composers.â€”Michael Oâ€™Donnell. Schumann: The Faces and the Masks - Judith Chernaik ... Schumann: The Faces and the Masks by Judith Chernaik Schumann was a key figure in the Romanticism which swept Europe and America in the 19th century, inspiring writers, musicians and painters, delighting their enthralled audiences, and reaching to the furthest corners of the world. Schumann: The Faces and the Masks by Judith Chernaik ... The great composer Robert Schumann receives a sharp, knowing, and complicatedly sympathetic treatment in his latest biography, Schumann: The Faces and the Masks by Judith Chernaik, who fills her book (a heavy, handsomely-designed thing from Knopf) with Schumannâ€™s music but keeps her focus always on the man.Schumann hasnâ€™t lacked for biographers since his death in 1856, although in the 21st.

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