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**HSAC**

**The Hungarian Studies Association of Canada and the Canada-Hungary  
Educational Foundation**

**present**

**ALAN WALKER AND VALERIE TRYON**

**In a special two-part Liszt Bicentenary program:**

**On May 28<sup>th</sup> 2011**

**7 pm - Lecture by Professor Alan Walker (FRSC):  
“Franz Liszt: The Cultural Ambassador of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century”**

**8 pm - Recital by Valerie Tryon: “Liszt the Voyager”**

**Memorial Hall, University of New Brunswick**

**Admission \$10**



**This is the opening event of the 26<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Hungarian  
Studies Association of Canada at the 2011 Congress of the Humanities and  
Social Sciences. The support of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities  
and Social Sciences and of the University of New Brunswick and  
St Thomas University is gratefully acknowledged.**

LISZT THE VOYAGER

a recital by  
Valerie Tryon (piano)

FRANCE

O, quand je dors, S. 536

SWITZERLAND

Au bord d'une source, S.160  
(Années de pèlerinage, 'Suisse')

GERMANY

Wagner-Liszt: 'Isolda's Liebestod' from *Tristan*, S. 447

ITALY

Venezia e Napoli, S. 162  
Gondoliera  
Canzone  
Tarantella  
(Années de pèlerinage, 'Italie,' Supplement)

INTERMISSION

ENGLAND

God Save the Queen

RUSSIA

Alabieff-Liszt: 'The Nightingale', S. 384

AUSTRIA

Schubert-Liszt: 'Ave Maria', S. 558, no. 12

THE VATICAN

Les jeux d'eaux à la Villa d'Este S 163  
(Années de pèlerinage, vol. III)

HUNGARY

Hungarian Rhapsody no. 11, in A minor, S. 244, no. 11  
(*"From the cradle to the grave I remain Magyar in heart and mind"*)





## FRANZ LISZT (1811-1886)

A commentary by

ALAN WALKER

Franz Liszt spanned the Romantic era. As a child he met Beethoven; as an elderly man he was introduced to Debussy. Between times, this protean personality was intimately acquainted with many of the leading artistic figures of the age. His circle was not confined simply to musicians like Wagner, Chopin, Berlioz and Schumann, although he knew them well. Among his friends and colleagues were painters, poets, writers and sculptors, such as Delacroix, Heine, Lamartine, George Sand and Bartolini. He mixed just as easily with politicians and could count several of the crowned heads of Europe among his friends.

Liszt's multi-faceted career unfolded in at least six different directions simultaneously. He was the world's leading pianist who created the model for today's solo recital; he was a composer who introduced new forms into music, such as the symphonic poem and the single-movement 'cyclical' sonata; he was an orchestral conductor who developed a new repertory of body-signals at the podium, which still leave a visible mark on conductors today; he was an inspiring teacher and the creator of the 'masterclass', from whose ranks more than 400 pupils emerged – many of them eminent; he was a writer of books and articles, mostly written in the service of his fellow musicians; finally, and not least, he was an organizer and director of ambitious international music festivals which promoted especially the works of his contemporaries Berlioz, Wagner, and Schumann. Such boundless activity invested Liszt with immense authority – an authority which extended well beyond the world of music.



VALERIE TRYON was born in Portsmouth, England. Her career as a concert pianist began while she was still a child. Before she was twelve she had broadcast for the BBC, and was appearing regularly before the public on the concert platform. She was one of the youngest students ever to be admitted to the Royal Academy of Music, where she received the highest awards in piano playing, including the Macfarren Gold Medal and a bursary which took her to Paris for further study with Jacques Février.

A Cheltenham Festival recital brought her the enthusiastic acclaim of Britain's foremost critics. Since then she has played in most of the major concert halls and appeared with many of the leading orchestras and conductors in Britain. Her career eventually took her to North America where she has appeared in such cities as Toronto, Montreal, Boston, Washington, Pittsburgh, Minneapolis, San Francisco and Los Angeles. She now lives in Canada, where she was until recently Artist-in-Residence at McMaster University, but spends a part of each year in her native Britain.

Her repertoire is enormous, ranging from Bach to contemporary composers; it includes more than sixty concertos and a vast amount of chamber music. She is highly regarded for her sensitive interpretations of the romantics – Chopin, Liszt, and Rachmaninov in particular, much of whose music she has recorded.

Valerie Tryon has been awarded several distinctions for her services to music. She was an early recipient of the Harriet Cohen Medal. More recently the Liszt Memorial Plaque was bestowed on her by the Hungarian Minister of Culture in recognition of her lifelong promotion of Franz Liszt's music.

“One finds oneself in the presence of a great artist”  
- Gazette de Lausanne, Switzerland



ALAN WALKER is Professor Emeritus of Music at McMaster University, Canada. Before settling in North America he was on the staff of the Music Division of the British Broadcasting Corporation in London. He has broadcast for the BBC, for the CBC, and for CJRT - FM (Toronto), and gives regular public lectures on the music of the Romantic Era, a period in which he specializes. His thirteen published books include *A Study in Musical Analysis*, *An Anatomy of Musical Criticism*, and symposia on Chopin, Schumann, and Liszt.

Dr. Walker's three-volume, prize-winning biography of Franz Liszt, published by Alfred A. Knopf (New York), was a project which took him twenty-five years to complete, and for which the President of Hungary bestowed on him the medal *Pro Cultura Hungarica*. The biography also received the Royal Philharmonic Society Prize, presented by HRH The Duke of Kent in London.

*Time Magazine* hailed the biography as "a textured portrait of Liszt and his times without rival". *The Wall Street Journal* called it "The definitive work to which all subsequent Liszt biographies will aspire." *The Washington Post* selected it as a Book of the Year.

Two other books on Liszt have meanwhile followed. The first is called *"The Death of Franz Liszt"* (Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY). It describes the last ten days of the composer's life in Bayreuth. Based on eye-witness accounts, and the unpublished diary of a pupil, it tells a harrowing story of the final illness, medical malpractice, family neglect, and a callous disregard of Liszt's final wishes. Walker's latest book, *"Reflections on Liszt"* (Cornell University Press) is a sequel to the 3-volume biography, and deals with certain topics in greater depth than the biography itself could accommodate. These include Liszt's myriad connections with Beethoven, Schubert, and Schumann; his work as a teacher and editor of the music of others; and his published writings. The book ends with *"An Open Letter to Franz Liszt"*, which the Times Literary Supplement called "an affectionate and stylized farewell from a biographer to a great subject."

Alan Walker's latest book is a long-awaited biography of Hans von Bülow, Franz Liszt's leading pupil and the world's first virtuoso orchestral conductor. Published by Oxford University Press in December 2009, the book is the first biography of Bülow ever to appear in the English language. The *European Piano Teacher's Journal* extolled it as "magnificent long-overdue biography....and as unputdownable as the latest historical novel by Mary Renault". The *Washington Times* praised it as "a superb biography...and a treat to read."

Alan Walker's personal archives, containing many letters to and from musicians, may be consulted at the following website:

<http://library.lib.mcmaster.ca/archives/findaids/w.htm>