

Chopin, Frédéric (1810-1849): brief presentation of his writings

Unlike his contemporaries such as Liszt, Berlioz, Schumann and Wagner, Chopin has not written the slightest press article in any domain whatsoever. Whether humanitarian, social, religious or artistic, he did not indulge in taking position publicly. At the most, he sometimes discreetly expressed a political or aesthetic opinion in some salons or artists gatherings. Throughout his creations and improvisations, he expressed his patriotic belief towards his nation as regards Poland's dreadful situation. When Lenz wrote: "Chopin was the only political pianist: he played and staged Poland in music" in the aftermath of the Franco-Prussian War, he portrayed him as a bard in a controversial Louis-Philippard society.

It seems like Chopin was not a keen reader: he was read to and was surrounded by readers. Being highly sensitive, smart and sagacious, the teenager was placed at the crossroad of Warsaw's literary writers, poets, critics and teachers who educated him and shaped his judgement. In the same way, he frequented Paris' most brilliant minds of the Great Emigration revolving around Prince Adam Czartoryski, as well as personalities such as Balzac, Heine, Custine, Delacroix, and George Sand: everyday she read him the previous day's drafts. Apart from the draft of a method for piano, of which only twelve pages remain, the corpus of Chopin's writings exclusively concerns his private correspondence.

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