

DONIZETTI/LISZT

A letter from Mr James Hey has brought to our notice a Liszt transcription that seems to have evaded notice until its recent publication in the Liszt Society Journal (the English Liszt Society), Volume 17, 1992. This is an extremely prompt concert-piece for piano, of 1840, based upon the then wildly popular 'Ange si pur' from *La Favorite* which the great Hungarian pianist added to his battery of triumphant morceaux intended to press his claims (hardly disputed) as the most sensational virtuoso of his day. The President of the Liszt Society, Leslie Howard, made the first broadcast of this forgotten transcription in January 1993, revealing a work of real lyrical charm. We are most grateful to know of its existence and to hear such a masterly performance (Mr Hey was kind enough to supply a tape). My only dispute is its description as the:

LISZT TRANSCRIPTION (LA FAVORITE) "SPIRTO GENTIL" S.400a (1840)

for the simple reason that 'Spirto gentil' was scarcely the title under which Liszt would have known the work in 1840.

Mr Hey has been also kind enough to draw to our attention to yet another group of little-known Donizetti/Liszt transcriptions for piano. This is "*Trois Amusements pour le Piano sur des motifs de L'Album de Donizetti, dédiés à Mme la Marquise Sophie de Medici*" (a lady perfectly well known to the composer) based upon three of the songs in *Nuits d'Été à Pausilippe* and republished by the Liszt Society in their Journal Volume 16, 1991.

The three songs are:

No. 1 *Il Barcajuolo*

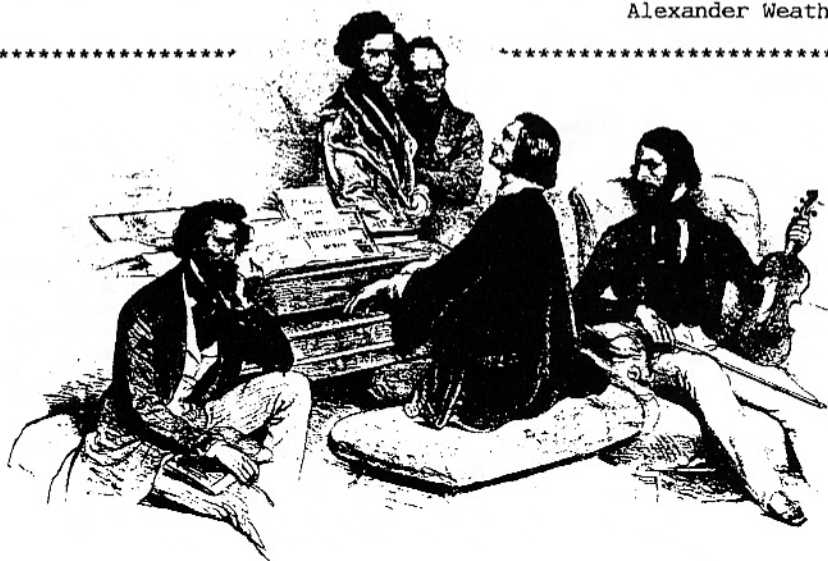
No.2 *L'Alito di Bice*

No 3. *La Torre di Biasone*

the title page of the original Schott publication of which, is reproduced on the opposite page.

We are most grateful for these contacts from Mr Hey and the Liszt Society.

Alexander Weatherson



Matinée chez Liszt, Vienne, 1846 (Krichuber)

Quatre **Quatre** d'Été à Haussilippe

TROIS AMUSEMENTS

pour le Piano

sur des motifs de

L'Album de Bonizetti

DÉDIÉS À M^{ME} LA MARQUISE

SOPHIE DE MÈDICI

PAR

F. LISZT.

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