

**THE APPRECIATION OF
MUSIC, VOL. III;
SHORT STUDIES OF
GREAT MASTERPIECES**

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The appreciation of music, Vol. III; Short studies of great masterpieces by Daniel Gregory Mason

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DANIEL GREGORY MASON

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THE APPRECIATION OF MUSIC
VOLUME III.

SHORT STUDIES
OF
GREAT MASTERPIECES

BY
DANIEL GREGORY MASON

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SHORT STUDIES OF GREAT MASTERPIECES



CHAPTER I

"Istar": Symphonic Variations, by Vincent d'Indy, Opus 42 (1896). First performance at Brussels, 1897.



INCENT D'INDY resembles his revered master, César Franck, in the almost religious devotion with which he regards his art, in the purity and nobility of the emotions he expresses in it, and in his aversion to all that is trite, sentimental, or sensational. Undoubtedly his music, austere of outward aspect and complex in construction, repels the superficial listener; but it repays study more than does most modern music, revealing ever profounder depths of feeling, ever more ineffable beauties, and a masterly power in composition that can only gradually be appreciated. Above all, it is music conceived not for the mere pleasing of the ear, nor even for the interest of the mind, but to inform, solace, and ennoble the spirit. Other composers, even other living composers, may excel d'Indy in brilliance, in sensuous charm, in dramatic force; but certainly no living musician quite equals him in spirituality.