

**MENDELSSOHN:
LETTERS AND
RECOLLECTIONS**

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Mendelssohn: Letters and Recollections by Ferdinand Hiller

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FERDINAND HILLER

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JANUARY 1848

Julius Henckels Frankfurt 7. 13. September 1848

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MENDELSSOHN.

LETTERS AND RECOLLECTIONS.

BY

DR. FERDINAND HILLER.

TRANSLATED,

WITH THE CONSENT AND REVISION OF THE AUTHOR,

By M. E. VON GLEHN.

SECOND EDITION.



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1874.

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TO HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY,

THE QUEEN,

THIS BOOK IS BY PERMISSION

HUMBLY AND RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED.

TO THE QUEEN.

MADAM,

The great nation which has the happiness of living in the freedom of the law under your Majesty's glorious sceptre shows its continuous mental relationship to the people of Germany, who owe their origin to the same race, in nothing perhaps more plainly than in the ardour with which for upwards of a century it has appropriated the creations of our great composers. Just as Shakespeare has become to the Germans a national poet, so to the English is Handel a national composer. The immortal works of Mozart, Beethoven, Haydn, and Weber met with enthusiastic reception and lasting admiration in England, as did Haydn and Weber themselves. But it was genuine affection which the people of

Britain bestowed upon our great and youthful master, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy. Hardly more than a boy when he began his artistic career in London, he soon won all hearts. Everyone watched with fond and eager interest the steady progress of the youth and the man whose greatest work, his "Elijah," the ripest fruit of his genius, was first presented to the world at an English festival. He well deserves the honour bestowed upon him of a place amongst the chosen spirits whose portraits adorn the monument which Your Majesty, as a wife and as a Queen, has erected to a Prince who occupies so prominent a position amongst the noblest promoters of human culture.

The rare distinction bestowed upon this little book, of being allowed to bear the victorious name of Your Majesty, is due above all to the memory of the glorious master to whom it is consecrated. My thanks are doubly heartfelt.

May a reflection of the gracious reception which my noble friend enjoyed from Your Majesty be granted to the following pages, consecrated as they are to his memory, and also partly emanating from him.

I have the honour to subscribe myself,

Madam,

Your Majesty's humble and devoted servant,

FERDINAND HILLER.