

**MUSICAL MYTHS
AND FACTS, IN TWO
VOLUMES. - VOL. I**

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Musical myths and facts, In two volumes. - Vol. I by Carl Engel

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CARL ENGEL

**MUSICAL MYTHS
AND FACTS, IN TWO
VOLUMES. - VOL. I**



Ludwig van Beethoven



MUSICAL
MYTHS AND FACTS

BY

CARL ENGEL.

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P R E F A C E.

1928 AN idealized portrait of Beethoven, representing him as, in the opinion of many of his admirers, he must have looked in his moments of inspiration, would undoubtedly have made a handsomer frontispiece to this little work, than his figure roughly sketched by an artist who happened to see the composer rambling through the fields in the vicinity of Vienna.

185 The faithful sketch from life, however, indicates precisely the chief object of the present contribution to musical literature, which is simply to set forth the truth.

Stainers Whatever may be the short-comings of the essays, they will be of some use should they impress upon musical pedants the truth of Göthe's dictum :

"Grau, theurer Freund, ist alle Theorie,
Und grün des Lebens goldner Baum."

For the sake of correctness, one or two statements occurring in this volume require a word of explanation.

On page 5, the comprehensive 'Encyclopædia of Music, by J. W. Moore, Boston, United States, 1854, should perhaps not have been left unnoticed; it is, however, too superficial a compilation to be of essential use for reference. Dr. Stainer's 'Dictionary of Musical Terms' was not published until the sheet containing page 5 had gone through the press.

The poem, on page 175, ascribed to Shakespeare, "If music and sweet poetry agree," is by some recent inquirers claimed for Richard Barnfield, a contemporary of Shakespeare.

On page 218, *Sovter Liedekens*, the title of a Dutch book published in the year 1556, is incorrectly translated. *Sovter*, an obsolete Dutch word, means "Psalter," just like the English *Sauter* mentioned in Halliwell's 'Dictionary of Archaic and Provincial Words.' *Liedekens* should have been rendered "Little Songs."

In Volume II., the compositions of Henry Purcell noticed on page 202 form only a small portion of the works of this distinguished English musician. The Prospectus issued by the 'Purcell Society,' which has recently been founded for the purpose of publishing all his works, enumerates forty-five Operas and Dramas, besides many Odes, Hymns, Anthems, and other sacred music, instrumental pieces, &c., most of which exist only in manuscript, and which ought long since to have been in the hands of the lovers of music.

• Should the reader disapprove of the easy tone in which the Myths are told, he will perhaps derive some satisfaction from the carefulness with which I have endeavoured to state the Facts.

CARL ENGEL.

Kensington.

CONTENTS OF VOLUME I.

A MUSICAL LIBRARY	PAGE	
		I
ELSASS-LOTHRINGEN		8
MUSIC AND ETHNOLOGY		23
COLLECTIONS OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS		32
MUSICAL MYTHS AND FOLK-LORE		74
Curious Coincidences ...	PAGE	77
Hindu Traditions ...	79	
Celestial Quarrels ...	80	
Al-Farabi	82	
Trusty Ferdinand ...	84	
The Wild Huntsman ...	PAGE	85
The Bold German Baron	87	
Prophetic Calls of Birds	89	
Whistling	91	
THE STUDIES OF OUR GREAT COMPOSERS		94
SUPERSTITIONS CONCERNING BELLS		129
Protective Bell-ringing	PAGE	130
Significant Sounds of Bells	131	
Baptised Bells... ..	134	
Inscriptions on Church Bells	136	
The Church Bells ban- ishing the Mountain Dwarfs	PAGE	137
The Expulsion of Pa- ganism in Sweden ...	139	
CURIOSITIES IN MUSICAL LITERATURE		141
THE ENGLISH INSTRUMENTALISTS		166

MUSICAL FAIRIES AND THEIR KINSFOLK 187

	PAGE		PAGE
The Fairies of the Maories	187	The Gygur Family ...	197
Adventures in the High-		Linus, the King's Son ...	197
lands	189	Necks	202
The Importunate Elves	191	The Christian Neck ...	204
Bad Spirits	192	Maurice Connor ...	205
The Musician and the		Water Lilies	206
Dwarfs	193	Ignis Fatuus	207
The Little Folks ...	195	The Fairy Music of our	
Macruimean's Bagpipe	196	Composers	208

SACRED SONGS OF CHRISTIAN SECTS 210

