

Master Classical Pianist

Balázs Bakos

Balázs Bakos is a Hungarian native who resides in Budapest with his wife and five children. Recognized as an exceptional musical talent at a very young age, Balázs studied under some of the best instructors in Hungary and Switzerland, consistently winning contests and selected to perform special concerts and radio performances.

Balázs completed his musical instruction at the Liszt Academy in Budapest and after a 14 year break from the piano, he is now performing exclusively for guests of Uniworld Boutique River Cruises®.



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Homage to Liszt





COMPOSER BIOGRAPHY

Franz (Ferenc) Liszt was a Hungarian pianist and composer of enormous influence and originality. He was renowned in Europe during the Romantic movement. To many, Liszt is regarded as possibly the greatest piano forte virtuoso of all time. Born on October 22, 1811, in the village of Doborján in Sopron, Hungary (which is now part of Austria), Liszt was quickly recognized as a child prodigy. By the age of nine he was appearing in concerts and creating piano compositions.

In Vienna he was educated in piano technique by Carl Czerny. Antonio Salieri, Mozart's rival, taught him the technique of composition and fostered the young Liszt's musical taste. He formed an early friendship with Frédéric Chopin, but later fierce competition turned the men into rivals. The young Liszt was providing full scale concerts at the age of 12.

His most impressive talent was his uncanny ability to improvise an original composition from a melody suggested by an audience member. Following his father's death, when Liszt was just 15 he took time away from music, but would later return to achieve the most successful periods of his career both in performance and composition. He could make women swoon with his playing, leaving the men very jealous. He had several relationships and fathered many children during his lifetime.

It was during his relationship with his last partner, Princess Carolyne zu Sayn-Wittgenstein, that he composed arguably his most famous work, *Liebesträume* (German for Dreams of Love). Following his final paid concert in 1847, Liszt retired to a life of composition, which received a wide following and critical acclaim. In later years, he established the Royal National Hungarian Academy of Music in Budapest. From 1876 until his death he also taught for several months every year at the Academy. He died in Bayreuth on July 31, 1886 as a result of pneumonia.

HOMAGE TO LISZT

Liszt—The Early Years

LISZT: Etude S. 136. No. 2

LISZT: Etude S. 136. No. 12

LISZT: Consolation en Ré bémol No. 4

Chopin—Virtuoso, Romantic Period Friend to Liszt

CHOPIN: Fantasie Impromptu Op-66 in C sharp minor

CHOPIN: Nocturne Op-72 No.1. in E minor

CHOPIN: Waltz in A flat Major Op.64 "Minute Waltz"

Liszt—The Mature Compositions

LISZT: Consolation in D flat Major No.3

LISZT: Gnomenreigen (Dance of the Gnomes)

LISZT: Le Rossignol "The Nightingale"

LISZT: Liebesträume (Dreams of Love)

LISZT: Hungarian Rhapsody VI