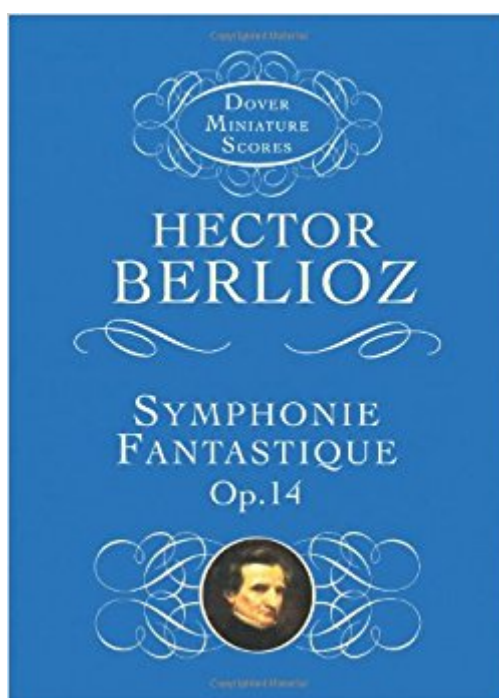


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Symphonie Fantastique, Op. 14 (Episode In The Life Of An Artist) (Dover Miniature Music Scores)



Synopsis

Hector Berlioz (1803–1869), considered the father of modern orchestration, possessed an intuitive musical genius. A brilliant colorist and master of the unexpected rhythmic break, he brought a new symphonic richness to Romantic music. Berlioz was both damned and venerated by his contemporaries: Mendelssohn considered him devoid of talent, and Paganini declared him the one true heir to the spirit of Beethoven. The composer seems to have sought in music a way to soothe and give voice to the psychological instabilities and contradictions that more than once brought him to despair. He pioneered the development of what has come to be called "program music" — i.e., instrumental music with an extramusical significance. He strove to communicate musically the experiences, psychological themes, scenic descriptions, and literary allusions more commonly associated with the confessional writings of Romantic poets. This newest addition to Dover's critically praised music score series presents two of the greatest of these program pieces, *Symphonie Fantastique* and *Harold in Italy*. Here are the full scores of both major symphonic works painstakingly reproduced from the authoritative Breitkopf & Hartel edition, available for the first time in one convenient volume — plus Berlioz's "program" for the *Symphonie Fantastique*. Musicians and music lovers everywhere will value this high-quality inexpensive edition, ideal for study and performance.

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Customer Reviews

Hector Berlioz (1803–1869), considered the father of modern orchestration, possessed an intuitive musical genius. A brilliant colorist and master of the unexpected rhythmic break, he brought a new symphonic richness to Romantic music. Berlioz was both damned and venerated by his contemporaries: Mendelssohn considered him devoid of talent, and Paganini declared him the one true heir to the spirit of Beethoven. The composer seems to have sought in music a way to soothe and give voice to the psychological instabilities and contradictions that more than once brought him to despair. He pioneered the development of what has come to be called "program music" — i.e., instrumental music with an extramusical significance. He strove to communicate musically the experiences, psychological themes, scenic descriptions, and literary allusions more commonly associated with the confessional writings of Romantic poets. This newest addition to Dover's critically praised music score series presents two of the greatest of these program pieces, *Symphonie Fantastique* and *Harold in Italy*. Here are the full scores of both major symphonic works — painstakingly reproduced from the authoritative Breitkopf & Hartel edition, available for the first time in one convenient volume — plus Berlioz's "program" for the *Symphonie Fantastique*. Musicians and music lovers everywhere will value this high-quality inexpensive edition, ideal for study and performance.

"*Symphonie fantastique*" a five movements programmed symphony, based on Berlioz's autobiography intermingled with imagination. The artist was crushed by an unrequited love to an indifferent woman; unfulfilled love eventually leads him to self-destruction. The full story is described in details. The musical score is unabridged, it contains also performer notes in three languages: French, German and in English. The score is rich with detailed instructions for dynamics and musical expressions. Musical notes are mostly clear and readable except in few overcrowded locations a magnifying glass easily solves this problem. Bars are numbered and on top of each page the movement's title are listed which makes it easy to refer back and forth, it ALSO simplifies comparisons of different scores editions. This portable score is intended for concerts, study classes or following while listening to a CD, it's not design for performing purpose (although it isn't impossible). I follow the score while watching "*Symphonie fantastique*" on DVD ("*European Concert From Istanbul*") being as close to a live concert as one can get. While watching the DVD, this miniature score enables me to see in close up different playing techniques and performing parts that otherwise could escape one's attention. Berlioz is considered the father of modern orchestration and master of tone coloring, which its richness is clearly manifested in this miniature score.

If a robotic sound appears in VLC, just reset the player. Or just use Windows Media player. Bought this for a class listening quiz but its good to the point I'd listen to it out of class. Worth the 5 bucks.

This book is from an interesting collection of classical music, but it is too small to try and play the music from. My nephew explained to me after I bought it for him as a gift that the book is only intended for following along when listening to the music being played by others. Works for me! /// WEL

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