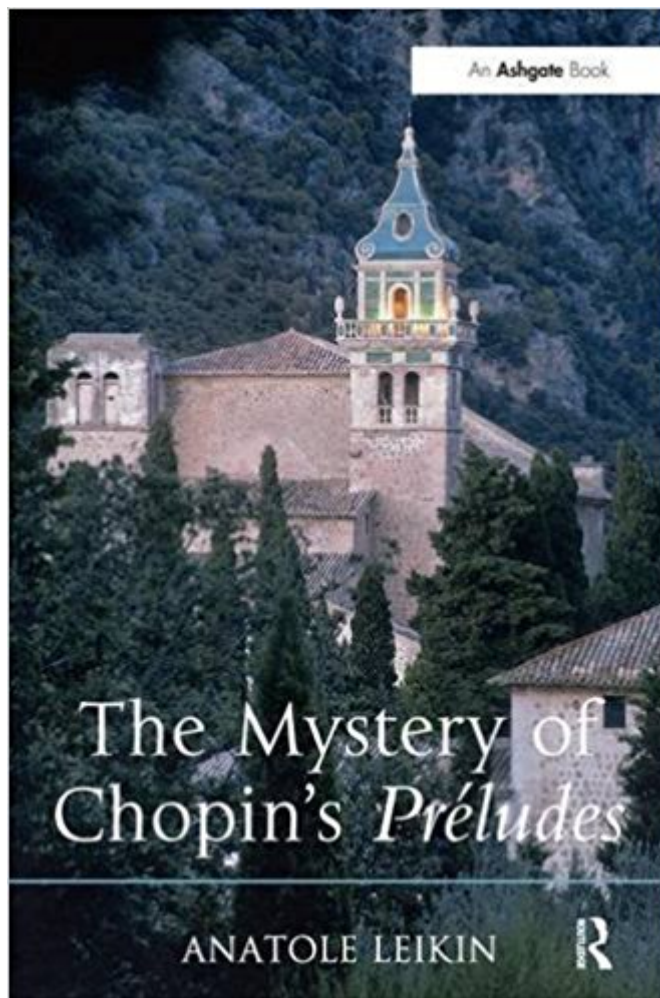


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# The Mystery Of Chopin's PrÃ©ludes



## Synopsis

Chopin's twenty-four PrÃ©ludes remain as mysterious today as when they were newly published. What prompted Franz Liszt and others to consider Chopin's PrÃ©ludes to be compositions in their own right rather than introductions to other works? What did set Chopin's PrÃ©ludes so drastically apart from their forerunners? What exactly was 'the morbid, the feverish, the repellent' that Schumann heard in Opus 28, in that 'wild motley' of 'strange sketches' and 'ruins'? Why did Liszt and another, anonymous, reviewer publicly suggest that Lamartine's poem Les PrÃ©ludes served as an inspiration for Chopin's Opus 28? And, if that is indeed the case, how did the poem affect the structure and the thematic contents of Chopin's PrÃ©ludes? And, lastly, is Opus 28 a random assortment of short pieces or a cohesive cycle? In this monograph, richly illustrated with musical examples, Anatole Leikin combines historical perspectives, hermeneutic and thematic analyses, and a range of practical implications for performers to explore these questions and illuminate the music of one of the best loved collections of music for the piano.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 204 pages

Publisher: Routledge; 1 edition (March 9, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1409452247

ISBN-13: 978-1409452249

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.5 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #920,499 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #99 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Composers > Chopin #384 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Ethnic & International > Ethnomusicology #1267 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Theory, Composition & Performance > Theory

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"The rich, well-elaborated contextâ | The meticulous motivic analysis is impressiveâ | Most stunning of all is the cultural panoramaâ | At some moments, it is even as if this is not a twenty-first-century author writing, but an intellectual from Chopinâ s milieu who survived the composerâ | really a great discoveryâ |the book is written in the form of a musicological detective storyâ | Each new chapter strikes with the unexpectedness of its approaches and received dataâ | The book is a piece

of musicological artistry." Min-Ad: Israel Studies in Musicology Online

Anatole Leikin is Professor of Music at the University of California, Santa Cruz. He has published in various musicological journals and essay collections worldwide and recorded piano works of Scriabin, Chopin, and Cope. His book *The Performing Style of Alexander Scriabin* was published by Ashgate. He also serves as an editor for *The Complete Chopin - A New Critical Edition*.

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