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Proserpina: Goethe's Melodrama with Music by Carl Eberwein, Orchestral Score and Piano Reduction (Hardback)

By Carl Eberwein

Carysfort Press, Ireland, 2008. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 236 x 187 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. In his early twenties Goethe wrote Proserpina for the Weimar court singer Corona Schroter to perform. His interest in presenting Weimar's first professional singer-in-residence in a favourable light was not the only reason why this monologue with music (now lost) by Seckendorff is important. Goethe's memories of his sister Cornelia, who had recently died in childbirth, were in fact the real catalyst: through this work Goethe could level accusations against his parents about Cornelia's marriage, of which he had not approved. Goethe used the melodramatic form to transform private and cultural issues for women of the time into public discourses and so to manipulate public opinion. His work reveals an astute understanding of musical melodrama and the important impact it had on the cultural dynamics of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Whatever the source of inspiration, it is clear that Goethe was very preoccupied with Proserpina. When he returned to this melodrama forty years later he collaborated closely with Carl Eberwein, the court, theatre, and church music director, who composed a new setting which accords with Goethe...



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