

The Dead Composer.

Franz Liszt, the Hungarian pianist and composer, was born at Raeding, near Oldenburg, October 22, 1811. He gave evidence of extraordinary aptitude for music at six years of age, and his father had him carefully instructed on the piano-forte. At nine he performed in public before several wealthy noblemen, who contributed to his musical education for several years. He was trained by Karl Czerny and Salferi at Gienna, and in Paris was instructed in counterpoint by Reicha. His education finished, he made lucrative concert tours in the provinces and in England. In 1827 he lost his father, and about the same time an unhappy attachment for a lady of rank prompted him to retire from the world, and for years he almost neglected his art. In 1821 the reappearance of Paganini roused him to renewed practice on the piano forte, and in 1835 he reappeared in Paris, and thence to Italy and Vienna and Pesth. From 1838 to 1847 his career was a succession of triumphs. In the latter year he retired to the work of musical composition, but was induced to accept the post of conductor of court concerts and opera at Weimar. He made Weimar one of the chief musical centers of Europe and helped introduce to notice Richard Wagner. In 1861 he went to Rome. In 1865 he took ecclesiastical orders, and since has been known as the Abbe Liszt, and has devoted himself principally to the composition of church music. In 1871 he moved to Pesth, and in 1874 gave to the museum of that town his collection of curiosities and works of art. As a performer he excelled in the production of difficult and novel effects. Bach, Handel, Beethoven and the other composers have had no more eloquent interpreter. He was the author of a life of Chopin, "The Gypsies and their Music," and a "Theoretical and Practical Music." He was a prolific composer.