

Franz Liszt's Sunt Lacrymae Rerum: A Scholarly Edition

Undergraduate Research Fellowship Final Report

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For my research project I prepared a scholarly edition of the Liszt solo piano composition, “Sunt Lacrymae Rerum”. “Sunt Lacrymae Rerum” is part of one of the most significant and personal large piano works, *Années de Pèlerinage*. I obtained extensive historical and analytical documents to determine why modern editions varied from an earlier discovered edition at Yale University.

The generous research fellowship awarded to me allowed me the financial flexibility to travel to the Irving S. Gilmore Music Library at Yale University in August of 2005. This experience proved imperative to my research as many research avenues were opened with the supportive, impressive staff. I was given access to every resource available and was even given the opportunity to personally handle the manuscripts, letters and even personal belongings of Liszt.

While at Yale University, another manuscript, the earliest known, was brought to my attention. Consequently, I compiled the scholarly edition based on the earliest, intermediary, and present-day urtext editions of the score. Biographical, musical and nationalistic elements offer explanation for discrepancies in the manuscripts.

The musical explanations offer the best explanation for discrepancies in the score. Liszt’s life and changing ethos contributed to the evolution of changes in the manuscript. Yet, I found, his goal of representing glory in defeat and Hungarian nationalistic elements in the music contributed to the biggest changes, and therefore discrepancies in the manuscripts.

Researching “Sunt Lacrymae Rerum” proved immensely satisfying, as the essence of the piece seems to reveal a personal portrait of Liszt himself. Also, the experience of submitting a formal proposal, traveling to Yale Library, completing my thesis and presenting and oral defense was invaluable. As I continue into a masters program next semester at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, I feel more than initiated and prepared into further forays in research and academia.