

Musical Voices

Documentary series
(6 x 24:00)

Though each author in this series is individually very different, each shared personal pre-occupations that help mould their life and work. For example; Victor Hugo's tragic relationship with the women in his life especially his wife and his daughter led to volumes of powerful poetry and dramatic works that inspired such composers as Bizet, Massenet and Verdi to compose musical masterpieces revealing aspects of this relationship. Similarly, Alexander Pushkin's illicit relationship with a woman married to Russian nobleman not only led to exile and death following a duel but also a series of poems and lyrics that led many composers (Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov and Britten among them) to write music evoking this personal and professional turmoil.

- **Victor Hugo (Bizet, Massenet, Fauré, Verdi, etc)**
- **Goethe (Schubert, Tchaikovsky, Gounod, Wolf, etc)**
- **Pushkin (Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, Mussorgsky, Britten, etc)**
- **Beaudelaire (Fauré, Debussy, Hahn, etc)**
- **Thomas Hardy (Vaughan-Williams, Britten, Finzi, Quilter etc)**
- **Rainer Maria Rilke (Sibelius, Barber, Strauss, etc)**

Using an actor to portray a separate literary giant, each individual half-hour program in this series will present a fascinating biographical portrait of the author by integrating music inspired by his literary works.



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