



Nikolaus Harnoncourt

Sabine M. Gruber

IMPOSSIBILITIES ARE THE FINEST POSSIBILITIES.

Nikolaus Harnoncourt's world of word-pictures

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A unique collection of sayings by the enfant terrible of classical music – taken from rehearsals and recording sessions

One of Nikolaus Harnoncourt's great secrets is his talent for language, probably unparalleled within his fraternity – his ability to translate musical images into basic, humorous, precise verbal images. Sabine M. Gruber, a member of the Schoenberg Chorus since the early 1980s, has – as both participant and observer – kept a record of Harnoncourt's inspired linguistic innovations over the years. Linking these with comments of her own, she examines the personality of Harnoncourt, artist and man, and the nature of the musical and artistic process. Reflections and remarks on works by Bach, Beer, Beethoven, Handel, Haydn, Mendelssohn, Monteverdi, Mozart, Purcell, Schubert, Schumann and Strauss combine in this book, which affords a fascinating glimpse through the keyhole of rehearsal-rooms and c...

NIKOLAUS HARNONCOURT

born in Berlin in 1929, died in 2016, founded his early music ensemble, the Concentus Musicus, in 1953. He received numerous international awards as a conductor, including the Polar Music Prize and the Erasmus Prize.

SABINE M. GRUBER

born in 1960 in Linz on the Danube, studied literary translation (French, Russian) and harpsichord in Vienna; she writes novels, short stories and music essays and lives as a freelance writer and music journalist in Klosterneuburg near Vienna. Book publications: "Der Schmetterlingsfänger" (novel, 1999), "Michaels Verführung" (novel, 2003), "Mit einem Fuß in der Frühlingswiese. Ein Spaziergang durch Haydns Jahreszeiten mit Sprachbildern von Nikolaus Harnoncourt" (2009), "Kurzparkzone" (short stories, 2010). Literature Prize of the Province of Lower Austria 2002. Most recently published by Residenz in an expanded new edition: "IMPOSSIBILITIES ARE THE GREATEST POSSIBILITIES" (2024).