



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 1929 in Berlin, died 2016. In 1953, he founded his ensemble for old music, the Concentus Musicus. As a conductor, he won numerous international awards, including the Musikpreis of the Ernst von Siemens Foundation (2002) and the Kyoto Prize (2005).

SABINE M. GRUBER

writer and translator, was born in Linz in 1960; she studied French and Russian in Vienna. She has a diploma in psychology, trained as a singer and harpsichordist, and is a member of the Arnold Schoenberg Chorus.