



Nikolaus Harnoncourt

Sabine M. Gruber

IMPOSSIBILITIES ARE THE GREATEST POSSIBILITIES

Nikolaus Harnoncourt's world of word-pictures

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A legendary linguistic legacy – in a new, extended edition complete with foreword and new word-pictures to celebrate what would have been Nikolaus Harnoncourt's 95th birthday.

One of the keys to Nikolaus Harnoncourt's artistry was his ingenious talent for conveying musical content in verbal images. Author and choral singer Sabine M. Gruber – both a participant and an observer – kept a record of Harnoncourt's rehearsal instructions in her notes for 30 years. Combining original quotes with essays, she sheds light on the personality of the man and artist, while exploring the essence of his musical and artistic process. A book full of humour, musical truth and essential wisdom.

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).