



ALFRED EINSTEIN
*A Short History
of Music*



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MUSIC

by ALFRED EINSTEIN

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PREFACE

CONCISE HISTORY OF MUSIC, which has passed through three editions in Germany and one in Holland, first produced some thirty years ago. It was written in a few weeks, at a time and place that precluded reference to any books of reference. Lists of names and dates, however, were not my object; my desire was to present a picture of the development of music as a whole, the historical form of that development, and figures of a few of the great masters. The reader will, I venture to hope, appreciate a certain unity in the presentation, which a mass of details would have destroyed.

The work was originally one of a popular educational series, and as such its scope was very limited. But it never really fitted its frame, for it is not exactly an educational book. It is addressed rather to the reader who has already made himself acquainted with some of the facts of musical history and has heard pre-classical, classical, romantic, and modern music performed—indeed it attentively. Of what value to a reader is a history of music unless music is part of his experience? Of the music of the present as well as of the past. The logic of the present explains that of the past, and not the other way round. Of what use to a blind man is a history of art?

None of the later editions of the present book, either in German or in English, is like the first one. I tried to amend and to correct it in every case.

ALFRED EINSTEIN

Note on the TRANSLATION

THE TRANSLATION is the work of several hands. Of the collaborators undenamed some have contributed a few and others many pages. All have undertaken the task as a pleasure for the opportunity it afforded of paying their respects to the esteemed author.

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ALFRED EINSTEIN, internationally famous musicologist, was born in Munich, Germany, in 1880, and died in this country in 1952. He devoted his entire life to the study of music, and was not only a brilliant historian and critic, but an outstanding authority on the music of Mozart and the Italian madrigal. His books on these subjects are considered definitive. A Short History of Music, published in Germany in 1920 and in the United States in 1940, has been hailed as a tour de force. Einstein left Germany in 1933 and became an American citizen in 1944. He was Professor of Music at Smith College from 1939 to 1950.

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