

Notes

Franz Liszt's Sonata in B minor, a masterpiece of piano literature, is offered here for the first time in a version for solo violin. Attempting to liberate the solo-violin medium, this transcription of a large-scale sonata in one movement exploits numerous instrumental possibilities in order to create a distinctive sound world, including: melodic independence of the four strings, wide-range polyphony, unusual use of harmonics, and a fugue in pizzicato.

The performer is advised to consult the piano version regarding thematic structure, chromatic harmony, and voicing. This is a stimulating source but should not be a direct guide to interpretation, since the violin version has to retain its own unique character.

Many technical challenges of violin playing have to be overcome in the process of studying this sonata. The task, therefore, is to clarify the musical meaning of each passage, giving shape to what might seem like a sea of notes. The dramatic concept and the expressive qualities should be convincing enough, so that performing the piece does not become a mere display of virtuosity, but a true statement of artistic honesty.

—Noam Sivan, August 2006

About Noam Sivan

Noam Sivan is an original and versatile musician, combining composition, piano performance, improvisation, and conducting. His compositional output includes works in most instrumental and vocal genres, among them the opera *Fruits of Folia* premiered by the Mannes Opera, *Homage to Ravel* premiered by the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, and the Piano Concerto which Mr. Sivan premiered himself in the double role of soloist and conductor. As a pianist he has performed the Asian premiere of the Ullmann Concerto with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, and Bach's *Goldberg Variations* for TV broadcast on the *New Israeli Cultural Channel*. Known for his "fanciful improvisations" (Washington Post), Noam Sivan is attempting to link performance and composition through his improvisations and transcriptions— some of which have been recorded for Koch International Classics—and thus to offer a new meaning to musical creativity and interpretation. Born in Israel in 1978, Mr. Sivan currently lives in New York City. He is on the faculty at Mannes College, where he founded the Improvisation Workshop, and is a C.V. Starr doctoral fellow at the Juilliard School.