



Bisel Classics

Franz
LISZT

ZWEI

TRANSKRIPTIONEN
über Mozarts
REQUIEM

S.550

**PIANO
SOLO**

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Préfacé

Franz Liszt made these transcriptions from Mozart's '*Requiem*' around 1862 and the present edition has been prepared from the first edition (pi. 2966) published by Siegel in 1865. The period between 1861 and 1862 was especially troubled for Liszt. He had met Princess Carolyne von Sayn-Wittgenstein in 1847 and having already separated from her husband Prince Nicholas she began an affair with Liszt that prompted her to start proceedings to annul the marriage. In a bitter struggle over personal fortunes, titles and the estate Carolyne would struggle for 13 years to secure the annulment and it all looked settled when in January 1861, after a lengthy entreaty at the Vatican, the Holy Congregation approved the annulment. Plans were made for Liszt and Carolyne to marry on his 50th birthday, 22nd October 1861, but at the last minute the wedding was prevented by a relative (Monsignor Gustav Hohenlohe) who feared for the financial security of the deal furnished by the marriage of his brother Prince Konstantin who had earlier married Carolyne's daughter, Princess Marie. With the marriage annulled and Princess Marie (potentially) bastardised, the original financial settlement would have been undermined by persistent litigation if not ruled null and void altogether. The dramatic prevention of this marriage and its consequences would see Carolyne abandon all hopes for marriage to Liszt and it left Liszt at a loose end in Rome.

Taking lodgings in the city, Liszt began to take an interest in the music of Palestrina, started researching church music, and made frequent visits to both St Peter's and the Sistine