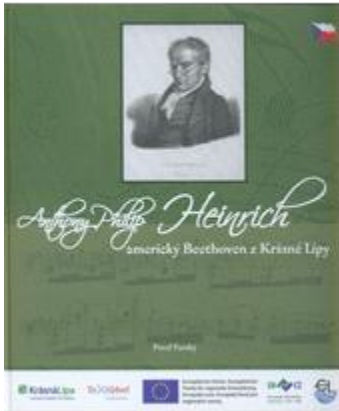


Anthony Philip Heinrich – American Beethoven from Krásná Lípa

Pavel Farský



Preface

Dear readers,
this book tells a story about American Beethoven from Krásná Lípa, Anthony Philip Heinrich, whose distinctive artistic personality was the fruit of the social and cultural environment of Krásná Lípa and the whole Šluknov region. Here, in the past centuries, influences from a wide area met, German and Czech culture merged into a single society. There was an original social environment that formed unique personalities who were active in the home country and abroad as well. Heinrich spent most of his artistic life in the U. S., but he was still closely tied to his home land, with which he had been in contact for many years mainly through correspondence with Franz Alois Mussik. This writer, who is also the author of a book about Krásná Lípa, wrote a book about Heinrich in 1843.

As a musician and organizer, Heinrich often presented compositions of his compatriots. At his concerts he introduced a number of German artists after they had moved to America.

With his original approach, he was involved in creating the highest American music culture in which he was perceived as a unique representative of German influences. However, in his work the love for German and Czech roots mingles. He called Czech people as his Slavic brothers. Since the first half of the 19th century, he represented his native region, to which he always proudly reported, by his personality and his work.

The aim of my book is to tell about the course of life and fate of our famous native, because I believe they are so interesting that they can bring inspiration and a lesson to be learned to people nowadays. Getting to know his biography, we can also better understand his compositions.

The story is based on proven historical facts that are the results of professional research published in prestigious world music literature. However, it is presented in a way that professional data are part of narrative and help a reader in undisturbed immersion into composer's life fates.

In 1998 during my studies of American piano work, I first became acquainted with Heinrich's life and work in John Tasker Howard's extensive book "Our American Music". At that time there was practically no one in my surroundings who knew Heinrich.

However, my main professional source is the book by musicologist William Treat Upton (1870-1961) titled "Anthony Philip Heinrich - American composer of the 19th century" (337 pages), which was published as a great representative work in New York in 1939 and 1967. In this book, Upton has summarized his years of research about Heinrich's life and work.

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Since the 1920s he worked with Heinrich's original documents archived in the Library of Congress: with sheet music, notes, letters, newspaper articles, and other written materials. He continued in the work of Oscar G. Sonneck, the head of Music Department (1873-1928), who collected and archived all things of Heinrich's inheritance in 1917. In addition to work with the original documents, Upton studied all contemporary materials from the U. S. and Europe, including Heinrich's biography by Mussik. An important source of information from Heinrich's birthplace was Franz Hladik, a teacher in Krásná Lípa, who was searching the necessary data for Upton in local archives and registers. Upton thanked him for this significant help in his preface.

He studied all of the materials and processed information in detail and published the earlier-mentioned extensive monograph, which contains a complete list of Heinrich's work, including pieces from which only parts have been preserved. Upton's book has been the basis for many other publications and articles of authors interested in this composer.

In the seventies of the last century, the original documents of Heinrich's works and other written materials were completely reproduced on microfilms in the Library of Congress. I bought copies of several microfilms and some of these reproductions are shown here as visuals.

Part of this book is also a CD with Heinrich's compositions that I recorded so the reader can make own idea of his composition style. I have sheet music from several sources: Kallisti Music Press in Philadelphia, the Library of Congress in Washington, and the National Museum - the Czech Museum of Music in Prague.

The music material can be found also at the Sächsische Landesbibliothek in Dresden and recently it has been available also on the Internet for free.

This book is the outcome of the last twenty years in which I was discovering Heinrich gradually. I would like to thank all who helped me in this research:

music scientists who took care to keep Heinrich's work preserved: Oscar Sonneck, William Treat Upton, John Tasker Howard, David Barron, J. Bunker Clark, Andrew Stiller and others;

organizations that have worked with me reliably and professionally: Town Krásná Lípa, Library of Congress in Washington, Kallisti Music Press in Philadelphia, University of Economics in Prague, National Museum – Czech Museum of Music in Prague, National Library in Prague, Roman Catholic Parish in Krásná Lípa, State District Archives in Děčín, State Regional Archives in Litoměřice and State District Archives in Lovosice;

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Antonín Sedlák, Ema Sklenářová, Andrew Stiller, Marie Šťastná, James Wintle and to many others who wished me a success;

and above all my wife Jana for her support and patience over the past twenty years when I spent my spare time studying the life and work of A. P. Heinrich and in the last few months writing this book and recording the CD.

I wish all readers and CD listeners pleasant and inspiring moments with the life-story and music of Anthony Philip Heinrich.

Pavel Farský
Prague, 15th April 2018



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Ahoj sousede. Hallo Nachbar.
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