

CHOPIN: Enduring Enigma PART 3 - OLLI Oct. 15, 2020 YEARS WITH GEORGE SAND - TIMELINE & LISTENING LIST lecture/recital online with Melinda Coffey Armstead

Background: George Sand, aka Aurore Dupin, (1804 -1876) Married at age 17 to Casimir Dudevant (27) Sept. 17, 1822; dowry of 100K francs and Nohant château. Birth of Maurice June 30, 1823. Affair with Stéphane Ajasson, birth of Solange Sept. 13, 1828, often referred to as “Mademoiselle Stéphane” by Sand. The dysfunctional relationship with her mother and brother eventually erupted the year of her marriage (1847), resulting in Solange being expelled from the family circle and the final rupture with Chopin.

Jan. 6, 1831 - Sand leaves her husband and takes the children to Paris.

May 31, 1831 letter from Sand to her mother: “My husband does exactly as he likes ... But it is only fair that he shall grant me the same liberty that he enjoys.”

Partial list of George Sand’s lovers to 1838: Stéphane Ajasson (probable father of Solange) writer Jules Sandeau, journalist Henri de Latouche, poet Alfred de Musset, doctor Pietro Pagello, lawyer Michel de Bourges, dramatist Félicien Mallefille

Nov. 19, 1836 - first meeting at a soirée of Marie d’Agoult & Liszt at their Hôtel de France apt. (Sand shared a suite of rooms adjacent to theirs *with a common sitting room*) Chopin to F. Hiller: “What an antipathetic woman that Sand is!... Is it really a woman? I am ready to doubt it.” Chopin to his family: “...something about her repels me.”

Dec. 13, 1836 - second meeting at a soirée of Chopin’s own with artists, musicians, writers, and Polish expats. Sand arrived with Liszt and Marie, wearing white pantaloons with a scarlet sash (Polish flag colors). Liszt and Chopin perform Moscheles Sonata in E-flat for 4 hands.

May, 1838 letter from Sand to Albert Grzymała: “... I was rather disturbed at the effect Chopin had on me. I still have not got over my amazement.”

July 1838 - Chopin and Sand have become lovers, she rents a small apt. nears his.

Aug. 1838 - Sand persuades Delacroix to paint them in a double portrait, Sand secures Nohant and granted custody of her children. Chopin nervous of public notoriety. Both Chopin and Maurice in delicate health, a winter in Majorca suggested as the perfect solution by Charlotte Marliani, wife of the Spanish consul.

Oct. 27, 1838 - Chopin left Paris, met up with Sand and children Nov. 1 in Perpignan, Nightmare trip to Majorca, Nov. 8, 1838 to Feb. 13, 1839. Total of 59 days in virtual quarantine in Valldemossa, three months recovery in Marseille.

June 19, 1839 - Chopin and Sand back at Nohant, Sand now in a new role not as lover but as caregiver, refers to Chopin as “the boy, Chip-Chip, the poor boy, the little one”.

April 26, 1841 - Brilliant concert at Salle Pleyel (with singer and violinist), all arranged by George Sand

Feb. 21, 1842 - Concert at Salle Pleyel with mezzo-soprano Pauline Viardot and cellist Auguste Franchomme, his last public concert for six years.

April 20, 1842 - Jan Matuszyński, Polish physician and boyhood friend, dies of TB in Chopin’s arms in Paris. Chopin “utterly broken”. Friendship with Delacroix at Nohant.

Aug. 1842 - Chopin and Sand lease 2 apts. at the Square d’Orleans in the 9th Arr. His - #9 at 600 francs a year, hers - #5 at 3,000 francs; his Paris residence for the next 7 years. The Marlianis at #7. Known as “The New Athens”, other residents included Alexandre Dumas *père*, composers Alkan and Charles Gounod, Conservatoire piano prof. Zimmerman, sculptor Dantan, writers, actresses, ballerinas, also pianist Kalkbrenner

1841-43 - Chopin teaches Carl Filtsch, an 11 year-old Hungarian genius/prodigy, who he saw 3 times a week for 18 months and shared the stage with 5 times.

May 3, 1844 - Mikołaj Chopin dies of TB at age 73. Chopin devastated. Ludwika visits. Summer of ’44 is the apex of Chopin’s artistic and emotional life.

1845 - Chopin’s health declines, family tensions at Nohant, Carl Filtsch dies suddenly while on tour, May 11, 1845, age 15.

1846 - rift with Sand deepens, *Lucrezia Floriani* published; opp. 95-61 published

1847 - Chopin sides with Sand’s daughter Solange, provoking final break; opp 63-5 published.

Partial List of works composed by Chopin while living with Sand:

* Recommended for listening at home this week

Impromptu op. 36

*Fantaisie in F minor op. 49

*Scherzos in C-sharp minor op. 39 and *E major op. 54

Twelve Mazurkas, opp. 50, 56, 59, 63

Six Nocturnes, opp. 48, 55, 62

*Ballades in F major op. 52, A-flat Major op 47, *F minor op.52

Four Waltzes opp. 42, 64

*Sonatas in B-flat minor op. 35 and *B minor op. 58

Polonaise in F-sharp minor op. 44, A-flat major op. 53, *Polonaise-Fantaisie op. 61

Berceuse op. 57

*Barcarolle op. 60

“The relationship was mutually supportive, of which their work provides eloquent proof.”

- Jeremy Siepmann