



# Mendelssohn and Victorian England

Colin Timothy Eatock, University of Toronto, Canada

Music in Nineteenth-Century Britain

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This valuable book considers the reception of the composer, pianist, organist and conductor Felix Mendelssohn in nineteenth-century England, and his influence on English musical culture. Despite the composer's immense popularity in the nation during his lifetime and in the decades following his death, this is the first book to deal exclusively with the subject of Mendelssohn in England. Mendelssohn's highly successful ten trips to Britain, between 1829 and 1847, are documented and discussed in detail, as are his relationships with English musicians and a variety of prominent figures. An introductory chapter describes the musical life of England (especially London) at the time of Mendelssohn's arrival and the last two chapters deal with the composer's posthumous reception, to the end of the Victorian era. Eatock reveals Mendelssohn as a catalyst for the expansion of English musical culture in the nineteenth century. In taking this position, the author challenges much of the extant literature on the subject and provides an engaging story that brings Mendelssohn and his English experiences to life.

## Contents

Preface; Music in the metropolis, 1829; The first visit; Consolidation in the 1830s; Mendelssohn mania in the 1840s; Elijah and the end; ; Apotheosis; Fragmentation and legacy; Appendices; Select bibliography; Index.

## About the Author

Dr. Colin Timothy Eatock received his PhD in musicology from the University of Toronto. Currently, he lives in Toronto, where he is a lecturer, editor, composer and journalist. He frequently writes for Canada's Globe and Mail newspaper, and has also contributed to the New York Times and the Houston Chronicle, as well as such periodicals as The Strad, Opera, International Piano and Early Music America.

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