



CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	9
Introduction	11
Abbreviations	17

PART I Performance of Romanticism Chopin as a Suffering Melancholic Genius

Chapter 1. Performance of the Body	21
Romantic Genius and the Divine Malady	22
Tuberculosis: Its Romantic Metaphors in Popular Culture versus Medical	
Etiology	25
Fryderyk Chopin – the Suffering Genius – Case Study under	
a Performative Lens	31
Banishing TB – Internal and External Asylums – Mallorca and Nohant	39
The Many-Faced Disease – Chopin <i>Aut Deus, Aut Daemon</i>	50
Blood and the Uncanny – Chopin, Vampirism, and Romantic Gothicism	54
Water and the Melancholic Victory of Sorrow	59
<i>Le dernier regard aux traits du Grand Maître</i> (KFC II 463): The Exemplary Agony	
of the Ultimate Romantic Genius	63
Chapter 2. Performance of Spirit	73
Genius, Melancholia, and Inspiration	73
<i>Furor Romanicus – Furor Melancholicus</i>	75
Chopin's Algorithm of Existential Sorrow – <i>Moja Biéda</i>	80
From <i>Melancholia Generosa</i> to Modern Genius	87
<i>Nullum magnum ingenium sine mixtura dementiae</i> – Some Aspects of the Romantic	
Genius, <i>le Génie Mélancolique</i>	91
<i>Voir clair dans le ravissement</i> – Chopin the Romantic (Non-)Prophet	96
Romantic Genius and Psychoanalysis – the Concept of Inward Performative	
Personality and Shame	100

PART II
Performance of Individualism
Chopin as a Unique Romantic Virtuoso and Dandy

Chapter 3. The Virtuoso Performer	111
Towards the Blue Note – Paris of “Pianists, Asses and Virtuosos”	111
Performance on the Verge – Between the Enlightenment and Romanticism:	
Building the Grounds for <i>Correspondance des Arts</i>	119
Shifting Codes of Representation – the Virtuoso of Caricature and	
Improvisation	126
The Epiphany of the Virtuoso: Pinpointing the Mystery	132
<i>Microcosme et Microthée</i> : The Piano as the Divine Telegraph and the	
Instrument of the Nineteenth Century	138
<i>Bel Canto</i> , or the Tubercular Song	145
<i>Tempo Rubato</i> : Towards Celebrityism à Rebours	150
Chapter 4. The Dandy Performer	153
<i>Le Beau Monde</i> – Chopin’s Presence in the Romantic Salons	157
“Playing House”	168
<i>Lucrezia Floriani</i> ’s Doll Effect	177
Gender Ambivalence in the Representation of the Genius Dandy	182
Chopin <i>Flâneur</i> ? <i>Espaces Imaginaires</i>	189

PART III
Chopin as an Idea – An Ongoing Performance: The Afterlife

Chapter 5. Multiple Romantisms	199
<i>Genius Patriae</i> : On Chopin’s Polishness and Cosmopolitanism	200
Romantic <i>Volksgeist</i> – Chopin and the Mythical Slavic Soul	213
Transcendental Chopin – Conversations with God	221
Chopin’s Epistemology – <i>Tere bzdere kuku</i> – Music as Existence	228
Mason without an Apron – Chopin and Freemasonry	232
Chopin the Philistine? In the arms of Biedermeier, “Domesticized	
Romanticism”	236
Epilogue. In the Shadow of the Romantic Paradigm	241
Chopin’s Afterlife – towards the Chopin Olympics – Apollo and Marsyas	241
Conclusion	245
The Ultimate Artist – Chopin against Philistinism and Performativity	245
Bibliography	249
Index of Persons	271