



Mendelssohn (Classic Reprint) (German Edition)

Walter Dahms

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Excerpt from Mendelssohn

Es ist ein Wagestück in der heutigen Zeit, die Geschichte Felix Mendelssohns zu schreiben. Denn das Schaffen dieses romantischen Tondichters ist nach einer Periode unbedingter und feuriger Verehrung späterhin maßloser Unterschätzung, ja Mißachtung verfallen. Das geschah mit einer gewissen Naturnotwendigkeit, bedingt durch die heftigsten und umwälzendsten Erschütterungen der geistigen Welt, die mit Begierde die neuen naturalistischen und realistischen Gedanken aufgriff und den Maßstab für die stillen Werte der Beschaulichkeit, reinsten Innerlichkeit und ungewürzten Lebensfreude verlor. Durch die nachwagnerische moderne Musik ist die Öffentlichkeit in bedauerlicher Weise einem vollkommenen ästhetischen Chaos ausgeliefert worden. Wir kennen die Zeiten des guten Geschmacks in der Musik nur noch vom Hörensagen; aber wir können sie uns vorstellen als Feierstunden voller Vornehmheit, Grazie, Melancholie, Sehnsucht und tiefster Erfüllung. Wenn auch nicht gesagt werden soll, daß es eine bessere Zeit war, die nicht immer der großen Geste in der Kunst bedurfte, um ergriffen und erhoben zu werden, so darf man doch ohne weiteres behaupten, daß sie leichter eines unbefangeneren Blickes fähig war und sich williger dem Eindruck des Schönen hingab, auch wenn es mit leisen Schritten und in äußerlich bescheidener Hülle einherging.

Sprechen wir es nur aus: was unsere Zeit an Mendelssohns Musik vermißt, ist das Fehlen nervenerregender, unsubstantieller Momente, jener mehr oder weniger eindringlichen Affektausdrücke, die uns doch die Meister von Bach bis Brahms und Wagner in jeder Stimmung der Seele so neu und ewig unerschöpflich erscheinen lassen. Und es ist wiederum kein Geheimnis, daß auch die Antike dem Sinn des modernen Menschen ferner gerückt, den weitaus meisten ganz fremd geblieben oder geworden ist. Drängt sich da nicht die Frage nach der Ursache solcher Erscheinungen auf? Müssen wir nicht suchen, einen Zusammenhang zu ergründen, wenn wir erkennen, daß Mendelssohns Musik die Erfüllung des humanistischen Ideals bedeutet und er selbst nach innerstem Wesen und der Kraft gewaltiger Überlieferungen als Mensch eine reine Verkörperung der Humanitätslehre war?

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