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ARTIST PROFILE

—By Peter Winter

AS WITH NEARLY EVERY OTHER "INNOVATOR" IN ART, THIS FORCEFUL HUNGARIAN COMPOSER'S WORK, ALTHOUGH INSPIRED BY FOLK MUSIC OF HIS NATIVE LAND, OFTEN MET WITH OPEN RIDICULE...

BÉLA BARTÓK

(1881 - 1945)

AT THE WORLD PREMIERE OF HIS SECOND SONATA FOR PIANO AND VIOLIN, THE AUDIENCE BECAME RESTLESS WITH THE INCREASING DISSONANCE AND BEGAN TO WHISPER AND SMILE OPENLY...
...AT ITS CONCLUSION THE PIANIST HERSELF BROKE INTO LAUGHTER... AND THE AUDIENCE THEN OPENLY HOOTED and LAUGHED HIS RIDICULE...



THE MAJORITY OF BARTÓK'S MUSIC WENT UNRECOGNIZED DURING HIS LIFETIME... YET WITHIN MONTHS OF HIS DEATH THERE WERE 48 IMPORTANT PERFORMANCES OF HIS WORKS....

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