

The Cambridge Companion to Berlioz

Still widely known as the extravagant composer of the *Symphonie fantastique*, Berlioz was a subtle and complex artist caught in the crossfire between the academic classicism of the French musical establishment and the romantic modernism of the Parisian musical scene. He was a thinker in an age that invented both the religion of art and the notion of the “genius” who preached and practiced it. This Companion contains essays by eminent scholars on Berlioz’s place in nineteenth-century French cultural life, on his principal compositions (symphonies, overtures, operas, sacred works, songs), on his major writings (a delightful volume of memoirs, a number of short stories, large quantities of music criticism, an orchestration treatise), on his direct and indirect encounters with other famous musicians (Gluck, Mozart, Beethoven, Wagner), and on his legacy in France. The volume is framed by a detailed chronology of his life and a usefully annotated bibliography.

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The Cambridge Companion to
BERLIOZ

EDITED BY
Peter Bloom
Smith College



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Peter Bloom

Abbreviations

- CG Hector Berlioz, *Correspondance générale*
Pierre Citron, General Editor (Paris: Flammarion, 1972–)
- CGI 1803–1832, ed. Pierre Citron (1972)
- CGII 1832–1842, ed. Frédéric Robert (1975)
- CGIII 1842–1850, ed. Pierre Citron (1978)
- CGIV 1851–1855, ed. Pierre Citron, Yves Gérard, and Hugh Macdonald (1983)
- CGV 1855–1859, ed. Hugh Macdonald and François Lesure (1988)
- CGVI 1859–1863, ed. Hugh Macdonald and François Lesure (1995)
- CGVII 1864–1869, ed. Hugh Macdonald (forthcoming)

Unless otherwise indicated, references here to Berlioz's correspondence are to this edition. When the precise date of a letter is included in the text, reference to this edition is assumed.

- CM Hector Berlioz, *Critique musicale*
Yves Gérard, general editor (Paris: Buchet/Chastel, 1996–)
- CM I 1823–1834, ed. H. Robert Cohen and Yves Gérard (1996)
- CM II 1835–1836, ed. Yves Gérard and Marie-Hélène Coudroy-Saghaï (1998)
- CM III is forthcoming. Seven further volumes are envisioned.

Mémoires / Memoirs

References here to Berlioz's *Mémoires* are usually by chapter number, as the various editions of the book, in French and English, are consistent on this point. The main editions are as follows:

- Hector Berlioz, *Mémoires*, ed. Pierre Citron (Paris: Flammarion, 1991)
- Hector Berlioz, *Mémoires*, ed. Pierre Citron (Paris: Garnier-Flammarion, 1969)
- The Memoirs of Hector Berlioz*, transl. and ed. David Cairns (London: Victor Gollancz Ltd., 1969; and several further editions, the latest being that issued in London by Sphere Books Ltd. [Cardinal] in 1990).

Unless otherwise indicated, quotations from the *Mémoires* in this Companion are taken from one of the published translations by David Cairns (and sometimes modified by the authors).

- Les Soirées de l'orchestre* (1968)
- Les Grotesques de la musique* (1969)
- À travers chants* (1971)

Unless otherwise indicated, references here to Berlioz's three collections of his own criticism and fiction, listed above, are to the *Œuvres Littéraires*, Édition du Centenaire, ed. Léon Guichard (Paris: Gründ, 1968–1971).

xii Abbreviations

- NBE [New Berlioz Edition] Hector Berlioz, *New Edition of the Complete Works*
Hugh Macdonald, general editor (Kassel: Bärenreiter, 1967–)
- NBE 1a-d *Benvenuto Cellini* (1994–)
- 2a-c *Les Troyens*, ed. Hugh Macdonald (1969–1970)
- 3 *Béatrice et Bénédict*, ed. Hugh Macdonald (1980)
- 4 *Incomplete Operas*
- 5 *Huit Scènes de Faust*, ed. Julian Rushton (1970)
- 6 *Prix de Rome Works*, ed. David Gilbert (1998)
- 7 *Lélio ou Le Retour à la vie*, ed. Peter Bloom (1992)
- 8a-b *La Damnation de Faust*, ed. Julian Rushton (1979–1986)
- 9 *Grande Messe des morts*, ed. Jürgen Kindermann (1978)
- 10 *Te Deum*, ed. Denis McCaldin (1973)
- 11 *L'Enfance du Christ*, ed. David Lloyd Jones (1998)
- 12a *Choral Works with Orchestra, I*, ed. Julian Rushton (1991)
- 12b *Choral Works with Orchestra, II*, ed. David Charlton (1993)
- 13 *Songs for Solo Voice and Orchestra*, ed. Ian Kemp (1975)
- 14 *Choral Works with Keyboard*, ed. Ian Rumbold (1996)
- 15 *Songs for One, Two or Three Voices and Keyboard*
- 16 *Symphonie fantastique*, ed. Nicholas Temperley (1972)
- 17 *Harold en Italie*
- 18 *Roméo et Juliette*, ed. D. Kern Holoman (1990)
- 19 *Symphonie funèbre et triomphale*, ed. Hugh Macdonald (1967)
- 20 *Overtures*
- 21 *Miscellaneous Works*
- 22a *Arrangements of Works by Gluck*
- 22b *Arrangements of Works by Other Composers*
- 23 *Messe solennelle*, ed. Hugh Macdonald (1994)
- 24 *Grand Traité d'instrumentation et d'orchestration modernes*
- 25 D. Kern Holoman, *Catalogue of the Works of Hector Berlioz* (1987)
- 26 *Portraits*
- Holoman NBE 25 (as above)

For detailed information regarding the contents of these volumes and the availability of scores and parts, the reader is referred to the Appendix of the article in this Companion by D. Kern Holoman.

Chronology

Berlioz	France and beyond
1800 Birth at Ennis, Ireland, of Harriet Constance Smithson, to become B's first wife (18 March).	Napoléon's forces defeat the Austrians at Marengo (14 June).
1801	Capitulation of the French army in Egypt (August); Chateaubriand, <i>Atala</i> .
1802	Birth of Victor Hugo (26 February); institution of the Légion d'honneur (19 May); Bonaparte becomes Consul for life (2 August); Chateaubriand, <i>Le Génie du Christianisme</i> .
1803 Marriage of Louis-Joseph Berlioz (father) and Marie-Antoinette-Joséphine Marmion (mother) (6 February). Birth at La Côte-Saint-André of Louis-Nicolas-Hector Berlioz (11 December), at 5 p.m.; B's original second Christian name is crossed out in his father's <i>Livre de raison</i> .	France declares war on England (18 May); France sells Louisiana to the United States (December); Beethoven composes the <i>Eroica</i> Symphony.
1804 The Berlioz ménage at La Côte-Saint-André is one of "love and contentment" (David Cairns).	Napoléon becomes Emperor of France (20 May); birth of George Sand (1 July); Napoléon is crowned in Paris (2 December).
1805 Birth of Jean-Jacques-Humbert Ferrand, who will become B's lifelong friend.	Lesueur, <i>Ossian</i> (10 July); Mozart, <i>Don Giovanni</i> , in Paris (17 September); Napoléon defeats the Austrians and Russians at Austerlitz (2 December).
1806 Birth of B's sister Marguerite-Anne-Louise, called Nanci (17 February).	Napoléon's "Continental System" is established.
1807 Birth of B's sister Louise (August).	Peace of Tilsit between France and Russia (7 July); Spontini, <i>La Vestale</i> (15 December).
1808	Birth of Gérard de Nerval (22 May); establishment of the university system in France; birth of the future Napoléon III (11 October); France invades Spain (December).
1809 B begins his studies at the petit-séminaire nearby the family home at La Côte.	France annexes the Papal States, defeats the Austrians at Wagram (July); Napoléon divorces Josephine (16 December).

Berlioz	France and beyond
1810	Napoléon marries the Archduchess Marie-Louise of Austria (1 April); Mme de Staël, <i>De l'Allemagne</i> .
1811	Inauguration of the new concert hall at the Conservatoire, in the rue Bergère (7 July); births of Théophile Gautier (30 August) and Franz Liszt (22 October), both to become B's close friends; Gluck, <i>Armide</i> , in Paris (16 December).
1812	France declares war on Russia (22 June); the French retreat from Moscow (October).
1813	Birth of Wagner (22 May); Wellington defeats the French at Vittoria (21 June); birth of Verdi (10 October).
1814	Allied invasion of France (January); Napoléon abdicates (6 April); Restoration of the Bourbon Monarchy in the person of Louis XVIII (3 May); opening of the Congress of Vienna (September).
1815	The "Hundred Days" (March–June); battle of Waterloo (18 June); Napoléon's final abdication (22 June); second Bourbon Restoration (8 July).
1816	Cherubini becomes professor of composition at the Conservatoire (1 April); the <i>Chambre introuvable</i> – Joseph Faure is the representative from the Isère – is dissolved (5 September).
1817	Rossini, <i>L'Italiana in Algeri</i> – the composer's first work to be performed in Paris (1 February).
1818	End of the Allied occupation of France (November).
1819	
1820	Assassination of the Duc de Berry (13 February); birth of the Comte de Chambord (29 September); Lamartine, <i>Les Méditations poétiques</i> .

- | Berlioz | France and beyond |
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| 1821 B receives the <i>Baccalauréat-ès-lettres</i> (22 March); arrives in Paris (late October), enrolls at the Faculté de Médecine (16 November), hears <i>Iphigénie en Tauride</i> (probably 26 November). | Death of Napoléon (5 May); première of <i>Der Freischütz</i> , in Berlin (18 June); Habeneck succeeds Viotti as Director of the Opéra (1 November). |
| 1822 B frequents the library of the Conservatoire (summer), composes <i>Le Cheval arabe</i> (autumn), publishes some early <i>romances</i> , subsists on allowances from his father (which vary but continue for many years). | Cherubini becomes Director of the Conservatoire (19 April); Villèle Ministry (December); Greeks proclaim independence from Turkey. |
| 1823 B composes <i>Estelle et Némorin</i> and <i>Le Passage de la mer rouge</i> (lost), publishes his first article in <i>Le Corsaire</i> (12 August). | Liszt arrives in Paris (11 December); France intervenes in Spain to reestablish the Bourbon Monarchy. |
| 1824 B receives the <i>Bachelier-ès-sciences physiques</i> (13 January); composes <i>Beverley, ou le joueur</i> (lost), has the <i>Messe solennelle</i> rehearsed (27 December). | Death of Byron (19 April); Beethoven, Ninth Symphony (7 May); creation of the Département des Beaux-Arts under the direction of Sosthènes de La Rochefoucauld (6 September); death of Louis XVIII (16 September); succession of Charles X; Rossini becomes Director of the Théâtre Italien (1 December); Castil-Blaze, <i>Robin des bois</i> (7 December). |
| 1825 B composes the <i>Scène héroïque</i> , begins <i>Les Francs-Juges</i> , witnesses the première of the <i>Messe solennelle</i> (10 July). | Coronation of Charles X (29 May); Rossini, <i>Il viaggio a Reims</i> (19 June). |
| 1826 B enrolls at the Conservatoire for composition with Lesueur (26 August) and counterpoint and fugue with Reicha (2 October), completes the overture to <i>Les Francs-Juges</i> . | Death of Weber (4 June); Rossini, <i>Le Siège de Corinthe</i> (9 October); branches of the Paris Conservatoire created in Lille and Toulouse (20 December). |
| 1827 B sings in the chorus at the Théâtre des Nouveautés, composes <i>La Mort d'Orphée</i> (July), sees Harriet Smithson as Ophelia (11 September) and Juliet (15 September). | Rossini, <i>Moïse</i> (26 March); death of Beethoven (26 March); Hugo, <i>Préface de Cromwell</i> (December); French naval intervention in Greece. |
| 1828 B gives his first orchestral concert with Bloc conducting the premières of the overtures <i>Les Francs-Juges</i> and <i>Waverley</i> (26 May), composes <i>Herminie</i> (July), reads Goethe's <i>Faust</i> in Gérard de Nerval's new translation. | Martignac Ministry (4 January); Auber, <i>La Muette de Portici</i> (29 February); inaugural concert of the Société des Concerts du Conservatoire (9 March); imprisonment of Béranger for political songs (10 December). |

- | Berlioz | France and beyond |
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| <p>1829 B composes <i>Cléopâtre</i> (July), <i>Neuf Mélodies</i>; writes his first article for <i>Le Correspondant</i> (4 August), gives a concert with Habeneck conducting the première of a part of the <i>Huit Scènes de Faust</i> (1 November).</p> | <p>Establishment in Paris of <i>Jeune France</i>, a republican student organization; Rossini, <i>Guillaume Tell</i> (3 August); Polignac Ministry (8 August); Hugo, <i>Les Orientales</i>.</p> |
| <p>1830 B begins the <i>Symphonie fantastique</i> (January), falls in love with Marie Moke (March), composes <i>Sardanapale</i> (July) – wins the Prix de Rome (August), witnesses the premières of <i>La Tempête</i> (7 November) and of the <i>Fantastique</i> (5 December), departs for Rome via La Côte (31 December).</p> | <p>Hugo, <i>Hernani</i> (25 February); July Ordinances (25 July); revolution in Paris (27–29 July); Louis-Philippe, King of the French (9 August); disturbances in Brussels after a performance of <i>La Muette de Portici</i> (25 August); Stendhal, <i>Le Rouge et le noir</i>.</p> |
| <p>1831 B arrives in Rome (10 March), discovers that Marie Moke has broken their engagement (April), completes <i>Le Roi Lear</i> (10 May), <i>Rob-Roy MacGregor</i> (July), and <i>Le Retour à la vie</i>, later called <i>Lélio</i> (summer).</p> | <p>Reorganization of the National Guard (March); Chopin arrives in Paris (October); Meyerbeer, <i>Robert le diable</i> (21 November); worker uprisings in Lyon (21–22 November); Hugo, <i>Notre Dame de Paris</i>; Balzac, <i>La Peau de chagrin</i>; Barbier, <i>Iambes</i>.</p> |
| <p>1832 B composes <i>La Captive</i> (February), departs from Rome (2 May), arrives at La Côte (June), arrives in Paris (7 November); Habeneck conducts the <i>Fantastique</i> and the première of <i>Le Retour à la vie</i> (5 December); B meets Harriet Smithson (mid-December).</p> | <p>Chopin's first concert in Paris (26 February); death of Goethe (22 March); Hugo, <i>Le Roi s'amuse</i> (22 November).</p> |
| <p>1833 Habeneck conducts the première of <i>Rob-Roy</i> (14 April); B attempts suicide because of Smithson's reluctance to marry (August), marries Smithson (3 October) with Liszt as one of the witnesses, continues to subsist on the Rome Prize stipend (as he will through 1835).</p> | <p>Death of Hérold (19 January); Auber, <i>Gustave III</i> (27 February); Guizot, <i>Loi sur l'instruction primaire</i> (28 June); Balzac, <i>Eugénie Grandet</i>.</p> |
| <p>1834 B begins <i>Harold en Italie</i> (January), moves with Harriet to Montmartre (10 April), conceives <i>Benvenuto Cellini</i>, publishes <i>Le Suicide par enthousiasme</i> (20, 24 July); birth of B's son Louis-Clément-Thomas (14 August); Girard conducts the première of <i>Harold</i> (23 November).</p> | <p>Schumann founds the <i>Neue Zeitschrift für Musik</i> (April); death of Lafayette (20 May); death of Boieldieu (8 October); Balzac, <i>Le Père Goriot</i>.</p> |

- | Berlioz | France and beyond |
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| <p>1835 B gives a concert at the Conservatoire (3 May), receives his last payment as winner of the Prix de Rome (1 July); Girard conducts <i>Le Cinq Mai</i> (22 November).</p> | <p>Halévy, <i>La Juive</i> (23 February); Fieschi attempts to assassinate Louis-Philippe (28 July); Duponchel succeeds Véron as director of the Opéra (16 August); Camille Pleyel separates from Marie Moke (September); Vigny, <i>Chatterton</i>.</p> |
| <p>1836 B now depends largely on journalism for income (January), fails to obtain the directorship of the Gymnase musical (January), attends the première of <i>Les Huguenots</i> (29 January); death of Harriet Smithson's sister Anne Cecelia (June); B completes <i>Benvenuto Cellini</i> (autumn), conducts concerts at the Conservatoire (4, 18 December).</p> | <p>Meyerbeer, <i>Les Huguenots</i> (29 February); Louis Napoléon's failed <i>coup d'état</i> at Strasbourg (30 October); Bertin, <i>Esméralda</i> (14 November).</p> |
| <p>1837 Gasparin commissions the <i>Requiem</i> (March); Habeneck conducts the première of the <i>Requiem</i> (5 December).</p> | <p>Marriage of the Duc d'Orléans and Hélène de Mecklembourg (29 May); inauguration of the rail line Paris–Saint-Germain (25 August); sack of Constantine (13 October); death of General Damrémont (17 October); Balzac, <i>Les Illusions perdues</i>.</p> |
| <p>1838 B seeks the direction of the Théâtre Italien (January–June); death of B's mother (18 February); première of <i>Benvenuto Cellini</i> (10 September); B's brother Prosper arrives in Paris (20 October); the <i>Fantastique</i> and <i>Harold</i> are performed at the Conservatoire – Paganini pays homage with a gift of 20,000 francs (16 December).</p> | <p>Fire destroys the Théâtre Italien (13 January); birth of Bizet (25 October); Gautier, <i>La Comédie de la mort</i>.</p> |
| <p>1839 B officially becomes Associate Librarian at the Conservatoire (1 January); death of B's brother Prosper (15 January); B named Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur (10 May), conducts the première of <i>Roméo et Juliette</i> – Wagner attends (24 November).</p> | <p>Mendelssohn premieres Schubert's <i>Great C-Major Symphony</i> (21 March).</p> |
| <p>1840 Rémusat commissions the <i>Symphonie funèbre</i> (April); B directs the première of the <i>Symphonie funèbre</i> (28 July) and a <i>Festival</i> at the Opéra (1 November).</p> | <p>Thiers Ministry (1 March); birth of Tchaikovsky (7 May); death of Paganini (27 May); Friedrich Wilhelm IV accedes to the throne of Prussia (7 June); Louis-Napoléon's failed <i>coup d'état</i> at Boulogne (6 August);</p> |

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| | Guizot Ministry (29 October); translation of Napoléon's remains to the Invalides (15 December). |
| 1841 B composes recitatives and prepares <i>Der Freischütz</i> for the Opéra (March–May), composes <i>Les Nuits d'été</i> (summer); première of B's version of <i>Der Freischütz</i> (7 June); B frequents Marie Récio (autumn). | Adolphe Sax invents the saxophone; Hugo elected to the Académie française; Armand Bertin succeeds his father as director of the <i>Journal des débats</i> . |
| 1842 B is denied the post of Inspecteur des Écoles de chant (May), gives a concert in Brussels – his first abroad (26 September), presents his candidacy for a chair at the Institute (October), visits Frankfurt and Stuttgart (December). | Rossini, <i>Stabat Mater</i> (7 January); Meyerbeer becomes General Music Director of the Royal Opera House in Berlin; Cherubini resigns from the Conservatoire (4 February), dies (15 March); death of Stendhal (23 March); death of the Duc d'Orléans (13 July); Chopin and George Sand settle in Paris (September); Wagner, <i>Rienzi</i> (20 October). |
| 1843 B travels to Hechingen, Stuttgart, Carlsruhe, Mannheim, Frankfurt, Weimar, Leipzig, Dresden, Brunswick, Hamburg, Berlin, Magdeburg, and Darmstadt (January–May), composes <i>Le Carnaval romain</i> (September), completes the <i>Grand Traité d'instrumentation et d'orchestration modernes</i> (December). | Wagner, <i>Der fliegende Holländer</i> (2 January). |
| 1844 Première of <i>Le Carnaval romain</i> (3 February); publication of <i>Euphonia</i> (February); official publication of the <i>Traité d'instrumentation</i> (1 March); B directs a concert for the Festival d'industrie (1 August); publication of the <i>Voyage musical en Allemagne et en Italie</i> (August); B composes the <i>Marche funèbre sur la mort d'Hamlet</i> (November). | Louis-Philippe “reigns but does not govern” (Thiers). |
| 1845 B gives concerts in Marseille and Lyon (June, July), attends the Beethoven celebrations in Bonn (August), begins work on <i>La Damnation de Faust</i> (autumn). | Unveiling of the Beethoven monument in Bonn (10 August); Wagner, <i>Tannhäuser</i> (19 October). |
| 1846 B directs <i>Roméo et Juliette</i> in Vienna (2 January), travels to Prague, Pest, | Louis-Napoléon escapes from Ham prison (25 May), goes to London. |

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| <p>Breslau, Dresden, Leipzig, and Brunswick (January–April), conducts the première of the <i>Chant des chemins de fer</i> in Lille (14 June) and the première of <i>La Damnation de Faust</i> (6 December).</p> | |
| <p>1847 B departs for Russia (14 February), gives concerts in St. Petersburg and Moscow (February–April), has an affair with a Russian chorister (April–May), directs <i>Faust</i> in Berlin (19 June), gives a concert in Versailles (29 October), departs for London (3 November).</p> | <p>Death of Mendelssohn (4 November).</p> |
| <p>1848 B begins his <i>Mémoires</i> in London (January), returns to Paris (14 July); death of B's father (28 July); Harriet Smithson has a stroke (mid-October); B conceives the <i>Te Deum</i>.</p> | <p>Revolution in Paris, abdication of Louis-Philippe (22–24 February); proclamation of the Republic (24 February); Liszt becomes Court Kapellmeister in Weimar (February); death of Chateaubriand (4 July); Louis-Napoléon elected President of the Republic (10 December); Chateaubriand, <i>Mémoires d'outre-tombe</i>.</p> |
| <p>1849 Harriet suffers from continued strokes; B plans the Société Philharmonique de Paris (December).</p> | <p>Death of Habeneck (8 February); Meyerbeer, <i>Le Prophète</i> (16 April); revolts in Dresden and Baden (April–May); warrant issued for the arrest of Wagner (16 May); death of Chopin (17 October); Chopin's funeral in Paris (30 October).</p> |
| <p>1850 First concert of the Société Philharmonique de Paris (19 February); B becomes Head Librarian at the Conservatoire (March); death of B's sister Nanci (14 May); B attends Balzac's funeral (19 August); beginning of the new season of the Société Philharmonique (22 October); B composes <i>La Fuite en Égypte</i> (autumn).</p> | <p>Death of Louis-Philippe (26 August); Wagner, <i>Lohengrin</i> (28 August), <i>Das Judentum in der Musik</i> in the <i>Neue Zeitschrift für Musik</i> (3, 6 September).</p> |
| <p>1851 Concerts by the Société Philharmonique (January–May); B presents his candidacy for a chair at the Institute (6 March), leaves for the Great Exhibition in London (9 May), departs from London (28 July),</p> | <p>Death of Spontini (24 January); Ambroise Thomas elected to the Institute (22 March); Louis-Napoléon's <i>coup d'état</i> (2 December), election to a ten-year term (31 December).</p> |

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| presents his congratulations to Louis-Napoléon (7 December). | |
| 1852 B arrives in London (4 March), conducts six concerts of the New Philharmonic Society (March–June); Liszt revives <i>Benvenuto Cellini</i> in Weimar (20 March); B leaves Paris for Weimar (12 November); publication of <i>Les Soirées de l'Orchestre</i> (December). | Louis-Napoléon takes up residence at the Tuileries (January); Orléans family banished from France; proclamation of the Second Empire (2 December) – the Opéra becomes the Académie Impériale de Musique. |
| 1853 B leaves for London (14 May), directs <i>Benvenuto Cellini</i> in London (25 June), returns to Paris (9 July), gives concerts in Baden and Frankfurt (August), gives concerts in Brunswick, Hanover, Bremen, Detmold, and Leipzig (October–December), submits his candidacy for a chair at the Institute (10 November). | Hausmann becomes Préfet de la Seine; Napoléon III marries Eugénie de Montijo (30 January); outbreak of the Crimean War (October). |
| 1854 Death of Harriet Smithson (3 March); B gives concerts in Hanover, Brunswick, and Dresden (March–April), presents his candidacy for a chair at the Institute (10 August), marries Marie Récio (19 October), directs the première of <i>L'Enfance du Christ</i> (10 December). | France declares war on Russia (28 March); Nestor Roqueplan becomes administrator of the Opéra (30 June). |
| 1855 B gives concerts in Weimar (February), Brussels (March), conducts the première of the <i>Te Deum</i> (30 April), gives concerts in London (June, July), serves as juror for the Exposition Universelle in Paris (August–September), completes <i>L'Art du chef d'orchestre</i> for the second edition of the <i>Traité d'instrumentation</i> (autumn), conducts the première of <i>L'Impériale</i> (15 November). | Wagner in London for eight concerts with the Philharmonic Society (March–June); Exposition Universelle opens in Paris (15 May) – first classification of the wines of Bordeaux; Verdi, <i>Les Vêpres siciliennes</i> (13 June). |
| 1856 B gives <i>L'Enfance du Christ</i> in Paris (25 February) and in Gotha (6 February); Liszt gives <i>Benvenuto Cellini</i> in Weimar (16 February); B gives concerts in Weimar (17, 28 February), hears <i>Lohengrin</i> in Weimar | Crimean War ended by the Treaty of Paris (30 March). |

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| <p>(24 February), directs <i>Faust</i> in Weimar (1 March), completes the orchestration of <i>Les Nuits d'été</i> (March), moves from 19, rue de Boursault to 17, rue de Vintimille (15 April), begins work on <i>Les Troyens</i> (April), presents his candidacy for a chair at the Institute (3 June), is elected (21 June) – the annual stipend is a boon to his finances, gives a concert in Baden (16 August), moves to 4, rue de Calais (20 October).</p> | |
| 1857 | <p>B conducts at the Salle Herz (19 April), gives a concert in Baden (18 August).</p> |
| 1858 | <p>Bizet, Prix de Rome (4 July); Liszt, <i>Faust</i> Symphony – dedicated to B (5 September); Baudelaire, <i>Les Fleurs du mal</i>.</p> |
| 1858 | <p>Orsini attempts to assassinate Napoléon III (14 January); Offenbach, <i>Orphée aux enfers</i> (21 October).</p> |
| 1857 | <p>B sees Wagner in Paris (20 January), reads <i>Les Troyens</i> to colleagues from the Institute (22 January), completes <i>Les Troyens</i> (April), conducts at the Conservatoire (2 May), gives a concert in Baden (27 August); excerpts from the <i>Mémoires</i> begin to appear in <i>Le Monde illustré</i> (25 September).</p> |
| 1859 | <p>Publication of <i>Les Grottesques de la musique</i> (March); B directs <i>L'Enfance du Christ</i> (23 April), gives concerts in Bordeaux (8 June) and Baden (29 August), leads scenes from <i>Les Troyens</i> at the home of Pauline Viardot (24 October); revival of Gluck's <i>Orphée</i> in B's version (18 November).</p> |
| 1860 | <p>The French government adopts a standard musical pitch (February); Gounod, <i>Faust</i> (19 March); France goes to war with Austria over Italy (12 May); Montmartre is annexed into Paris; Wagner completes <i>Tristan und Isolde</i> (6 August); Liszt is denied election to the Institut de France (3 December).</p> |
| 1860 | <p>Death of B's sister Adèle (2 March); B gives a concert in Baden (27 August), begins <i>Béatrice et Bénédicte</i> (October).</p> |
| 1861 | <p>Wagner's first concert in Paris (25 January); first rehearsal for <i>Tannhäuser</i> (24 September); France annexes Savoie and Nice; construction of two new theatres in the Place du Châtelet.</p> |
| 1861 | <p>B composes <i>Le Temple universel</i> (February), gives excerpts from <i>La Damnation de Faust</i> (7 April), assists at rehearsals of <i>Der Freischütz</i> (May), has <i>Les Troyens</i> accepted at the Opéra (June), assists at rehearsals of <i>Alceste</i> (June–July), gives a concert in Baden</p> |
| | <p>Death of Scribe (20 February); Wagner, revised <i>Tannhäuser</i> (13 March); French intervention and war in Mexico (1861–1867); beginning of construction of Garnier's Opéra (completed in 1875); outbreak of the American Civil War (12 April).</p> |

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(26 August); revival of *Alceste* with B's assistance (21 October); B completes *Béatrice et Bénédicte* (December).

- 1862 Printing of the vocal score of *Les Troyens* (February); Beulé elected over B as Secrétaire perpétuel of the Institut de France (12 April); publication of *À travers chants* (spring); death of B's second wife, Marie Récio (13 June), B makes the acquaintance of Amélie (June), directs the première of *Béatrice et Bénédicte* in Baden (9 August).
- 1863 Publication of the vocal score of *Béatrice et Bénédicte* (January); B conducts for the Société Nationale des Beaux-Arts (8, 22 February), parts company with Amélie (February), donates his musical library to the Société des Concerts du Conservatoire (25 March), conducts *Béatrice et Bénédicte* in Weimar (8, 10 April), gives a concert in Löwenberg (17 April), is compelled to divide *Les Troyens* into *La Prise de Troie* and *Les Troyens à Carthage* (June), composes the Prologue to the latter, directs *L'Enfance du Christ* in Strasbourg (22 June), signs a contract with Choudens for *La Prise de Troie*, *Les Troyens à Carthage*, and *Benvenuto Cellini* (22 July) – the sum liberates him from journalism, directs *Béatrice et Bénédicte* in Baden (14, 18 August), writes his last feuilleton for the *Journal des débats* (8 October); première of *Les Troyens à Carthage* at the Théâtre Lyrique (4 November); publication of the piano-vocal scores of *La Prise de Troie* and *Les Troyens à Carthage*, of the *Collection de 32 Mélodies*, and of a German translation of the *Traité d'instrumentation* (November); B fails to win election as Conductor of the Société des Concerts du Conservatoire (21 December).

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Birth of Debussy (22 August); Émile Perrin replaces Royer as director of the Opéra; Hugo, *Les Misérables*; Flaubert, *Salammbô*.

Salon des Refusés (1 May); Massenet, Prix de Rome (4 July); death of Delacroix (13 August); death of Vigny (17 September); Bizet, *Les Pêcheurs de perles* (30 September); the French capture Mexico City, proclaim Archduke Maximilian of Austria Emperor.

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| 1864 B resigns from <i>Journal des débats</i> (March), returns to Dauphiné, visits Estelle Dubœuf Fornier (August–September). | Wagner is “saved” by Ludwig II of Bavaria, newly acceded to the throne (10 March); Gounod, <i>Mireille</i> (19 March); death of Meyerbeer (2 May); birth of Richard Strauss (11 June); Bismarck meets Napoléon III at Biarritz (October); Offenbach, <i>La Belle Hélène</i> (17 December). |
| 1865 B has twelve hundred copies of the <i>Mémoires</i> printed and stored in his office at the Conservatoire (July), visits Estelle (August). | Assassination of Abraham Lincoln (14 April); Meyerbeer, <i>L'Africaine</i> (28 April); Wagner, <i>Tristan und Isolde</i> (10 June); Bismarck again meets Napoléon III at Biarritz (October). |
| 1866 B visits Estelle (August), assists at rehearsals of <i>Alceste</i> (autumn), conducts <i>La Damnation de Faust</i> in Vienna (16 December). | |
| 1867 B conducts selections from <i>Béatrice et Bénédicte</i> in Cologne (26 February); death of Louis Berlioz in Havana (5 June); B drafts his will (29 July), visits Estelle (September), directs four concerts in St. Petersburg (November–December), meets Tchaikovsky (31 December). | Verdi, <i>Don Carlos</i> (11 March); Exposition Universelle opens in Paris (1 April); death of Baudelaire (31 August); execution of Maximilian in Mexico (19 June). |
| 1868 B directs three concerts in Moscow (January) and two in St. Petersburg (January–February), goes to Nice and suffers two accidental falls (March), becomes Curator of the instrument collection at the Conservatoire (April), revises his will (12 June), presides over a choral festival in Grenoble (August); death of Humbert Ferrand (11 September); B attends his last meeting of the Académie des Beaux-Arts (12 December). | Five-hundredth performance of <i>Guillaume Tell</i> (10 February); Wagner, <i>Die Meistersinger</i> (21 June); death of Rossini (13 November). |
| 1869 B dies in Paris (8 March), at 4, rue de Calais, at 12:30 p.m., and is buried in Montmartre (11 March). | Death of Lamartine (28 February); death of Sainte-Beuve (13 October); inauguration of the Suez Canal by the Empress Eugénie (November); Wagner, <i>Das Rheingold</i> (22 September); Flaubert, <i>L'Éducation sentimentale</i> ; Manet, <i>L'Exécution de l'empereur Maximilien</i> . |
| 1870 Publication of the <i>Mémoires d'Hector Berlioz</i> . | Wagner, <i>Die Walküre</i> (26 June); France declares war on Prussia (19 July); Wagner |

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marries Cosima Liszt von Bülow (25 August); French defeat at Sudan (2 September); proclamation of the Third Republic (4 September); return from exile of Hugo (5 September); death of Prosper Mérimée (23 September); death of Alexandre Dumas père (5 December).