

Hungarian Stamps 2011

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STAMP ISSUE
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FAMOUS HUNGARIANS: BICENTENARY OF THE BIRTH OF FRANZ LISZT



Magyar Posta is commemorating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Franz Liszt by issuing a special stamp.

Franz Liszt (Liszt Ferenc) was a major 19th-century Romantic composer and one of the greatest pianists of all time. He received his first piano lessons from his father, who also played a number of instruments. The talented boy was not yet 10 years old when he impressed the audience with his marvellous playing at concerts in Sopron and Bratislava (Pozsony). In 1822 he travelled to Vienna accompanied by his father, where he studied under Carl Czerny and Antonio Salieri. Although his musical education was in good hands, he continued his studies in the autumn of 1823 in Paris. The intellectual and artistic elite of the French capital greatly influenced his development. During his career he gave charity concerts on several occasions, e.g. for the benefit of the Budapest flood victims or to establish the Hungarian National Conservatory. With the passage of time he made his debut as a conductor, and his hectic life as a touring virtuoso gave way to his period as a conductor in Weimar. After he met Princess Sayn-Wittgenstein, he moved to Rome, where he

mainly composed sacred music before endeavouring to reform it. Thereafter he travelled a great deal between Rome, Weimar and Budapest. On one such journey he caught a cold and at the age of 75 died of pneumonia. He was a highly productive composer. Most of his approximately 400 original works are virtuoso piano pieces, symphonies, symphonic poems and masses. He composed a total of about 1400 works and so became one of the most productive composers of all time. Apart from his musical oeuvre, he wrote numerous essays. Source: filharmonia.com, hu.wikipedia.org

The stamp design within the block depicts Franz Liszt. In the border of the numbered stamp block there is a montage-like graphic composition inspired by the composer's life and work. To the right of the stamp design part of the building of Esztergom Basilica is shown, recalling that Liszt composed his Missa Solemnis for the consecration of the basilica in 1855. The main motif of the block's border is the silhouette fashionable at the time showing Liszt the pianist with his instrument turning into Pegasus. The background of the montage is composed of stripes of various colours, creating a whirling, pulsating rainbow similar to how music appears on a computer monitor today. In the bottom of the border there is a Liszt quotation: "My sole ambition as a musician has been and will be to throw my javelin into the infinite space of the future." Part of the first page of the manuscript of the 19th Hungarian Rhapsody (1885, National Széchényi Library, Music Library) is used as the printing for the background of the montage. The block is adorned with Liszt's signature printed in gold leaf by using reverse blind embossed printing. On the first day cover a pictorial metaphor appears, a silhouette of Liszt in later years transforming into a piano. The main motif of the commemorative postmark is a stylised drawing of a keyboard.

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Date of issue: 19 August 2011 • Face value: HUF 600 • Number of copies issued: 100,000 • Perforated size of the stamp: 40 x 31.5 mm • Imperforated size of the block: 90 x 65 mm • Printing method: offset, gold leaf and reverse blind embossed printing • Printed by Hungarian State Printing Company (Állami Nyomda) • Designed by: György Kara