

## PIANO MUSIC OF FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN

(1810-1849)

In *Nocturne*, Harrison Slater has created for the first time a work of literary fiction with a soundtrack woven into the texture. Slater's novel integrates some of Chopin's most poignant musical gems – etudes, nocturnes, mazurkas and waltzes – into a vibrant narrative of history, romance and obsession. The piano works of Chopin provide an atmospheric portrait of the man and his music, and a fateful background to the story of young lovers separated by two centuries.

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### An excerpt from Harrison Gradwell Slater's novel, *Nocturne*

This time, words flowed out of Maria Wodzinska's pen like never before as she found herself swept away by the memory of ineffable beauty:

*The soft crackle of burning embers reverberated in the hushed silence, the muted scent of pine filtered through the air already saturated with anticipation. Chopin, his pale vulnerability accentuated by the fading flicker of a dozen tapers, began a serenade to his beloved with the opening theme of his new nocturne – a solitary voice, full of desperate eloquence at the fateful moment of decision: "Take my hand, the boat is ready."*

*Amid the lush tonal landscapes of Chopin,  
a killer stalks unseen.*

Just when her life in New York seems to be unraveling, Artemisia Talbot receives a commission to photograph Chopin's Paris. And in the City of Light, she discovers unconditional love for the first time with the young American musicologist Matthew Pierce.

Artemisia accompanies Matthew to Warsaw, where he purchases a diary that describes Chopin's ill-fated love affair with "little Marynia," a talented pianist and watercolorist. But the diary also holds some disturbing parallels to contemporary events, and the brilliance of Artemisia's surroundings – in Paris, Warsaw, and Nohant — obscures the grim reality that she is being followed by an obsessive killer bent on revenge.

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**HARRISON GRADWELL SLATER** is author of four books including *Night Music* and *In Mozart's Footsteps*. In addition to writing and recording, Slater coaches many world-class pianists, thanks to his musical association with his adoptive father, Paul Doguereau, whose experience links him to the greatest pianists of the twentieth century: Maurice Ravel, Emma Barzac (the second wife of Claude Debussy) and Ignaz Paderewski. The author divides his time between Boston, Milan, Paris, and historic Mount Holly, New Jersey.