The presentation of this sonata in a concert hall - if it happens really - this can cause in each attendant an absolute surprise of fascinating character. This very composition represent itself as the most important and significant in all the musical creations of Draeseke. We feel the wide character from the first to the last tone. This kind of sonata does belong to the so called "New-German-School" (Neudeutschen Schule) and anticipates fully the style of Richard Strauss. Udo-Reiner Follert, in presidency of the "International Draeseke-Community", a tireless struggler concerning Draeseke, he expresses: This very sonata for piano is all other than only an interesting opus of a so called minor composer of the 19th century. This Opus is positioned to claim the valid solution for the problems of sonatas after the time-period with Liszt.” but - for the interpreter of such an opus, he faces precipices of all kind, without mercy and this repeatedly. The one who tries to get close to that holy relic, he soon has to decide either to give up without delay or to surrender with the persistence of an elephant to this scurrilous music of feagile beauty. Further, a permanent inspiration is being required, by which this opus becomes for a concert pianist a great adventure as real, plausible, unique. Mental depth and a merciless technique remain absolutely at the limit of any feasibility. No other than Franz Liszt, who himself presented and highly regarded this sonata, he wrote in 1884 in a personal letter to Felix Draeseke: "You know my opinion as to your first sonata for piano: Since the F-sharp minor sonata of Robert Schumann I do not know no other so important composition of this kind."

Performance
Monday, September 18th, 2017 8:00pm

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