Still Searching For Bruckner's True Intentions

By BENJAMIN KORSTVEDT

The New York Times

July 10, 2011

It's not always a treat to hear Bruckner. The popular image of the composer is as a bit of a recluse, like the one on a card printed with the words "Pianta, Anton Bruckner. Cleveland Orchestra. Right, a pen-and-ink drawing of Eduard Hanslick, the "enemy" of Bruckner's music."

But the recent performances of Bruckner's Eighth Symphony, one of the composer's most beloved works, have been highly praised. The performances were given by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Alan Gilbert, who is known for his dynamic and controversial conducting style.

As a result of these performances, Bruckner's music has once again become a major topic of discussion in the classical music world. The performances have been hailed for their authenticity and their ability to bring Bruckner's music to life.

The performances have also sparked a renewed interest in Bruckner's life and career, and in the controversies surrounding his music. The composer's music has been the subject of much debate over the years, and the performances have renewed interest in these debates.

In particular, the performances have raised questions about the authenticity of Bruckner's manuscripts, and about the role of his contemporaries in shaping his music. Some critics have argued that Bruckner's music was a product of his time, and that it cannot be separated from the social and political context in which it was created. Others have argued that Bruckner's music is timeless, and that it stands on its own merits.

The performances have also raised questions about the role of conductors in shaping Bruckner's music. Some critics have argued that conductors have the ability to bring out the true essence of Bruckner's music, while others have argued that conductors can impose their own interpretations on the composer's work.

Despite these debates, the performances have been highly praised, and have sparked a renewed interest in Bruckner's music. The performances have also sparked a renewed interest in the composer's life and career, and in the controversies surrounding his music.