



**Daniel Winfree Papuga**

***Instead of a letter, I am sending you Tellefsen***

The paper focuses on the correspondence of young Thomas Tellefsen and his teacher Fryderyk Chopin during the 1840's and aims at exploring the relationship between the student and the master, as well as between these two pianists/composers and the social life around them.

Chopin and Tellefsen each spent most of their lives in Paris, and their letters often reflect both developments of their personalities and individualities and transformations in social and political situation of those times. For example, Tellefsen's letters describe his search for a personal style, and how various teachers in Paris influenced his piano technique and musical aesthetics. Already after his first year of study with Chopin, Tellefsen created compositions displaying what was considered a "Nordic" musical idiom. But Tellefsen himself mentions influences from Bach and Mozart in addition to Chopin, Liszt and other contemporaries.

Chopin makes comparatively little reference to Tellefsen in his letters. However, those few references often imply a very close relationship with his student. Chopin's note to Pleyel in 1848 illustrates it well: "Instead of a letter, I am sending you Tellefsen".

However, we confront a problem of what is NOT expressed through the correspondence – and realize the need for further contextual research to help fill in the gaps between various sources being at our disposal.