



Tamino Playing The Magic Flute, Etching, Italian Or German School, Circa 1900



75 EUR

Signature : école italienne ou allemande, vers 1900

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Paper

Length : 13 cm

Height : 20 cm

Description

ITALIAN OR GERMAN SCHOOL, CA.
1900
TAMINO PLAYING THE MAGIC
FLUTE
Etching on wove paper
Plate: 20 × 13 cm /
7.87 × 5.12 in
Sheet: 25.5 × 20 cm / 10.04 × 7.87
in
PROVENANCE
Private collection,
Vienna
ABOUT THE PRINT
This finely worked
etching, probably created around 1900, represents
a lyrical and dramatic moment from Die
Zauberflöte (The Magic Flute) by Wolfgang
Amadeus Mozart: the young prince Tamino
playing the magic flute to tame the monstrous
beasts that threaten him. The composition draws
on the Romantic fascination with music's power
to soothe, civilize, and enchant, echoing the
deeper Enlightenment ideals woven into Mozart's
opera. Tamino stands on a rocky elevation,
silhouetted in profile, fully absorbed in his

Dealer

Wladyslaw Maximowicz Fine Arts

Portrait miniatures-painting

Tel : +421908351092

Mobile : +421908351092

Domkarska 13

Bratislava 82105

playing. Around him, fantastical creatures writhe and recoil, momentarily pacified by the invisible force of music. The etched line is free yet assured, emphasizing the emotional contrasts--between calm and chaos, beauty and monstrosity--that lie at the heart of this operatic scene.

CULTURAL CONTEXT Premiered in 1791, *The Magic Flute* was more than a fairy tale--it was an allegory of initiation, knowledge, and virtue, steeped in Masonic symbolism and Enlightenment ideals. The moment depicted here is central to the opera's theme: harmony overcoming fear through music and inner strength. This print is likely the work of a turn-of-the-century artist influenced by Symbolism or Jugendstil, both of which often looked back to literary and musical sources for inspiration. The wild, dreamlike forms and expressive anatomy suggest a Northern or Central European hand--possibly Austrian or German.

A COLLECTOR'S OBJECT Small, rare, and evocative, this etching would appeal to collectors of opera iconography, Jugendstil, or early 20th-century graphic art. It stands as a delicate tribute to one of the most beloved operatic scenes in Western music, capturing the moment when art momentarily overcomes the monstrous.

Special thanks to Tobias Kampf for his help in identifying the subject.