



Doctors Unbound

Analyses of...monogenic causes of stroke by whole exome
genome sequencing are...possible today.

—Ilinca et al. *European J. Human Genetics*

The tides of time that wash upon us fictitious,
time travel proved possible, there were those who said
the past should not be altered—
for *Doctors Unbound*, a moral obligation to mend, to heal.

Today I go to Leipzig, 1839, Felix Mendelsohn our patient—
master composer hailed as the new Mozart,
conductor, musician, dead from a stroke at 38,
like his father who fled the synagogue,
and grandfather who lead the Jews
toward the promised land of Goethe and Kant.

A harmful gene detected in DNA
found from his fingerprints on a musical score
lead to a drug to prolong his life—
but when to arrive, how long to treat
in this, I played no part.

My role, chef by calling, to enter his household,
become the family cook and medicate his food.
I've readied myself to leave the *Now*, enter the *What Has Been*,
watch him compose what I already know
and what we hoped would come.

—Richard Bronson, MD

Dr. Bronson (AQA, New York University School of Medicine, 1965)
is Professor, Obstetrics & Gynecology and Pathology, and Director,
of Reproductive Endocrinology at Stony Brook University Medical
Center in New York. He is a member of *The Pharos* Editorial Board. His
E-mail address is Richard.Bronson@stonybrookmedicine.edu.