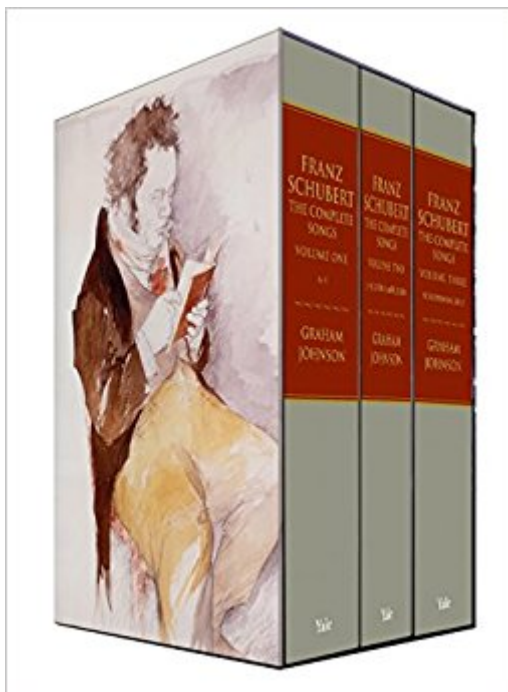


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Franz Schubert: The Complete Songs



Synopsis

This three-volume boxed set is the definitive work on Franz Schubert's vocal music with piano. A richly illustrated encyclopedia, these substantial volumes contain more than seven hundred song commentaries with parallel text and translations (by Richard Wigmore), detailed annotations on the songs' poetic sources, and biographies of one hundred and twenty poets, as well as general articles on accompaniment, tonality, transcriptions, singers, and more. Written by Graham Johnson, celebrated accompanist, author, and the first pianist ever to record all of Schubert's songs and part-songs, this sumptuous work is a must for performers, scholars, and all lovers of Schubert lieder.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Indispensable . . . very, very hard to put down." —Matthew Gurewitsch, The Wall Street Journal (Matthew Gurewitsch The Wall Street Journal) "The three-volume set is, by a wide margin, the definitive work on Schubert's vocal music with piano. It is also easy to navigate, entertaining, and readable, at one stroke the indispensable reference for singers, pianists, musicologists, lovers of music in general, and fans of Schubert in particular." —Rodney Punt, Classical Voice North America (Rodney Punt Classical Voice America) "Known for his lengthy and scholarly booklet notes for the Schubert edition, [Graham Johnson] has now taken the material, expanded and rewritten it, and produced what will surely stand as one of the great modern monuments of practical musicology, his vast three-volume

encyclopedia, handsomely published by Yale University Press. — Ian Bostridge, The New York Review of Books (Ian Bostridge The New York Review of Books) Shortlisted in the 'Creative Communication' category for the 2014 RPS Music Awards (RPS Music Awards RPS Music 2015-06-06) — "Piano lovers will be grateful that Lieder scholar and accompanist extraordinaire Graham Johnson, the man responsible for the marathon undertaking of recording Schubert's complete Lieder for Hyperion Records, has further expanded his lengthy booklet notes for that series into three friendly, chatty tomes. — Benjamin Ivry, International Piano (Benjamin Ivry International Piano) — "This is the book on the subject — the best written, longest and most informative. The product of a lifetime's work, it will be a lifelong companion — provides not only a commentary on each of the 650-odd songs, but also wide-ranging essays on a variety of subjects placed in their cultural and historical context, together with excellent illustrations. It really is the definitive treatment of the German-speaking world at its musical and literary apogee. — Jonathan Gaisman, Spectator (Jonathan Gaisman Spectator 2015-12-04) — "An encyclopedic overview that should become the definitive reference work . . . His enthusiasm comes through in vivid, lucid writing. — Anthony Tommasini, The New York Times (Anthony Tommasini The New York Times) Winner of the 2016 Oldman Prize of the International Association of Music Libraries. (Oldman Prize International Association of Music Libraries 2016-02-04)

Graham Johnson is Senior Professor of Accompaniment at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London, and plays for recitals around the world.

This is an extraordinary set of books on the songs of Franz Schubert. While I have not read all of it (!), I have had a month to read the general sections at the beginning of the first volume and end of the third volume, and browse the entries on some of my favorite songs. The first point is that, while the commentary for the 37 Hyperion discs on which Graham Johnson and many fine singers recorded the complete songs was a starting point for these volumes, they go far beyond what is found in the booklets with the discs. Much information has been added about the poets and the contexts for the songs. Much new information is included. Second, the set is organized in a way that makes it easy to find information. ALL of the entries are in alphabetical order (leaving out an initial Der, Die, Das, ...), with the exception that the song cycles are treated as a single group (e.g., Winterreise is one entry under "W", not 24 entries scattered around). Second, the information provided for each song includes a set of standardized facts about it, as well as links to the previous

and following entries in the chronological list of Schubert's songs. This includes the Opus, D and H numbers, key structure, first line of the music, complete texts in German and English, and listings of edition(s), commentaries, and recordings in the Hyperion set and by Fischer-Dieskau with timings. There are entries for each of the poets, for example 15 pages for Goethe, 2 pages for von Bruchmann. These are in the overall alphabetical set-up of the volumes. Third, the writing is consistently clear and engaging (as those who know Mr Johnson's original writing for the discs as issued will recognize). It is a pleasure to look up a song (or just pick one at random) and read what he has to say about it. Finally, this set is an excellent value. It has nearly 3000 pages, and the text fills the pages (margins are less than an inch). Anyone with an interest in Schubert and his songs will find this highly worth having as a companion.

If you checked Gramophone's Hyperion Records adverts every month from 1988 to 2000 waiting for word of the next new CD in Graham Johnson's Complete Schubert Songs, then you've probably been waiting for this long-in-the-making study to be published -- perhaps even calling Yale University Press about it. One expected something along the lines of Johnson's study of French *mÃ©lodie*, that excellent one-volume book also published by Yale. But one little expected this three-volume encyclopedia that appeared today, 16 December. Even a few hours of leafing through it and spot-reading show what a marvel of musicology this is and how worth the wait it has been. Its c. 3000 pages and endless illustrations cover each song and Schubert's lyricists and special topics like Schubert's piano, Schubert's letters and diaries, Ossian, etc., etc. The price is substantial, but it is cheap compared to the hours of pleasure Johnson promises. Our indebtedness to him continues to mount.

Comprehensive (obviously, at 3000 pages), learned, a scholar with, literally, hands-on experience (he is the accompanist on all 40 CDs of the Hyperion Schubert lieder set), Johnson's essays are at the very peak of Schubert learning. There is really nothing comparable to it in English. For singers, players, and serious music lovers, it is essential. One caveat, however: some of the essays are quite technical and assume a knowledge of at least basic music theory. Expensive but worth every penny.

Required reading for owners of the complete Hyperion recordings! The book in the CD box set is great, but this takes it to a new level. The research is stunning and the writing is easy to follow. Wonderful.

This is a work of towering scholarship by one of the great musician scholars of our time. And it is only one aspect of the breadth and depth of his 'Curriculum Vitae'- ; also, it is touching in its devotion and generosity. It gives us glimpses of Graham Johnson as a human being of real stature.

These volumes are priceless. Congratulations and thanks to Maestro Graham Johnson for his great contribution to the world of music. Sincerely, Tom Jaber - Houston, TX

Could be nicer with the recording of the songs.

Truly amazing! A colossal achievement!

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