

GERALD FINLEY & JULIUS DRAKE

23 Aug 12pm & 2.30pm

OLD COLLEGE QUAD

The performance lasts approx. 1hr with no interval.

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GERALD FINLEY & JULIUS DRAKE

Schumann

Dichterliebe

- 1 Im wunderschönen Monat Mai
- 2 Aus meinen Tränen spriessen
- 3 Die Rose, die Lilie, die Taube, die Sonne
- 4 Wenn ich in deine Augen seh'
- 5 Ich will meine Seele tauchen
- 6 Im Rhein, im heiligen Strome
- 7 Ich grolle nicht
- 8 Und wüssten's die Blumen, die kleinen
- 9 Das ist ein Flöten und Geigen
- 10 Hör ich das Liedchen klingen
- 11 Ein Jüngling liebt ein Mädchen
- 12 Am leuchtenden Sommermorgen
- 13 Ich hab' im Traum geweinet
- 14 Allnächtlich im Traume
- 15 Aus alten Märchen
- 16 Die alten bösen Lieder

Schubert

Six songs from
Schwanengesang D957

Der Atlas

Ihr Bild

Das Fischermädchen

Die Stadt

Am Meer

Der Doppelgänger

PROGRAMME NOTES

German lyric poet Heinrich Heine is the figure who draws all of today's songs together, and who, as well as for Schumann in his *Dichterliebe* and Schubert in six of the 14 songs of his *Schwanengesang*, provided the verse behind works by Liszt, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Wolf, Richard Strauss and many others. Though Heine avowedly detested the self-regard of new-fangled artistic Romanticism, he also embodied many of its values in his sometimes sentimental verse that veers between elation and despair, undercut by a heavy dose of sarcastic detachment.

It was no doubt these intense emotions that attracted composer Robert Schumann to Heine. His *Dichterliebe* (A Poet's Love) was just one of several vocal works from his 'song year' of 1840, which produced more than 100 individual *Leider*. Setting poems from Heine's *Lyrisches Intermezzo* of 1822–23, Schumann traces a long arc of love, from infatuation to joy, disillusion to despair and finally bittersweet acceptance.

The 14 songs of Schubert's *Schwanengesang* (Swansong) were given their overall title after the composer's death by his publisher Tobias

Haslinger. They comprise settings of verse by three poets: Ludwig Rellstab in the first seven songs, Heine in the following six and Johann Gabriel Seidl in the concluding 'Die Taubenpost'. It seems likely that Schubert intended the Rellstab and Heine settings as two separate cycles: he offered the Heine songs as a collection to a Leipzig publisher in the year of his death, 1828. Here, those songs continue and expand on *Dichterliebe*'s themes of lost love and despair, culminating in the terrifying vision of the lover's doppelganger waiting forever outside the home of his beloved.

David Kettle

David Kettle is a music and arts writer based in Edinburgh, who contributes regularly to the *Scotsman* and the *Daily Telegraph*. He has also written for publications including *BBC Music Magazine*, *The Times*, *The Strad* and *Classical Music*, and for organisations including the BBC Proms, Glyndebourne and Scottish Opera.

GERALD FINLEY

Grammy award-winning Canadian bass-baritone Gerald Finley is a leading singer and dramatic interpreter of his generation, with acclaimed performances at the world's major opera and concert venues, and award-winning recordings on CD and DVD in a wide variety of repertoire.

He began with Mozart's baritone roles: his Don Giovanni and Count *Le nozze di Figaro* have been heard live throughout the world and on DVD. Recent signature roles include Guillaume Tell (Metropolitan Opera, Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Royal Opera House), Scarpia (Royal Opera House, Berlin Staatsoper), Iago (Royal Opera House, Bayerische Staatsoper, Canadian Opera Company), and Bartók's Bluebeard (Metropolitan Opera, London Symphony Orchestra). He created Harry Heegan in Mark-Anthony Turnage's *The Silver Tassie*, Howard K Stern in Turnage's *Anna Nicole*, J Robert Oppenheimer in John Adams's *Doctor Atomic*, Jaufré Rudel in Saariaho's *L'Amour de loin* and Mr Fox in Tobias Picker's *Fantastic Mr Fox*.

On the concert stage, he has recently appeared with the Berliner Philharmoniker, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra,

Mahler Chamber Orchestra and Los Angeles Philharmonic. Among the contemporary composers who have written works for him are Peter Lieberman (*Songs of Love and Sorrow*), Mark-Anthony Turnage (*When I Woke*), Huw Watkins, Julian Philips, Kaija Saariaho (*True Fire*) and Einojuhani Rautavaara (*Rubáiyát*). He also appeared as soloist at the 2018 BBC Last Night of the Proms.

As a celebrated song recitalist, he works regularly with pianist Julius Drake. Recent engagements include the Schubertiade, recitals throughout Europe, residencies at Wigmore Hall and New York's Carnegie-Zankel Hall, and appearances at the Tanglewood and Ravinia festivals.

Among his solo recital CD releases are complete recordings of songs of Barber, Britten, Ives, Liszt and Ravel, as well as Schumann's *Dichterliebe* and *Liederkreis* Op 24 & 39, Schubert's *Schwanengesang*, *Winterreise* and the soon to be released *Die schöne Müllerin*. He has been awarded three *Gramophone* awards in the solo vocal category.

Born in Montreal, he began singing as a chorister in Ottawa, Canada, and completed his musical studies at London's Royal College of Music, King's College, Cambridge, and the National Opera Studio. He is a Fellow and Visiting Professor at the Royal College of Music.

JULIUS DRAKE

Pianist Julius Drake lives in London and enjoys an international reputation as one of the finest instrumentalists in his field, collaborating with many of the world's leading artists, both in recital and on disc.

His passionate interest in song has led to invitations to devise song series for London's Wigmore Hall, the Royal Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the 92nd Street Y in New York, and the Pierre Boulez Saal in Berlin. He curates an annual series of song recitals — Julius Drake and Friends — in the historic Middle Temple Hall in London.

Drake holds a professorship at Graz University for Music and the Performing Arts in Austria, where he has a class for song pianists, and is Professor of Collaborative Piano at the Guildhall School of Music in London. He is regularly invited to give masterclasses worldwide.

His many recordings include a widely acclaimed series with Gerald Finley for Hyperion (from which the *Barber Songs*, *Schumann Heine Lieder*

and *Britten Songs and Proverbs* won the 2007, 2009 and 2011 *Gramophone* awards) and recordings with Ian Bostridge and Alice Coote for EMI; with Joyce DiDonato, Lorraine Hunt Lieberson and Matthew Polenzani for Wigmore Live; and with Anna Prohaska for Alpha. Drake's recording of Janáček's *Diary of One Who Vanished* with tenor Nicky Spence and mezzo-soprano Václava Housková for Hyperion won *Gramophone* and *BBC Music Magazine* awards in 2020.

Future planned concerts include recitals in Barcelona and Vilabertran with Dame Sarah Connolly and Julia Kleiter, the Salzburg Festival with Gerald Finley, Schubertiade Festival in Austria with Christoph Prégardien and Ian Bostridge, the Konzerthaus in Vienna with Anna Prohaska, Wigmore Hall in London with Catriona Morrison and Konstantin Krimmel, and Brussels and Madrid with Eva-Maria Westbroek, as well as tours of the US with both Angelika Kirchschrager and Gerald Finley.

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