Frauenliebe und Leben

Rufus Hallmark’s book explores Robert Schumann’s beloved yet controversial song cycle Frauenliebe und Leben and the poems of Adelbert von Chamisso on which it is based, setting them in the context of the challenges and social expectations faced by women in early nineteenth-century Germany. Hallmark provides the most extensive English-language study of Chamisso, a poet little known today outside Germany, including a biographical sketch and excerpts from his other poetry. He examines a range of poems about women, by Chamisso and others, and discusses the reception of the poetic and musical cycles, including illustrated editions, contemporary reviews, and other musical settings. Based on new studies of Schumann’s manuscript sources and on comparative analyses of his songs and settings by Carl Loewe, Heinrich Marschner, Franz Lachner, and others, Hallmark provides fresh musical and interpretive insights into each song.

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Frauenliebe und Leben
Chamisso’s Poems and Schumann’s Songs

RUFUS HALLMARK
For Anne
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Online access to primary sources has opened up amazingly in recent years. When I think of discovering a copy of Kugler’s 1830 *Skizzenbuch*...
years ago in the stacks of the Library of Congress, and compare that to today, when with a few strokes of the keyboard anyone can see this first published source of Chamisso’s *Frauenliebe* poems on the computer screen, I am awed. This same minor miracle can be performed to summon up Schumann’s sketches, autograph manuscript, and the corrected copy of his songs. I am thrilled that readers of this book will be able to consult these materials so easily, and I fervently hope they will.

None of this would be of much import if it were not for the enduring artistic achievement of Schumann’s songs themselves, and of the poems on which they are based. Generations of singers and pianists have kept this cycle before the public ever since it became a favorite with audiences in the nineteenth century. It is no less recorded and programmed in recitals today. Despite its detractors, it not only has survived, but thrives. I tip my hat to the poet, the composer, and to all of the interpreters who perform these songs.

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How to use this book

This book is provided with webpage resources containing materials useful to the reader. I am grateful to Cambridge University Press for this online, adjunct feature, enabling the reader to consult many more illustrative and supportive materials than would have been available in the printed book alone. I also wish to thank Matthew Cron for designing and assembling the resources, which are listed below. They are of two sorts: (1) texts, music, and illustrations on this webpage; and (2) links to relevant materials available in digital form online. The reader may reach the webpage via the following link: www.cambridge.org/9781107002302.

1 Materials on the webpage:
   Poetry (in German and in English translation)
   Chamisso, Frauenliebe und Leben
   Chamisso, Tränen
   Wendt, Bilder des weiblichen Lebens
   Music
   Kugler, Frauenliebe und Leben
   Loewe, Frauenliebe
   Schumann, Frauenliebe und Leben
   Illustrations
   Paul Thumann, illustrations for de luxe edition of Chamisso’s Frauenliebe und Leben
   Schumann, Frauenliebe und Leben, first edition title page

2 Links to digital resources
   Kugler, Skizzenbuch
   Primary sources for Schumann’s songs
   autograph sketches (Morgan Library, New York)
   autograph (Berlin Staatsbibliothek, Berlin)
   copy with autograph emendations (Morgan Library, New York)