

The Cambridge Companion to Schubert's *Winterreise*

Organized in five parts, this Companion enhances understanding of Schubert's *Winterreise* by approaching it from multiple angles. Part I examines the political, cultural, and musical environments in which *Winterreise* was created. Part II focuses on the poet Wilhelm Müller, his twenty-four-poem cycle *Die Winterreise*, and changes Schubert made to it in fashioning his musical setting. Part III illuminates *Winterreise* by exploring its relation to contemporaneous understandings of psychology and science, and early nineteenth-century social and political conditions. Part IV focuses more directly on the song cycle, exploring the listener's identification with the cycle's protagonist, text–music relations in individual songs, Schubert's compositional “fingerprints,” aspects of continuity and discontinuity among the songs, and the cycle's relation to German Romanticism. Part V concentrates on *Winterreise* in the nearly two centuries since its completion in 1827, including lyrical and dramatic performance traditions, the cycle's influence on later composers, and its numerous artistic reworkings.

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The Cambridge Companion to
SCHUBERT'S
WINTERREISE

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Dedicated to Susan Youens – cherished advisor, mentor, colleague, friend

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Note on Pitch

This book follows the Helmholtz system (middle C = c') in designating specific pitches.

Chronology

- 1794 Johann Ludwig Wilhelm Müller born in Dessau on October 7
- 1797 Franz Peter Schubert born in Vienna on January 31
- 1808 Schubert becomes choirboy in Imperial Court Chapel and student at Stadtkonvikt boarding school
- 1811 Schubert composes “Hagars Klage” (D5), his first complete surviving song
- 1812 Müller begins studies in philology, history, and literature at University of Berlin with financial support from Duke Leopold Friedrich of Anhalt-Dessau
- 1813 Müller joins Prussian army in Wars of Liberation, fighting against Napoleon’s forces in battles of Lützen, Bautzen, Haynau, and Kulm; Schubert leaves Stadtkonvikt
- 1814 Schubert composes “Gretchen am Spinnrade” (D118); begins teaching at his father’s school
- 1815 Müller becomes infatuated with Luise Hensel (1798–1876) and continues his university studies; Schubert composes “Erk König” (D328)
- 1816 Beethoven’s song cycle *An die ferne Geliebte* (To the Distant Beloved), Op. 98 published; Müller and friends improvise *Liederspiel* about a miller maid and her various suitors at Berlin salon; Schubert ceases teaching
- 1817 Müller embarks on two-year journey in Austria and Italy; Schubert meets Vienna court opera singer and future collaborator Johann Michael Vogl
- 1819 Müller returns to Dessau
- 1820 Müller’s first volume of poetry, *Sieben und siebenzig Gedichte aus den hinterlassenen Papieren eines reisenden Waldhornisten* (Seventy-seven poems from the posthumous papers of a traveling horn player), including poetic cycle *Die schöne Müllerin*, published in October by Christian G. Ackermann (dated 1821); Müller appointed ducal librarian by Duke Leopold Friedrich of Anhalt-Dessau
- 1821 Müller writes first twelve poems of *Die Winterreise*; Müller marries twenty-one-year-old Adelheid von Basedow (1800–1883); “Erk König” published as Schubert’s Op. 1

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- 1822 Birth of Müller's daughter Auguste (1822–1868); Schubert contracts syphilis in late 1822 or early 1823
- 1823 *Wanderlieder von Wilhelm Müller. Die Winterreise. In 12 Liedern* published in *Urania. Taschenbuch auf das Jahr 1823*; ten additional poems of *Die Winterreise* published in *Deutsche Blätter für Poesie, Litteratur, Kunst und Theater*; birth of Müller's son Friedrich Max (1823–1900); Schubert composes *Die schöne Müllerin* (D795)
- 1824 Müller completes *Die Winterreise*; Müller's second volume of poetry, *Gedichte aus den hinterlassenen Papieren eines reisenden Waldhornisten II: Lieder des Lebens und der Liebe* (Songs of life and love), which includes full twenty-four-song cycle *Die Winterreise*, published by Ackermann; Müller appointed privy councilor (*Hofrat*) by Duke Leopold Friedrich of Anhalt-Dessau
- 1826 Müller becomes director of court theater in Dessau; Schubert discovers Part I (first twelve poems) of Müller's *Die Winterreise* in *Urania . . . 1823* in late 1826 or early 1827 and begins setting cycle
- 1827 Schubert moves in with Franz von Schober at The Blue Hedgehog in February; autograph manuscript of Part I of *Winterreise* dated "Febr. 1827" in Schubert's hand; Schubert invites friends to hear some new compositions (possibly Part I of the cycle) in early March but does not appear; Schubert discovers full twenty-four-song *Die Winterreise* cycle in *Waldhornisten II*; Beethoven dies March 26; Schubert composes Part II of *Winterreise* in summer and fall; Schubert sings "the whole of *Winterreise*" (Joseph von Spaun; *SMF*, 138) for several friends; Müller travels down Rhine River from July 31 to September 25, then dies of apparent heart attack on September 30 at age 32; fair copy of Part II of *Winterreise* dated "Oct. 1827" in Schubert's hand
- 1828 First and only concert performance of a song ("Gute Nacht") from *Winterreise* during Schubert's lifetime given on January 10 by tenor Ludwig Tietze at *Abend-Unterhaltung* of Vienna *Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde*; Tobias Haslinger publishes Part I of *Winterreise* on January 14; in November, Schubert corrects proofs to Part II of *Winterreise* on his deathbed; Schubert dies on November 19; Haslinger publishes Part II on December 30
- 1839 Johann Michael Vogl sings complete cycle *Winterreise* at age 71
- 1864 Julius Stockhausen gives first public performance of complete *Winterreise* cycle, using Müller's final published order of the poems
- 1928 First complete recording of *Winterreise* with tenor Hans Duhan and pianists Ferdinand Foll and Lene Orthmann, using Schubert's order of songs

Abbreviations

- DC Richard Kramer, *Distant Cycles: Schubert and the Conceiving of Song* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994)
- DMFS *Drama in the Music of Franz Schubert*, ed. Joe Davies and James William Sobaskie (Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 2019)
- DW Lauri Suurpää, *Death in Winterreise: Musico-Poetic Associations in Schubert's Song Cycle* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2013)
- FSCS Graham Johnson, *Franz Schubert: The Complete Songs*, 3 vols. (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2014)
- FSSMW Arnold Feil, *Franz Schubert: Die schöne Müllerin, Winterreise*, trans. Ann C. Sherwin (Portland, OR: Amadeus Press, 1988). [Original German publication: Stuttgart: Philipp Reclam, 1975]
- RS *Rethinking Schubert*, ed. Lorraine Byrne Bodley and Julian Horton (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016)
- RWJ Susan Youens, *Retracing a Winter's Journey: Schubert's Winterreise* (Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 1991)
- SDB *Schubert: A Documentary Biography*, ed. Otto Erich Deutsch, trans. Eric Blom (London: J. M. Dent & Sons, 1946)
- SDL *Schubert: Die Dokumente seines Lebens*, ed. Otto Erich Deutsch (Kassel and New York: Bärenreiter, 1964, rev. ed. Wiesbaden: Breitkopf & Härtel, 1996), trans. by Eric Blom as *Schubert: A Documentary Biography* (London: J. M. Dent & Sons, 1946), and as *The Schubert Reader: A Life of Franz Schubert in Letters and Documents* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1949)
- SEF *Schubert: Die Erinnerungen seiner Freunde*, ed. Otto Erich Deutsch (Wiesbaden: Breitkopf & Härtel, 1957, repr. 1983), trans. by Rosamond Ley and John Nowell as *Schubert: Memoirs by His Friends* (London: Adam and Charles Black, 1958)
- SF Susan Wollenberg, *Schubert's Fingerprints: Studies in the Instrumental Works* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2011)
- SMF *Schubert: Memoirs by His Friends*, ed. Otto Erich Deutsch, trans. Rosamond Ley and John Nowell (London: Adam and Charles Black, 1958)

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- SR *The Schubert Reader: A Life of Franz Schubert in Letters and Documents*, ed. Otto Erich Deutsch, trans. Eric Blom (New York: W. W. Norton, 1949)
- SSC John Reed, *The Schubert Song Companion* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1985, 2nd ed. 1997)
- SWJ Ian Bostridge, *Schubert's Winter Journey: Anatomy of an Obsession* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2015)

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