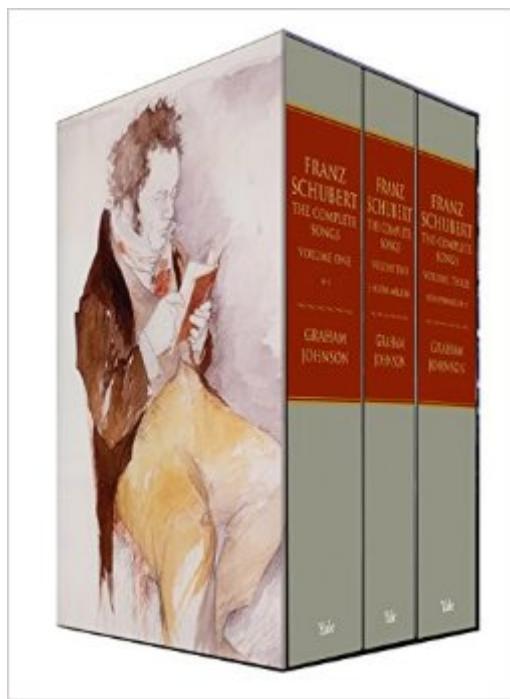


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Franz Schubert: The Complete Songs



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

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).

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