

the language of Song

INTERMEDIATE

HIGH VOICE

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Ständchen

Serenade

Franz Peter Schubert (1797–1828) D.957 No. 4

Background

Out of the ten poems by Ludwig Rellstab (1799–1860) that Schubert set to music, seven were included in the collection *Schwanengesang* ('Swan Song') published posthumously in 1829. *Ständchen* is one of them. Composed only a few weeks before his death in 1828, it is perhaps one of the most well-known serenades ever written. The staccato accompaniment, which evokes the intimacy of a lute or mandolin, and the flowing vocal line express the expectant passion of the lover on a beautiful summer's night.

Idiomatic translation

Softly, my songs plead through the night to you; down below, in the peaceful grove, sweetheart, come to me!
The slender tree-tops rustle and whisper in the moonlight; don't be afraid my fair one of anyone over-hearing and betraying us.
Do you hear the song of the nightingales? Ah, they plead to you; the notes of their sweet lament plead to you on my behalf.
They understand the heart's yearning and know the pain of love, touching each tender heart with their silvery notes.
Let your heart also be moved, sweetheart, hear me! Trembling, I await you.
Come, make me happy!

Pronunciation – Ständchen [ʃtändçən]

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Leise flehen meine Lieder | mit der Töne süßen Klagen |
| laizə flə:ən mainə li:də | mit də:r tə:nə zy:sən kla:gən |
| durch die Nacht zu dir; | flehen sie für mich. |
| dürç di: naxt tsu: di:rə | flə:ən zi: fy:rə miç |
| In den stillen Hain hernieder, | Sie verstehn des Busens Sehnen, |
| in de:n ʃtɪlən hain herni:de | zi: fe:ʃte:n des bu:zəns ze:nən |
| Liebchen, komm zu mir! | kennen Liebesschmerz, |
| li:pçən kəm tsu: mi:rə | kə:nən li:bəsʃmerts |
| Flüsternd schlanke Wipfel rauschen | röhren mit den Silbertönen |
| fl\xsternt ſlaŋkə vɪpfəl rauʃən | ry:ʃən mit de:n zylbetə:nən |
| in des Mondes Licht; | jedes weiche Herz. |
| in des mo:ndəs li:t | je:dəs vaiçə herts |
| Des Verräters feindlich Lauschen | Laß auch dir die Brust bewegen, |
| des fer:tes faintlıç lauʃən | las aux di:rə di: brust bəve:gen |
| fürchte, Holde, nicht. | Liebchen, höre mich! |
| fyrçtə həldə ni:t | li:pçən hə:rə miç |
| Hörst die Nachtigallen schlagen? | Bebend harr' ich dir entgegen! |
| hə:rst di: naxtigalən ſla:gen | be:bən̄t har iç di:rə entge:gen |
| Ach! sie flehen dich, | Komm, beglücke mich! |
| ax zi: flə:ən di:c | kəm bəglʏkə miç |

Further notes

In words such as *flüsternd* and *durch*, the 'r' becomes difficult to pronounce at speed and becomes like the [ə] word endings [*fl\xsternt*], [*dürç*]. (See notes on *Mariä Wiegenlied* for help in the usual pronunciation of *durch*.)

[31] spoken text
 [32] piano accompaniment

El majo discreto

The discreet man

Fernando Periquet

Enrique Granados
 (1867–1916)

Allegretto [♩ = 152]

Original key

The musical score consists of four systems of music. System 1 (measures 1-5) shows the piano accompaniment in 3/4 time with a key signature of three sharps. System 2 (measures 6-10) begins with a vocal entry: 'Di - cen que mi' (They) say that my. System 3 (measures 11-15) includes lyrics: 'ma - jo es fe - o, Es po - si - ble que si que lo se - a' (man is ugly, (it) is possible that yes that he might be). System 4 (measures 16-20) continues with lyrics: 'que a - mor es de - se - o que cie - ga y ma - re - a ha tiem - po que' (for love is desire that blind and dizzy in time that).