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## Poetry into Song: Performance and Analysis of Lieder

By Deborah Stein, Robert Spillman



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**Poetry into Song: Performance and Analysis of Lieder** By Deborah Stein, Robert Spillman

Focusing on the music of the great song composers--Schubert, Schumann, Brahms, Wolf, and Strauss--*Poetry Into Song* offers a systematic introduction to the performance and analysis of *Lieder*. Part I, "The Language of Poetry," provides chapters on the themes and imagery of German Romanticism and the methods of analysis for German Romantic poetry. Part II, "The Language of the Performer," deals with issues of concern to performers: texture, temporality, articulation, and interpretation of notation and unusual rhythm accents and stresses. Part III provides clearly defined analytical procedures for each of four main chapters on harmony and tonality, melody and motive, rhythm and meter, and form. The concluding chapter compares different settings of the same text, and the volume ends with several appendices that offer text translations, over 40 pages of less accessible song scores, a glossary of technical terms, and a substantial bibliography. Directed toward students in both voice and theory, and toward all singers, the authors establish a framework for the analysis of song based on a process of performing, listening, and analyzing, designed to give the reader a new understanding of the reciprocal interaction between performance and analysis. Emphasizing the masterworks, the book features numerous poetic texts, as well as a core repertoire of songs. Examples throughout the text demonstrate points, while end of chapter questions reinforce concepts and provide opportunities for directed analysis. While there are a variety of books on *Lieder* and on German Romantic poetry, none combines performance, musical analysis, textual analysis, and the interrelation between poetry and music in the systematic, thorough way of *Poetry Into Song*.



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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"At last! A comprehensive, systematic text about lieder that is couched in analytical poetic and musical language!...This is an important, carefully notated book."--Choice

"More than a compendium of analytical concepts, this is a book that enables you to shape individual interpretations through personal encounter with a lively train of provocative questions and creative experiments."--Elly Ameling

"Stein, a music theorist and Spillman, an active accompanist, have merged their two strengths, the result of which is a pioneering study....it will surely engage not only the singer and pianist, but also the theorist, historian, and anyone else interested in the nineteenth century Lieder. In addition, it will likely become a major resource for teachers and students of vocal literature and pedagogy."--*Integral*

#### Language Notes

Text: English, German

#### From the Back Cover

When Franz Schubert put Goethe's poem "Gretchen am Spinnrade" to music in 1814, he created a musical form that has captivated audiences ever since. In *Poetry into Song*, Deborah Stein and Robert Spillman challenge readers to seek a richer, more imaginative understanding of Lied - the nineteenth-century German art song. Written for students of voice, piano, and theory and for all singers and accompanists, *Poetry into Song* establishes a framework for the analysis of song based on a process of performing, listening, analyzing, and performing again. This unique approach emphasizes the reciprocal interaction between performance and analysis. Focusing on the masterworks, *Poetry into Song* features numerous poetic texts, as well as a core repertory of songs. Examples throughout the text demonstrate points, and end of chapter questions reinforce concepts and encourage directed analysis. While numerous books have been written on Lieder and German Romantic poetry, *Poetry into Song* is the first to combine performance, musical analysis, textual analysis, and the interrelation between poetry and music in a truly systematic, thorough way.

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