

JS 028

ca. 3 minutes, 45 seconds

Nacht und Träume

SATB and piano

Arranged by
Joshua Shank
(after Schubert)

Text by
Matthäus von Collin

B&F Music | Joshua Shank

Note from the arranger

The first time I heard this Schubert lied was transfixing. The ostinato in the piano makes the work move at a glacial, almost imperceptible speed as the dreams in the poetry drift out over sleeping humanity, and the singer has to work mightily to make the dynamic and the pace sound easy. I love pretty much every song Schubert wrote, but it's not a stretch to say that "Nacht und Träume" is probably my favorite, and I've always wanted to arrange it for choir because I could hear sparkly, twenty-first-century harmonies in Schubert's simple-yet-incredibly-moving music that, for me, brings the "Heil'ge Nacht" in the poetry to life even more. The COVID-19 lockdown gave me a reason to sit down and flesh out what I had been hearing (which I hope you'll like).

This arrangement is dedicated with love and admiration to my very good friend, the incredibly talented Kurt Kruckeberg, who was the person who sat me down and said, "You've *got* to listen to this Schubert song."

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Performance notes

- Due to the closeness of the harmonies, little to no vibrato is desirable.
- Though I did lengthen a few notes here and there as well as change the meter, the markings are essentially the same as the version Schubert first published in 1825 as Op. 43, No. 2. It contained only a single dynamic marking in the piano so, just like a singer might bring the lied to life, the conductor should feel free to craft their own interpretation out of this arrangement.

The Text

By Matthäus von Collin (1779-1824)

Heil'ge Nacht, du sinkest nieder;
Nieder wallen auch die Träume
Wie dein Mondlicht durch die Räume,
Durch der Menschen stille Brust.
Die belauschen sie mit Lust;
Rufen, wenn der Tag erwacht:
Kehre wieder, heil'ge Nacht!
Holde Träume, kehret wieder!

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Holy night, you sink down;
Dreams, too, tumble down
Like your moonlight through space,
Through the quiet hearts of all;
They listen with delight
Calling when day awakens:
Return, holy night!
Sweet dreams, return again!

"This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3..."

Nacht und Träume

for Kurt Knuckeberg

Text by
Matthäus von Collin

Music by
Franz Schubert
Arranged by
Joshua Shank

Sehr langsam

Piano *pp*

Soprano (S) *pp* Heil' - - - ge

Alto (A) *pp* Heil' - - - ge

Tenor (T) *pp* Heil' - - - ge

Bass (B) *pp* Heil' - - - ge

11

Nacht, du sin - kest nie - der; Nie - der

Nacht, du sin - kest nie - der; Nie - der

Nacht, du sin - kest nie - der; Nie - der

Nacht! du sin - kest nie - der; Nie - der

11

16

wal - len auch die Träu - me, Wie dein Mond - licht durch die

wal - len auch die Träu - me, Wie dein Mond - licht durch die

wal - len auch die Träu - me, Wie dein Mond - licht durch die

wal - len auch die Träu - me, Wie dein Mond - licht durch die

16

21

Räu - me, Durch der Men - schen stil - le,

Räu - me, Durch der Men - schen stil - le,

Räu - me, Durch der Men - schen stil - le,

Räu - me, Durch der Men - schen stil - le,

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21

26

stil - le Brust. Die be-

stil - le Brust. Die be-

stil - le Brust. Die be-

stil - le Brust. Die be-

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26

31

lau - schen sie mit Lust; Die be - lau - schen
 lau - schen sie mit Lust; Die be - lau - schen
 lau - schen sie mit Lust; Die be - lau - schen
 lau - schen sie mit Lust; Die be - lau - schen

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36

sie mit Lust; Ru - fen, wenn der
 sie mit Lust; Ru - fen, wenn der
 sie mit Lust; Ru - fen, wenn der
 sie mit Lust; Ru - fen, wenn der

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40

Tag er-wacht: Keh - re wie - der, heil'-ge Nacht! Hol -

Tag er-wacht: Keh - re wie - der, heil'-ge Nacht! Hol -

Tag er-wacht: Keh - re wie - der, heil'-ge Nacht! Hol -

Tag er-wacht: Keh - re wie - der, heil'-ge Nacht! Hol -

40

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45

de Träu - me, keh - ret wie - der! Hol - de

de Trau - me, keh - ret wie - der! Hol - de

de Träu - me, keh - ret wie - der! Hol - de

de Träu - me, keh - ret wie - der! Hol - de

45

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50

Träu - me, keh - ret wie - der!

Träu - me, keh - ret wie - der!

Träu - me, keh - ret wie - der!

Träu - me, keh - ret wie - der!

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54

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Cambridge, January 2021

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