THE INTERCOLLEGIATE MEN'S CHORUSES LIBRARY SERIES

Three Schubert Part-Songs for Male Voices

Schubert wrote more than sixty male voice part-songs for from three to eight voices, both unaccompanied and with piano, string or wind accompaniments. Most of the were probably intended to be performed by solo voices, but many are equally effective when sung by a chorus. They should be sung with a light, even tone, with long, smooth phrases, careful attention to markings, and with a subtle sense of rubato.

C.Z.

Trinklied: Edit nonna, edit clerus

During the summer of 1825, Schubert stayed for a month with Ferdinand Traweger in the town of Gmünden, on the shores of Lake Traun. His host loved to sing male voice quartets and so Schubert presented him with two new pieces, one of which, the Trinklied, had a text found in Rittgräff's Historische Antiquitäten. Similar irreverent texts can be found as early as the medieval student songs; even some of the phrases are the same. In this one, the phrase, "bibit ille, bibit illa", is a parody of the "dies irae, dies illa" from the requiem mass.

Die Nachtigall

Schubert composed a number of male part-songs in this form: an opening tri-partite homophonic section with the melodic interest in the first tenor, followed by a lilting conclusion in which each voice enters in canonic succession. Die Nachtigall was composed in April 1821 for a concert at the Kärntnertor Theater and was dedicated to the first tenor of the quartet, Josef Barth. It was very popular during Schubert's lifetime.

Zur guten Nacht

A song to be sung at the end of a convivial, musical evening. The designation of the soloist as "The Chairman" recalls the origins of informal male chorus singing in Germany in the early 19th century. In Berlin, in 1808, Carl Friedrich Zelter wrote, "I have instituted a Liedertafel - a society formed of twenty-five men, the twenty-fifth of whom is chosen chairman; it assembles once a month, at a supper of two courses, enlivened by jovial German songs. The members must be either poets, singers, or composers."
Trinklied: Edit nonna, edit clerus

English: Carl Zytowski
Geschwind (Allegro)

Franz Schubert

Nuns and clerics throw a party With an appetite that's
serous; bit ille, bit illa, bit ser vus cum an-
heart y, Drink ing free ly, thirst a rous ing, Wake the dead with their ca-
cila; bit ab bas cum pri o re, bit co quus cum fac to re; et pro
rour ing. Then the ab bot shows he's ab le, Drinks the pri or 'neath the ta ble. We're in-

cila; bit ab bas cum pri o re, bit co quus cum fac to re; et pro
rour ing. Then the ab bot shows he's ab le, Drinks the pri or 'neath the tab le. We're in-

cila; bit ab bas cum pri o re, bit co quus cum fac to re; et pro
rour ing. Then the ab bot shows he's ab le, Drinks the pri or 'neath the tab le. We're in-