

PRAIRIE UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY

January 23, 1994

"Music and Madness in the Family: the Schumanns and Brahms"

Coordinated by Warren Hagstrom

The Music

- Johannes Brahms, "In Stille Nacht" The Prairie Choir, accompanied by Doleta Chapru
- Clara Schumann, "Warum Willst Du An Die Frage" Barbara Park, soprano  
Aileen Nettleton, piano
- Robert Schumann, "Scheherezade" Susan Hagstrom, piano
- Robert Schumann, "Schneeglockchen" Kay Frazier, soprano  
Doleta Chapru, piano
- Robert Schumann, "Traller Liedchen," Op. 68, #8 Dean Schroeder, piano
- Johannes Brahms, "Feldamsankeit" Doleta Chapru, mezzosoprano  
Susan Hagstrom, piano
- Johannes Brahms, "Sonntag" Michael Sheehy, baritone, and Linda Sheehy, piano
- Johannes Brahms, "Voegelein Durchrauscht die Luft," from Liebeslieder Waltzen  
Kay Frazier, soprano, and Doleta Chapru, mezzosoprano  
Aileen Nettleton and Michael Briggs, piano

Cast of Characters

- Friedrich Wieck (1785-1873) Felix Mendelsohn (1809-1847)  
Robert Schumann (1810-1856) Franz Liszt (1811-1886)  
Clara Wieck Schumann (1819-1896) Frederick Chopin (1810-1849)  
Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) Richard Wagner (1813-1883)  
....and the 8 children of Clara and Robert, from Marie (b. 1841) to Felix (b. 1854)

Chronology

- 1810 Robert Schumann born  
1819 Clara Wieck born  
1828 Clara gives her first public concert  
1830 Robert leaves the study of law to study piano with Wieck in Leipzig; lives in Wieck household  
1831 Robert breaks his little finger: aspires to compose more than perform  
1834-1844 Robert founds and edits the **New Magazine for Music**; praises music of Chopin & others  
1835 Clara and Robert seriously in love  
1836 Friedrich Wieck forbids Clara to have anything to do with Robert  
1840 Marriage of Clara and Robert  
1843 Robert becomes teacher at Mendelsohn's new Conservatory in Leipzig;  
Robert begins to publish a complete edition of the works of J. S. Bach  
1844 Successful performing tour by Clara in Russia;  
family moves to Dresden where Robert is conductor and teacher  
1848 Revolution: ignored by Robert; Wagner active in revolutionary cause  
1850 Robert moves to Dusseldorf as conductor  
1853 Brahms meets the Schumanns; Robert reviews and praises Brahms' music  
1854 Robert attempts suicide, is placed in asylum  
1856 Robert dies 1896 Clara dies 1897 Brahms dies

In stiller Nacht

In stiller Nacht, zur ersten Wacht, ein Stimm beginnt zu klagen,  
der nächtge Wind hat süß und lind zu mir den Klang getragen;  
von herbem Leid und Traurigkeit ist mir das Herz zerflossen,  
die Blüelein, mit Tränen rein hab ich sie all begossen.

Der schöne Mond will untergahn, für Leid nicht mehr mag scheinen,  
sie Sterne lan ihr Glitzen stahn, mit mir sie wollen weinen.  
Kein Voeglsang, noch Freudenklang man höret in den Lüften,  
die wilden Tier traurn auch mit mir in Steinen und in Klüften.

In the quiet night, at the first watch, a voice begins to lament,  
the night wind, sweet and gently, brought the sound to me;  
from bitter sorrow and sadness my heart weeps,  
the little flowers, I have watered them with pure tears.

The beautiful moon will vanish, sorrowing, it will shine no more,  
the stars will lose their glitter, they will cry with me.  
Neither bird song nor happy sound does one hear in the air,  
the wild animals grieve also with me in the rocky hills and  
ravines.

Warum willst du andre fragen

Warum willst du andre fragen, dies nicht meinen treu mit dir.  
Glaube nicht als was dir sagen diese beiden Augen hier!  
Glaube nicht den fremden Leuten, glaube nicht dem eigenen Wahn:  
Nicht mein Thun auch sollst du deuten, sondern sieh die Augen an!

Schweigt die Lippe deinen Fragen oder zeugt sie gegem mich?  
Was auch meine Lippen sagen; sieh mein Aug, ' ich liebe dich!

Why will you ask another

Why will you ask others, who aren't truthful about me to you.  
Believe nothing but what these two eyes say.  
Don't believe the outsiders, don't believe your own delusion  
Also, you should not interpret my conduct, but look in the eyes.

Do the lips silence your questions or testify against me?  
What also my lips say; see in my eyes, I love you!

Schneeglöckchen

Freidrich Rückert

Der Schnee, der gestern noch in Flöckchen vom Himmel fiel,  
hängt nun geronnen heut als Glöckchen am zarten Stiel.  
Schneeglöckchen läutet; was bedrütet's im stillen Hain?  
O komm geschwint! Im Haine läutet's den Fröling ein.  
O kommt, ihr Blätter, Blüt und Blume, die ihr noch träumt,  
all zu des Fröhlings Heiligtume! kommt ungesäumt!

The snow, that yesterday fell from the sky,  
hangs now dripping today as little bells on the delicate stalks.  
Little bells ring; what does it mean in the still grove?  
O come quickly! In the wood it rings in the spring.  
O come, you leaves, blossoms and flowers, that yet dream, all to  
the spring's holy sanctuary! come, don't be late.

Feldeinsamkeit

Hermann Allmers

Ich ruhe still in hohen grünen Gras  
Und sende lange meinen Blick nach oben,  
Von Grillen rings umschwirrt ohn' Unterlass,  
Von Himmelsbläue wundersam umwoben.

Und schöne weisse Wolken ziehn dahin  
Durchs tiefe Blau, wie schöne stille Träume;  
Und ziehe selig mit durch ew'ge Räume. *↳ In the misty night*

Alone in the Field (Field solitude)

I lie still in the tall green grass  
And gaze a long time upward  
Encircled by ceaseless buzzing of crickets (Grillen),  
Miraculously enveloped by heaven's blue (Himmelsbläue).

And beautiful white clouds drift yonder  
Through the deep blue, like lovely silent dreams.  
It seems to me as though I have long been dead,  
And am drifting blissfully with them through the eternal spaces.

Sonntag

Johann Ludwig Uhland

So hab' ich doch die ganze Woche  
Mein feines Liebchen nicht geseh'n,  
Ich sah es an einem Sonntag  
Wohl vor der Türe steh'n"  
Das tausendschöne Jungfräulein,  
Das tausendschöne Herzelein,  
Wollte Gott, ich wär' heute bei dir.

Sunday

trans. Phillip L. Miller

All week long  
I haven't seen my sweetheart.  
I saw her on Sunday  
standing before the door:  
The thousand-times-beautiful girl,  
the thousand-times-beautiful sweetheart,  
would to God I were with her now.

Vögelein durchrauscht die Luft

Vögelein durchrauscht die Luft, sucht nach einem Aste;  
und das Herz, ein Herz begehrt's, wo es selig raste.

Little bird rushes through the air, searches for a branch;  
and the heart longs for a heart where it can blissfully rest.