



Ludger Hofmann-Engl

Fortepian i baryton

04.10.2025 o godzinie 19:00

Aula Florianka  
Akademia Muzyczna  
im. Krzysztofa Pendereckiego w Krakowie  
Sereno Fenn'a 15, 31-018 Kraków

A. Mozart      Sonata XIV (K. 300)

L. Hofmann-Engl      Songs of Experience  
7 wierszy Williama Blake'a

R. Schumann      Kinderszenen

R. Schumann      Dichterliebe  
16 wierszy Heinricha Heinego

PLN 50 przy drzwiach

## Program

L. W. Mozart

### A Moll Sonate Nr IX (KV 310)

Allegro maestoso  
Andante cantabile con espressione  
Presto

L Hofmann-Engl

### Songs of Experience

7 poems by William Blake  
Moderato – Allegro moderato – Moderato – Adagio  
Largo – Recitativo – Adagio – Allegretto – Andante

## Przerwa/Interval

R. Schumann

### Kinderszenen op. 15

Von fremden Ländern und Memschen - Kuriose  
Geschichte - Hasche Man - Bittendes Kind -  
Glückes genug - Wichtige Begebenheit - Träumerei -  
Am Kamin - Ritter vom Steckenpferd - Fast zu  
ernst - Fürchtenmachen - Kind im Einschlummern -  
Der Dichter spricht

R. Schumann

### Dichterliebe

1. Im wunderschönen Monat Mai
2. Aus meinen Tränen spriessen
3. Die Rose, die Lilie, die Taube
4. Wenn ich in deine Augen seh'
5. Ich will meine Seele tauchen
6. Im Rhein, im heiligen Strome
7. Ich grolle nicht
8. Und wüssten's die Blumen
9. Das ist ein Flöten und Geigen
10. Hör' ich das Liedchen
11. Ein Jüngling liebt ein Mädchen
12. Am leuchtenden Sommermorgen
13. Ich hab' im Traum geweinet
14. Allnächtlich im Traume
15. Aus alten Märchen
16. Die alten, bösen Lieder

## Notes

**A Moll Sonate Nr IX (KV 300)** was written during a rather disturbing time around the death of Mozart's mother. It is one of the only two piano sonatas written in a minor key.

While it has been speculated that the sonata is the result of Mozart's mother's death, not much is known about the exact circumstances in which this composition had been written. However, the only surviving manuscript has been written on manuscript paper Mozart had obtained in Paris.

While we find chromaticism in other of Mozart's works, dissonances are an integral part of the first movement which is written in sonata form. The second movement resembles in many parts Mozart's Fantasias. The third movement is a quasi-rondo and might be interpreted as the attempt to come to terms with the events.

**Songs of Experience** is the title of a collection of poems written by William Blake in 1794. Here, seven of these poems are set for baritone and piano. They are linked together by piano interludes and the composition opens with a piano prelude.

Two underlying ideas permeate prelude and interludes, all containing a similar motif, not unlike Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition". They all process material from the actual songs. The songs themselves are thought to add an interpretative level to the poetry turning the composition somewhat into a mini-opera.

*The composition was premiered by Hofmann-Engl (piano) and Patrick Cockshutt (baritone) on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1997 at the Secombe Theatre London.*

**Kinderszenen** were written in 1838 while Clara and Robert were separated, and after receiving the Kinderszenen Clara wrote back to Robert: „How incredible are your Kinderszenen. I could kiss you!“.

Following Rudolf Reti's interpretation that the pieces are variations of one main theme, Hofmann-Engl undertook to calculate the similarity matrix between the 13 motives. Hereby, he found that "About foreign countries and people" is most similar to the other 12 motives, thus rendering this piece central to the cycle.

Now, considering that the whole cycle is called "scenes from childhood" makes it plausible to assume that the foreign countries and people refers to childhood which has been lost to adulthood. And, not dissimilar to the "blue flower" of Novalis "childhood" becomes an unreachable ideal in true romantic spirit.

**Dichterliebe** originally contained 20 songs, but was then reduced to just 16. The songs were written for soprano and dedicated to Wilhelmine Schröder-Devrient. However, the first public performance was given by the baritone Harry Plunket Greene and the pianist Leonard Borwick, on 11 January 1895 at London's St James's Hall.

What makes this song cycle special if not even unique, is, that Schumann adds with his music an interpretative level not dissimilar to film music to Heine's poems.

If we consider the song "I have wept in my dream" we find that Schumann changes the key from minor to major to the line "I dreamt you were still found of me" followed by extreme dissonances to the line "unceasingly streams the flood of my tears" and the last chords played in pianissimo interrupted by silence leaving the listener in breathtaking shock.

## Biographical Notes

### Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (27.01.1756 – 05.12.1791)

Born in Salzburg into a musicians' family, Mozart showed from an early age an affinity to music. This prompted his father, Leopold Mozart, who himself was a moderately successful composer, to present his son as a child prodigy during a trip lasting 3 years, and now known as the grand tour, including Munich, Amsterdam, London, Paris and Zurich. This brought the family into disrepute amongst nobility. From a contemporary point of view, this grand tour might be considered child exploitation.

Mozart obtained his first appointment as a court musician at the age of 17 in 1773, but he resigned from this position in 1777 in order to find a better paid position elsewhere. This brought him to Paris where he fell into poverty and where also his mother died. He accepted another and better paid position in Salzburg, but after a longer quarrel with his employer Mozart was dismissed, and he settled as a freelance composer in Vienna, where he gained fame living mostly in financially volatile conditions. In 1782, he married Constance under rather turbulent circumstances. Mozart switching from a musician to a court administrator, for example, would have brought honor shame on the wider Mozart family. Mozart died while he was working on his requiem, which then was completed by Eybler and Süßmayr and financially exploited by his widow Constance.

### Robert Schumann (08.06.1810 – 29.07.1856)

Schumann was born in Zwickau (Germany) to an affluent family with no particular interest in music. This left him in limbo on whether to take up law or music as his profession. After a few semesters at the law faculty in Leipzig, he changed to Heidelberg, where he completed his law studies.

Still uncertain about his true passion, he was accepted by Friedrich Wieck as a piano student. However, probably due to over-straining his right hand middle finger, this finger became increasingly paralyzed ending his ambitions as a pianist. During this time, Wieck's 16 years old daughter Clara and Schumann fell in love, but they had to battle against the father in court in order to get married.

While Schumann's work as a composer is prolific, he was increasingly affected by mental health issues. With much negative input coming from his friends and family, without the success he had hoped for as a composer and with the almost omnipotent Wagner clan in opposition, Schumann's self-doubts grew up to a point, when he attempted suicide by jumping off a bridge into the river Rhine saved only by some good meaning fishermen. The next two years then he lived in an asylum where he also died.

### Ludger Hofmann-Engl (21.08.1964)

Born in Bamberg, he studied composition at the Conservatory Nuremberg followed by studies in piano at the Institute of Church Music in Erlangen and later with Elzbieta Sternlicht. In Berlin he completed his MA in music science, philosophy and physics, and he obtained his PhD in Music psychology at Keele University on the topic of melodic similarity. Since 2015 he has been living in Krakow where he supplements his earnings as a composer by working for corporations such as HCL, IBM and Google. His music is available on YouTube as well as through Tęcza Music Publishers.