

Schumann: Dichterliebe

A2 listening exercise

Listen to the following songs from *Dichterliebe* and attempt answers to the following questions.

Song No 1 , Im wunderschönen Monat Mai

*In the lovely month of May,
When all the buds were bursting,
Then within my heart
Love broke forth.*

*In the lovely month of May,
When all the birds were singing,
Then I confessed to her
My longing and desire.*

1. Briefly describe the piano part in this song. [2 marks]
2. On what kind of chord does this song end? [1 mark]
3. Comment on the possible significance of this in relation to the text. [2 marks]

Song No 6, Im Rhein, im heiligen Strome

*The Rhine, the holy river,
Reflects in its waves,
With its great cathedral,
The great holy city of Cologne.*

*In the cathedral there hangs a
painting
Painted on gilded leather;
In the confusion of my life
It has shone kindly down upon
me.*

*Flowers and cherubs float
About Our dear Lady.
Her eyes, her lips, her cheeks
Are exactly like those of my
love.*

1. Comment upon the tonality of this piece in relation to the text. [2 marks]
2. Comment upon the tempo and rhythm in relation to the text. [3 marks]
3. What is the piece of piano writing at the end of the song known as? What function does this have? [2 marks]

Song No 7, Ich Grolle Nicht

*I bear no grudge, even though my heart may
break,
Eternally lost love! I bear no grudge.
However you may shine in the splendour of
your diamonds,
No ray of light falls in the darkness of your
heart.*

*I have long known this. I saw you in a dream,
And saw the night within the void of your
heart,
And saw the serpent that is eating your heart
I saw, my love, how very miserable you are.*

1. Comment upon the tonality of this song. [2 marks]
2. Comment upon Schumann's word-setting and the shape and range of the vocal melody. [2 marks]
3. Describe the structure of this song. [2 marks]
4. How does Schumann's setting add to the meaning of the words? [2 marks]

Total: [20 marks]