

Learn Live: 19th century song

Dates	Mondays 14, 21 and 28 November 2022
Times	17.30 – 19.00
Location	Zoom
Level	Beginners, but all welcome
Class size	Maximum 35 participants

Course description

This three-week online course explores the popularity and importance of art song in the 19th century: as a profitable genre for composers, a popular hobby for amateurs, and an increasingly professionalised form for inclusion in public concerts. We will begin with the songs of Franz Schubert and trace the growing popularity of art song in Austria, Germany and England - including some surprising singable translations of famous numbers.

Week 1: Schubert and the early 19th century Lied. An introduction to Schubert's songs, his choice of poets, and his approach to interpreting that poetry in music. We will also look at the digitised manuscript of his famous song *An die Musik*, held in the BL collections.

Week 2: Songs at home and on stage. A chance to hear German and English-language songs written across the course of the 19th century, and how composers tailored their work for either domestic performance by keen amateurs, or professional musicians on the concert platform.

Week 3: Art song abroad and in translation. Schubert's songs were available in singable English by mid-century. This is a chance to explore some of the many translations made of vocal repertoire in the 1800s and early 1900s.

This course takes place on Zoom and we will email you a joining link the day before each one.

If you require live-captioning, please email adultlearning@bl.uk as soon as you have booked your ticket.

Optional pre-course task

Choose a Schubert song that you particularly like and find a translation of the text into English. Can you pin down just one feature of Schubert's music that brings a particular image, or moment, in the poem to life?

Tutor

Dr. Katy Hamilton is one of the UK's most sought-after speakers on music, providing talks for a host of organisations including the Southbank Centre, BBC Proms, Ryedale Festival and Oxford Lieder Festival. In addition, she regularly writes programme notes for the Salzburg Festival, Wigmore Hall and Philharmonia Orchestra, and is a frequent contributor to BBC Radio 3. Katy is an editor of the books *Brahms in Context* (2019) and *Brahms in the Home and the Concert Hall* (2014) and has also published widely on the music of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. You can find out more about her work at <http://www.katyhamilton.co.uk/>

Previous Skills, Knowledge or Experience

None required. Aimed at beginners, but all welcome.

Accessibility

Please email adultlearning@bl.uk as soon as you have booked your ticket if you require live-captioning.

**THIS COURSE TAKES PLACE ON ZOOM.
PLEASE DO NOT COME TO THE BRITISH LIBRARY.**