



“Winterreise”

By:

Franz Schubert

Featuring:

Blayne Ziegenfuss, tenor

Accompanied by:

Grace McMullen

Video and Direction by:

Kathryn Frady

Synopsis

Originally based on 24 poems by the German lyric poet Wilhelm Müller “Winterreise” tells the tale of a lone wanderer who finds both love and betrayal along a winding and fantastic journey.

The wanderer arrives in an idyllic village in May. There he befriends a family of three, and they invite him to live with them. While there, he falls in love with their beautiful daughter, and his love is reciprocated, or so he is led to believe. The daughter, however, rejects him to marry a wealthy suitor with the approval of her parents. It is now Winter, and heartbroken, he leaves his adopted home in the dead of night. Not before first writing a farewell message to his beloved.

After traveling a while, he speaks of the sense of security and comfort he felt when reclining under the branches of a Linden tree. A feeling that lingers with him even after he has departed his former haven. He falls asleep and dreams of springs gone by, of colorful flowers and green meadows. When awakened by the sound of a distant rooster crowing, he is disheartened to realize that it is still Winter. The loneliness and cold darkness that has defined his journey still surround him.

He eventually reaches another small town and decides to linger there for some time. Upon hearing the postman approach, he sings of his desire to receive a letter from his beloved. Ultimately his hopes are again shattered when the postman completes his delivery, and there is no letter for him. Despondent, in the final song of the cycle, he asks the town’s Hurdy Gurdy man if he will remember his tale and set it to music.

Songs

1. Gute Nacht (Good Night)
2. Die Wetterfahne (The Weathervane)
3. Gefror'ne Tränen (Frozen Tears)
4. Erstarrung (Frozen)
5. Der Lindenbaum (The Linden Tree)
6. Wasserflut (Flood)
7. Auf dem Flusse (On the Stream)
8. Rückblick (Backwards Glance)
9. Irrlicht (Will o' the Wisp)
10. Rast (Rest)
11. Frühlingstraum (Dream of Spring)
12. Einsamkeit (Loneliness)
13. Die Post (The Post)
14. Der greise Kopf (The Gray Head)
15. Die Krähe (The Crow)
16. Letzte Hoffnung (Last Hope)
17. Im Dorfe (In the Village)
18. Der stürmische Morgen (The Stormy Morning)
19. Täuschung (Deception)
20. Der Wegweiser (The Signpost)
21. Das Wirtshaus (The Inn)
22. Mut! (Have Courage!)
23. Die Nebensonnen (The Sun Dogs)
24. Der Leiermann (The Hurdy-Gurdy Man)

Bios



Blayne Ziegenfuss, tenor, is a voice teacher and singer based in Knoxville, TN.

As a voice teacher, Blayne has taught privately for ten years and has experience teaching classical, musical theater, and contemporary singing. His students have been admitted into special high school musical arts programs, Belmont University, Point Park University, University of Tennessee Knoxville, and Marymount Manhattan for classical voice and musical theatre performance. Many of Blayne's students have received talent and merit based scholarships to study voice at the collegiate level, including the coveted Grace Moore scholarship at the University of Tennessee Knoxville. Blayne regularly works with advanced, professional singers in opera, musical theatre, and commercial music. His professional students have sung with Knoxville Opera, Dollywood, and with local and national theatre companies around the country. He is an active member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS).

Blayne is a seasoned performer in opera, musical theatre, choral, and recital settings. His opera credits include roles and ensemble work in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Trial by Jury*, *The Mikado*, *L'Enfant et Les Sortilège*, *L'Enfant Prodigue*, *Cendrillon*, *Help, Help*, *The Globolinks!*, *The Magic Flute*, *La Traviata*, *Lucia Di Lammermoor*, *Roméo et Juliette*, and *I Pagliacci*. His musical theatre credits include roles in *Guys and Dolls*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, and *Lil Abner*. On the concert stage, Blayne has performed as a soloist in Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Handel's *Messiah*, and Handel's *Dixit Dominus*. Recently, Blayne co-presented an art song concert at the Clara Center for the Performing Arts in Sacramento, CA with longtime friend and composer, Carlos M. Fuentes. Blayne has performed with UNCG Opera Theatre, Greensboro Opera, Durham Children's Choir, Knoxville Opera,

Marble City Opera, Knoxville Choral Society, and the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra. Blayne continues his own vocal studies under the tutelage of the acclaimed voice teacher, Kenneth Bozeman.

Blayne holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance and a Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. His research interests include acoustic vocal pedagogy, the Alexander Technique, and exercise and nutrition for the professional voice user. In addition to his private studio, Blayne regularly teaches masterclasses locally and nationally.



Grace McMullen is a collaborative pianist and organist residing in Knoxville, TN. Grace received her Master of Music in Collaborative Piano from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville where she held a graduate assistantship in collaborative piano. During her time at UTK, Grace served as a vocal coach and accompanist for VolOpera (the undergraduate opera scenes program) and the University of Tennessee Opera Theatre (UTOT). She also served as a keyboardist for the University of Tennessee Symphony and Chamber Orchestras, and accompanied a wide range of undergraduate and graduate students in both vocal and instrumental areas.

Grace earned her B.M. in Music with Elective Studies in Business from Berry College (Mount Berry, GA) where she was a winner of both the Berry College Symphony Concerto Competition as well as the Rome (GA) Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition in 2013.

She is currently the organist at Ball Camp Baptist Church, and is an active freelance pianist for undergraduate and graduate music students at UTK.

Grace has studied in the studios of Dr. Kevin Class (collaborative piano), Dr. Kris Carlisle (piano) and Dr. Edie Johnson and Steven Wooddell (organ).



Critically acclaimed stage director Kathryn Frady has worked throughout the United States, Europe, and South Africa. As a leading pioneer in producing opera in alternative spaces, Kathryn's recent production of *Gallantry* was praised by Arts Knoxville, who wrote, "Kudos to Stage Director Kathryn Frady for an accomplishment that reminded the audience what theatre is all about." Kathryn was also named among the "10 Women who make a Difference in Knoxville" by the Knoxville Mercury newspaper. In 2019, A Step Ahead Foundation recognized Kathryn as a Trailblazer in her field.

A passionate advocate of new works, Kathryn directed the world premiere of Larry Delinger's *Shadowlight*, which Arts Knoxville called "A Stunning Celebration of the Art and Life of Beauford Delaney" in a "marvelously immersive" production. Other recent credits include productions of *Dido and Aeneas* at Baldwin Wallace University, *Beneath Suspicion* at Marble City Opera, *Cold Sassy Tree* at Amarillo Opera, *Tosca* at North Carolina Opera, *Barber of Seville* and *L'elisir d'amore* for Wichita Grand Opera, *Barber of Seville* for Knoxville Opera, *H.M.S. Pinafore* for The Living Opera, and new opera works at Cleveland Opera Theater. International credits include work on *Carmen* for Opera Africa in Pretoria and Johannesburg, *Amelia Lost* with the Opera in the City Festival in London; and *L'elisir d'amore* for the Centre for Opera Studies in Sulmona, Italy.

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