# 50 selected songs by schubert schumann brahms wolf strauss low voice schirmer

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Franz Schubert: A Musical Masterpiece\*\*

# One of the Most Famous Compositions

Franz Schubert's "Unfinished Symphony" is undoubtedly one of his most renowned compositions. This poignant and enigmatic work has captured the hearts of music lovers worldwide.

#### **Prolific Output**

During his short lifetime, Schubert wrote an astonishing number of pieces of music, exceeding 1,000 compositions. His catalog includes symphonies, sonatas, chamber music, lieder, operas, and masses.

#### **Beloved Lieder**

Schubert's lieder (German for "songs") are among his most beloved works. One of the most famous is "Erlkönig," a chilling and haunting ballad about a dying child and his encounter with the supernatural.

#### **Sublime Genius**

Some critics believe that Schubert is the greatest composer who ever lived. His music is characterized by its lyrical melodies, emotional depth, and harmonic innovations.

#### A Life Cut Short

Tragically, Schubert died at the young age of 31, leaving behind a vast body of unfinished work. The cause of his death is still a subject of speculation, with theories ranging from typhoid fever to syphilis.

#### **Eternal Rest**

Schubert was buried in the Zentralfriedhof (Central Cemetery) in Vienna, Austria, alongside other musical luminaries such as Beethoven and Brahms.

# **Teenage Prodigy**

At just 18 years old, Schubert wrote a remarkable 150 songs, showcasing his extraordinary talent from an early age.

# Musical Legacy

Schubert's music continues to be performed and appreciated by generations of musicians and audiences alike. His legacy as a musical genius is secure.

# Interpreting "Erlkönig"

"Erlkönig" translates to "Elf King" in English. The poem by Goethe tells the story of a father and his sick son riding through a forest when they encounter the Erlking, a seductive but sinister being who attempts to lure the boy away.

#### **Accessible Lieder**

One of Schubert's most approachable lieder is "Ave Maria." Its soothing melody and simple accompaniment make it a popular choice for weddings and other sacred occasions.

## **Meeting Beethoven**

Schubert and Beethoven never met in person. However, it is believed that Schubert attended one of Beethoven's concerts and was deeply impressed by his music.

#### **Schubert's Greatness**

Schubert's music is remarkable for its emotional range, melodic beauty, and harmonic richness. His ability to express human emotions in sound is unparalleled.

# "Great" in Symphony No. 9

Schubert's Symphony No. 9 in C major is known as the "Great" due to its extraordinary length and scope. It is a monumental work that displays Schubert's mastery of form and orchestration.

#### **Renowned Quartet**

Schubert's String Quartet No. 14 in D minor, known as "Death and the Maiden," is arguably his most famous chamber music work. Its haunting melody and dramatic themes have made it a beloved piece.

## **Operatic Ventures**

Schubert composed several operas, including "Alfonso and Estrella" and "Fierrabras." However, they were not as well-received as his other works and are rarely performed today.

# **Elf King's True Nature**

Schubert's "Elf King" is based on Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's poem of the same name. The Erlking is depicted as a malevolent and otherworldly creature who seeks to harm the boy.

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