

= Die Forelle =

" Die Forelle " ( German for " The Trout " ) , Op. 32 , D 550 @.@ is a lied , or song , composed in early 1817 for solo voice and piano with music by Austrian composer Franz Schubert ( 1797 ? 1828 ) . Schubert chose to set the text of a poem by Christian Friedrich Daniel Schubart , first published in the Schwäbischer Musenalmanach in 1783 . The full poem tells the story of a trout being caught by a fisherman , but in its final stanza reveals its purpose as a moral piece warning young women to guard against young men . When Schubert set the poem to music , he removed the last verse , which contained the moral , changing the song 's focus and enabling it to be sung by male or female singers . Schubert produced six subsequent copies of the work , all with minor variations .

Schubert wrote " Die Forelle " in the single key of D @-@ flat major with a varied ( or modified ) strophic form . The first two verses have the same structure but change for the final verse to give a musical impression of the trout being caught . In the Deutsch catalogue of Schubert 's works it is number 550 , or D. 550 . The musicologist Marjorie Wing Hirsch describes its type in the Schubert lieder as a " lyrical song with admixtures of dramatic traits " .

The song was popular with contemporary audiences , which led to Schubert being commissioned to write a piece of chamber music based on the song . This commission resulted in the Trout Quintet ( D. 667 ) , in which a set of variations of " Die Forelle " are present in the fourth movement .

= = Context = =

The lyrics of the lied are from a poem by Christian Friedrich Daniel Schubart . Opinion is divided on his abilities : The Musical Times considers him to be " one of the feeblest poets " whose work was used by Schubert , and comments that he " was content with versifying pretty ideas " , while the singer and author Dietrich Fischer @-@ Dieskau considered Schubart to be " a very talented poet , musician and orator " . Schubart wrote " Die Forelle " in 1782 , while imprisoned in the fortress of Hohenasperg ; he was a prisoner there from 1777 to 1787 for insulting the mistress of Charles Eugene , Duke of Württemberg . The poem was published in the Schwäbischer Musenalmanach of 1783 , consisting of four stanzas .

The Schubert scholar John Reed thought the poem to be " sentimental " and " feeble " , with the final stanza of the poem consisting of a " smug moral " that " pointedly advises young girls to be on their guard against young men with rods " . The academic Thomas Kramer observes that " Die Forelle " is " somewhat unusual with its mock @-@ naive pretense of being about a bona fide fish " , whereas he describes it as " a sexual parable " . Fischer @-@ Dieskau saw the poem as " didactic ... with its Baroque moral " . Schubert did not set this final stanza , however , and instead concentrated on a person 's observation of the trout and the reaction to its being caught by a fisherman .

= = Creation = =

In 1815 Schubert wrote a series of twenty songs based on the works of Ludwig Gotthard Kosegarten ( 1758 ? 1818 ) . Among them was " Die Erscheinung " ( D 229 ) , written in July that year ; John Reed sees the song as a forerunner to " Die Forelle " , observing that " Die Erscheinung " and other similar songs , " convey an intensity of feeling that belies their small scale " . From the following year to 1821 Schubert composed four songs using the poems of Schubart , " An den Tod " ( D518 ) , " An mein Klavier " ( D342 ) , " Die Forelle " ( D550 ) and " Grablied auf einen Soldaten " ( D454 ) . Although the first draft of " Die Forelle " was lost and the exact date of composition is unknown , the lied is known to have been written in early 1817 , the same year he composed " Der Tod und das Mädchen " and " An die Musik " .

After Schubert completed the song , one of his friends , Johann Leopold Ebner , recounted that Schubert was told that " Die Forelle " unconsciously quoted Beethoven 's Coriolan Overture ; on hearing the comparison , Schubert decided to destroy the manuscript , but he was stopped by Ebner and others . On 9 December 1820 the song was published in a supplement to the Wiener Zeitung ,

along with a number of others of Schubert 's lieder . He received no payment for publishing his songs , but was provided with free publicity .

= = Composition = =

" Die Forelle " is written for solo voice and piano in the key of D @-@ flat major . The song is written with a varied ( or modified ) strophic structure , meaning the " verse music " is generally the same , with one different verse . According to the American historian Mark Ringer , Schubert used a " musical structure that reflects both the life cycle of the earth and the progress from innocence to experience " . Schubert directed the piece to be played " Etwas lebhaft " , or at a " somewhat lively " pace .

The different verse is the third , and it demonstrates the " admixture of dramatic traits " in the lyrical song , which Fischer @-@ Dieskau calls " a classic example of the strophic song with Abgesang ... ' after @-@ strain ' . " The " after @-@ strain " comes at the final stanza ; the composer and Schubert scholar Brian Newbould observed that for three @-@ quarters of the song 's final stanza , Schubert departed from the strophe to give a musical impression of the trout being caught , but returned to the strophe for the final couplet . The primary rhythmic figure in the piano accompaniment suggests the movement of the fish in the water . When the fisherman catches the trout , the vocal line changes from major to minor , the piano figuration becomes darker and the flowing phrases are " broken by startled rests " . According to Mark Ringer , the melody evokes a " folklike naïveté " that " delivers both delight and emotional power " .

Schubart 's poem takes the viewpoint of a male speaker , advising women to be careful of young men . By removing the stanza , Schubert removes the moral and creates uncertainty in the sex of the narrator .

= = Variations = =

After completing his original in 1817 , Schubert made six subsequent autographs . These differing versions were not necessarily an attempt to improve a work , with some later versions being written from memory with only minor variations ; Newbould considers that Schubert 's close replication was a " feat of musicianship ... and a sign that Schubert spoke the language of music with the naturalness of conversation . " The differences between the autographs are small : according to Reed , they " are concerned ... with the tempo indication and the prelude ? postlude . " The first version , marked Mässig , has no introduction , although " the shape of the familiar introduction is already adumbrated in a seven @-@ bar postlude " . The draft is undated , although is from 1817 and is kept in the Stadler , Ebner and Schindler collection in Lund . A second copy , written in May or June 1817 , was for Franz Sales Kandler 's album : this version was marked Nicht zu geschwind ( not too fast ) .

A third variation was written during the night of 21 February 1818 . Schubert and Anselm Hüttenbrenner , a friend and fellow composer , had finished a few bottles of Hungarian wine when Anselm commented that his brother Josef was an aficionado of Schubert 's work . Schubert completed a copy of " Die Forelle " that was " somewhat messy " . The messiness was partly accounted for by Schubert 's drunken state , but also explained by the accompanying note he wrote to Josef : " Just as , in my haste , I was going to send the thing , I rather sleepily took up the ink @-@ well and poured it calmly over it . What a disaster ! " The manuscript was held by the Hüttenbrenner family for a number of years and was photographed in 1870 , before being lost . Schubert wrote a further version in 1820 for publication in the Wiener Zeitung , and a final copy in October 1821 for publication in the Neue Ausgabe . The final version has " a five @-@ bar piano prelude " and is presently in the Gertrude Clarke Whittall Foundation Collection of the Library of Congress .

In 1819 Sylvester Baumgartner ? a music patron and amateur cellist in Steyr ? commissioned Schubert to write a piece of chamber music based on " Die Forelle " ; Schubert then wrote a quintet for piano and strings in which he quoted the song in a set of variations in the fourth movement . The

piece later became known as the Trout Quintet ( D. 667 ) . Franz Liszt transcribed and paraphrased " Die Forelle " in two versions for solo piano . The first was in 1844 as the sixth part of his composition Sechs Melodien von Franz Schubert ( S 560 ) ; the second transcription was in 1846 ( S 564 ) .

= = Reception = =

Information regarding the contemporary reception to " Die Forelle " is scant . Reed relates that the song had " immediate popularity " , and that Schubert composing the Trout Quintet was evidence that " Die Forelle " " was already widely known " by 1819 . Newbould agrees , pointing out that the quintet was " acknowledging the song 's meteoric rise up early nineteenth @-@ century Vienna 's equivalent to the charts " . Fischer @-@ Dieskau takes a longer @-@ term view of the song 's popularity , writing that " the vividness of the imagery , with the alternate troubling and smoothing of the surface of the water along with the exuberance of the melody itself , account for the song 's universal appeal " .