

Performance Programme

Forgotten Songs: Aspects of the Piano Part
The relationship between the evolution of the early piano
and the development of the *Lied* genre

Pre-romantic German art song (*lied*), i.e., from the end of the 18th century to Franz Schubert, has received relatively little attention in the field of global research. Usually, this minor genre is analysed as part of vocal art, completely or nearly ignoring the accompanying piano part. On the other hand, the researchers interested in historical, analytical, and interpretational aspects of the piano regard the genre of *lied* not worthy of attention due to the fact that, during the period in question, it existed in the margins of serious music, was orientated towards amateur performance as well as the audience of a home music room.

The research aims to discern the relationship between the evolution of the early piano and the development of the *Lied* genre during the same period, as well as to investigate the interaction between the instrument's capabilities and their use in composers' works. The study into the prehistory of the romantic *lied* has revealed that most sources point out four key cultural centres (the so-called *lied* schools), where this genre was developing and progressing: those of Berlin, southern Germany (Stuttgart Region), Saxony (Leipzig), and Vienna (Austria).

The aim of this presentation is to present the unknown and very rarely performed works of the representatives and the most prominent composers of the four schools as well as to summarise the essential distinguishing features of the piano part.

Key questions:

Presentation and comparison of the most prominent composers from different *lied* schools;

Determining the influence of piano evolution on the musical character of compositions.

The songs will be performed together with Gunta Gelgotė (soprano) and Saulė Šerytė (mezzo soprano).

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Jonė Punytė-Svigarienė is a pianist and lecturer in the Department of Accompaniment at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre (LMTA), where she has been teaching since 2011.

After graduating from LMTA, she continued to hone her skills in the field of *Liedbegleitung* at the State University of Music and Performing Arts Stuttgart and the *hammerklavier* at the Trossingen University School of Music (Germany).

At the 6th International Chamber Music Competition Franz Schubert and Modern Music in Graz (Austria), the pianist received the first award and a special prize for the best performed contemporary piece in the category of *Lied* (with Japanese soprano Wakako Nakaso, 2006).

Since 2021, Jonė Punytė-Svigarienė has been doing the Ph D artistic research “The Role of the Early Piano in the *Lied* Genre: Aspects of Historically Informed Performance”.