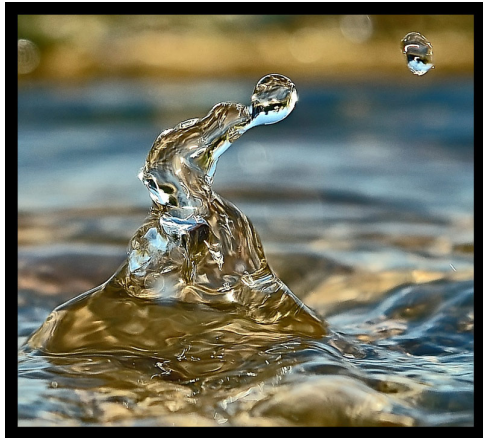


FRANZ PETER SCHUBERT (1797-1828)**Wohin? - Where?**

This is the second song in Schubert's song cycle 'Die schöne Müllerin' (The miller's beautiful daughter) – see the notes on 'Das Wandern' for details.

After setting out full of energy and enthusiasm, the young apprentice finds the small stream or brook which will henceforth accompany him through the rest of the cycle. 'Accompany' is the operative word, as the piano part reflects the movement of the water in the stream and so the piano accompanist effectively plays the part of the stream in the story. The movement of the stream, which leads to the mill and is in fact diverted to drive the wheel of the watermill, reflects all the

changing moods of the apprentice in the songs, from tremulous excitement and anticipation, as here, to thoughtful recollection, anger, and finally to lament, as the stream actually sings a lullaby to the apprentice whose despair has led to suicide.

The unchanging harmony in the opening bars of this song reflect the miller's assurance that he has found the right path in following the stream, while the bubbling of the brook is reflected by the voice in such phrases as 'immer heller der Bach' - 'always rushing onwards'. When the voice sings in unison with the bass line of the piano ('Hinunter und immer weiter' - 'go down there and ever further' / 'Lass singen Gesell lass rauschen' - 'Then sing little friend come babble') this solidarity makes it clear that the apprentice has found a new best friend. Throughout the song cycle he will talk to the stream as if confiding in a real person: he refers to him in the fourth song, for example, as his 'rauschender Freund' (babbling friend).

This music is full of movement and energy. Notice how the sextuplets (six short notes in the space of four) carry on uninterrupted until the very last chord of the song.

Something else to note is how faithful Schubert is at times to natural speech rhythms – 'Ist das denn meine Straße? O Bächlein sprich, wohin?' - 'Please tell me where I'm going, Oh stream where leads your dance' - for example – while the flow of the music is never interrupted.

*Ich hört' ein Bächlein rauschen
Wohl aus dem Felsenquell,
Hinab zum Tale rauschen
So frisch und wunderhell.*

*Ich weiß nicht, wie mir wurde,
Nicht, wer den Rat mir gab,
Ich mußte auch hinunter
Mit meinem Wanderstab.*

*Hinunter und immer weiter
Und immer dem Bache nach,
Und immer frischer rauschte
Und immer heller der Bach.*

*Ist das denn meine Straße?
O Bächlein, sprich, wohin?
Du hast mit deinem Rauschen
Mir ganz berauscht den Sinn.*

*Was sag ich denn vom Rauschen?
Das kann kein Rauschen sein:
Es singen wohl die Nixen
Tief unten ihren Reihn.*

*Laß singen, Gesell, laß rauschen
Und wandre fröhlich nach!
Es gehn ja Mühlenräder
In jedem klaren Bach.*

Wilhelm Müller (1794-1827)