What is Winter Journey?

Winter Journey (Winterreise) is a song cycle of 24 songs for voice and piano composed by Franz Schubert published in 1828. Originally written for tenor voice, the songs are frequently transposed to other vocal ranges, a practice set by Schubert himself. Our production uses the “medium voice” transposition.

Who is Franz Schubert?

Franz Peter Schubert (January 31, 1797 - November 19, 1828) was an Austrian composer of the early Romantic Era. Despite his short lifetime, he composed more than 600 vocal works, mainly lieder (songs). He was a student of Antonio Salieri (made famous in the play and movie AMADEUS). One of his most famous early lieder is the "Erlkönig."

What is a song cycle?

A song cycle consists of several songs intended to be performed as a single piece. Often, the text in song cycles comes from a single author or poet. Thus, the songs tend to be connected by a narrative, and composers sometimes reflect connections musically as well, using recurring melodies and rhythms.

Where did the lyrics for Winter Journey come from?

The lyrics for Winterreise (Winter Journey) are poems by Wilhelm Müller (October 1, 1794 - September 30,1827). Müller was a German poet and teacher, most well known as the author of the lyrics for Schubert’s song cycles, Winterreise and Die schöne Müllerin.

What is Winter Journey about?

Winter Journey follows a heartbroken poet who wanders outside into the cold winter weather, singing about his loneliness and despair. The first half of the cycle brings attention to the man’s sorrow from losing his love. The second half focuses more on the man’s rejection from society. At the end of the cycle, the man sees another traveler, standing on the edge of the village, begging for change as he plays a hurdy-gurdy. He considers joining that man in his travels, hoping they can make sorrowful music together.

What is a hurdy-gurdy?

The hurdy-gurdy is a stringed instrument that produces sound by a rosined wheel rubbing against strings, moved by a hand turned crank. The wheel functions much like a violin bow, and single notes played on the instrument sound similar to those of a violin. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYJg9cLk1us

What's unique about this presentation of Winter Journey?

David Adam Moore, baritone, stars in this visually striking production. It uses 3D projection mapping designed by the NYC-based multimedia art collective GLMMR, to fuse the worlds of fine art, photography, visual technology and live performance. It incorporates video shot in various locations throughout the country, including Times Square, the Bonneville Salt Flats, a blizzard in Brooklyn, and a graveyard in Des Moines. GLMMR was founded by David Adam Moore and designer Victoria “Vita” Tzykun.