

**Schöne Müllerin with
(Postcards from a Miller's Travels)**

**Franz Schubert- Music
Wilhelm Müller- Text
Donald George, Tenor
Kirk Severtson, Piano
Gary Busch, Narrator**

In order to ensure a pleasant concert experience for both performers and audience, please refrain from:

- Entering or leaving during the performance.
- Bringing food or drink into the concert hall.
- Taking flash photographs.
- Using electronic devices (please remember to turn off your cellular phone, pagers and watches that chime on the hour).

Children who are able to sit quietly during the performance are welcome to our concerts.

Tape/video recording of performances is strictly prohibited without permission of the performers!

Thank you!



The Poet's Prologue

1. *Das Wandern* – The Miller leaves in order to find work in a mill.
2. *Wohin* - The Miller walks in the woods following a millstream hoping to find a mill where he can find work. He begins his conversations with the brook.
3. *Halt!* - Suddenly he sees the mill bright and beautiful in the sunshine. He asks the brook if this is the place for him.
4. *Danksagung an den Bach* - He thanks the brook for sending him to this mill in order to meet the miller's daughter. He is happy for the work and finding his love.
5. *Am Feierabend* - He works all day and wants 1000 arms to do more, so that the miller's daughter notices him. After work that evening she says to all "Good Night" which he imagines she directs only to him.
6. *Der Neugierige* - He rushes to his brook to think the matter over and talk to the brook about the miller's daughter and whether she loves him. After long imagined silence, the brook seems to tell him, "Yes! She loves you."
7. *Ungelduld* – He is sure she loves him and wants to broadcast it to the entire world "Yours is my heart forever!"
8. *Morgengruss* – He is waiting outside her window in the early morning and when she see him she closes it, which causes him to wonder why she rejects him, since all the world is awake, the sun is shining, flowers blooming and birds are singing.
9. *Des Müllers Blumen* - He takes the blue flowers, which grow by the brook, and plants them under her window, forget-me-nots, which will greet her when she opens her window.
10. *Tränenregen* – He and the miller's daughter are sitting by the stream where he looks into the depths of the stream and imagines the reflected heaven calling to him. His eyes fill with tears, and she says, "It's going to rain. Bye."
11. *Mein* – He is sure that she loves him and asks ecstatically for all nature to be still and sing only "The beloved maid of the mill is mine!"

Short Intermission

12. *Pause* – He is in his room and contemplating his lute which has a green ribbon tied around it. He realizes he can sing no more as no song, no poem, can express his love and his happiness.
13. *Mit dem grünen Lautenband* - She enters the room and fancies the pretty green ribbon, which he promptly gives to her. He decides that green is also his favorite color, as she ties the green ribbon in her hair.
14. *Der Jäger* – The hunter enters the story and flirts with the pretty maid, which infuriates him. He wants him to leave her alone and go back to the forest to hunt.
15. *Eifersucht und Stoltz* – He speaks to the brook and complains that the brook is rushing away and needs to rush in the maid's direction and tell her not to look out her window at the hunter. On second thought, the brook, should tell her that he is happy, and carving flutes and playing for the children to sing and dance.

16. *Die liebe Farbe* - He decides that green is his favorite color because it is her color and he will surround himself with green. He wants a grave in the green meadow, no flowers, no black cross, only green.
17. *Die böse Farbe* - He would leave, but the world is full of green and he now hates green. He wants to destroy all green, remove all the leaves with his tears. Green looks at him with hateful eyes. The hunting horn sounds. He wants her to remove the green ribbon from her hair. He wishes her goodbye.
18. *Trockene Blumen* - He imagines his death as he looks at the flowers she gave him. They have wilted and died, and he fantasizes that after his death they will burst forth in bloom when she passes by to remind her of his love.
19. *Der Müller und der Bach* - The miller speaks to the brook and says that the moon must be covered in clouds so that no one will see his tears. The brook answers that for every love a new star appears and also beautiful roses that will never fade and die. The miller thanks the brook and looks forward to the cool rest in the depths and tells the brook to sing on.
20. *Des Baches Wiegenlied* - The brook sings a lullaby to the miller resting in the depths, telling him to rest in the brook's rocking waves. The brook becomes a sort of Mephistopheles managing the scene and commanding the Maid to go away and to throw a handkerchief in the waves to cover the Miller's eyes. Then the brook wishes him the eternal good night as the fog lifts and the moon appears and heaven is so far away.

The Poet's Epilogue

Die Schöne Müllerin is perhaps the oldest still performed song cycle and along with *Winterreise* is considered a pinnacle of the art form. Again Schubert immortalizes Wilhelm Müller and his poems taken from Müller's collection *Seventy-Seven Poems from the Posthumous Papers of a Travelling Horn Player*. Müller had written, "... my songs lead but half a life, a paper existence of black-and-white, until music breathes life into them" He died at 33, probably not knowing of Schubert's music. Schubert took the poems from the section entitled *The Fair Maid of the Mill* and made the piano become a sort of Greek Chorus commenting on the action as the drama progresses. Schubert has composed clanking mill wheels, dogs barking, horn calls, brooks babbling, strummed lutes and various other musical pictures to support the drama of the Miller and his fate. Wilhelm Müller has written a monodrama in which the Miller "talks" with the brook and the brook responds, one can say, not like a friend, but like a sly Mephisto calling the Miller to his death. Keys and recurring themes play an important role in the cycle; indeed, the final song sung by the brook after the Miller's death is a tritone higher than the beginning, symbolizing the great distance traveled in the course of the drama. Miller entitled the piece *The Fair Maid of the Mill (to be read in winter)* and tonight two of the uncomposed pieces will be read in a North Country winter; the *Prologue* and the *Epilogue*, both of which give an ironic distance to the tragedy of the Miller and his frustrated love.

Prologue and Epilogue translated by Donald George