

HKDSE Music – Listening (Form 4)
Week 10 – Romantic Music (Art Songs)

Art song (Germany: **Lied/Lieder**; French: **chanson/chansons**)

- a song intended to be appreciated as an artistic statement rather than as entertainment, featuring precisely notated music, usually through-composed, and requiring professional standards of performance
- Three common musical forms:
 - **strophic form**: a vocal form in which the same music is repeated for each stanza of a poem, consisting of two or more stanzas that are equivalent in form and can each be sung to the same melody
 - **through-composed form**: a vocal form in which new music is set to each stanza of a poem; each stanza or other unit of a poem is set to new music rather than in a strophic manner to the same melody
 - **modified strophic form**: a vocal form in which (1) two or more stanzas of poetry are set the same music while other stanzas have new music; or (2) the music for the first stanza is varied for later stanzas, or in which there is a change of key, rhythm, character, or material
- Sections within an art song:
 - **Piano Introduction / Prelude**: an opening section of a song before the singer comes in, played by the piano or orchestra; used to create a particular mood for the song (in relation to the poem)
 - **Interlude**: a transitional passage of a song sounding between successive sections; used to bridge different sections of the song, or to provide a smooth transition between contrasting stanzas
 - **Postlude**: a concluding section of a song that sums up its mood, played by the piano or orchestra; used to (1) complete the melody left open by the singer; (2) comment or reflect upon the meaning of the song; (3) evoke a sense of remembrance via recalling previous themes
 - **Stanza**: a paragraph of a poem; the sectional divisions of music usually follow the stanzas

Song cycle

- a set of songs grouped together that (1) reflect a similar theme or (2) convey a story or narrative
- the poems within a song cycle are often written by the same poet
- notable song cycles in the Romantic period:
 - Schubert: *Die schöne Müllerin* (1823), *Winterreise* (1827)
 - Schumann: *Dichterliebe* (1840), *Frauenliebe und Leben* (1840), *Liederkreis*, Opp. 24 and 39
 - Mahler: *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* (1884–5), *Kindertotenlieder* (1904)