

Franz Liszt (1811-1886) *Liebestraum No.3 in A flat major, S541*

*Liebestraum*, translated as "Dream of Love" is a set of three nocturnes composed by Franz Liszt based on different poems. The set of three piano works were composed and published in 1850 during his time in Weimar after he decided to give up his career as a travelling virtuoso. Another version of *Liebestraum* that was arranged for high voice and piano, was published in the same time. *Liebestraum* supported the relatively new idea of programme music due to the depiction to the poem. The most popular work among the set of three is the *Liebestraum No.3*. It was written by a German writer, Ferdinand Freiligrath. The poem is entitled *O Lieb, so lang du lieben kannst* which means "Oh Love, love as long you can". This poem is a description about a mature yet pure kind of love. The piece is split into three sections, each section is divided by a fast cadenza which acts like the musical fills. It is a piece with a lot of emotional expression. The piece starts off with A flat major. It is a simple and pretty beginning with lyrical melody accompanied by flowing arpeggiated notes. Then, it goes to a dreamy cadenza, which indicates of entering a dream of love. The section B becomes more animated and passionate to give the feeling of being about to burst and when it finally reaches the climax, it changes to a very agitated and aggressive mood, to suggest in a painful love. The second cadenza after the climax recounts that it was just a dream and the reality await him. Towards the end of the piece, it goes to a peaceful yet melancholic section C with the same melody taken from the opening bars. The whole piece has a lot of changes in mood that describes the loss of love in dream.