

Franz Schubert – Rosamunde (Abbado) [1991]

Written by bluesever

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01 Overture Die Zauberharfe, D.644 02 Entr'acte No. 1 03 Chorus Of Spirits: "In Der Tiefe Wohnt Das Licht" 04 Ballet Music No. 1 - Andante Un Poco Assai 05 Shepherd's Melody 06 Chorus Of Shepherds: "Hier Auf Den Fluren...." 07 Entr'acte No. 3 - Andantino 08 Romance: "Der Vollmond Strahlt Auf Bergeshöh'n" 09 Entr'acte No. 2 10 Chorus Of Huntsmen: "Wie Lebt Sich's So Fröhlich Im Grünen" 11 Ballet Music No. 2 Anne Sofie von Otter - mezzo-soprano Ernst-Senff-Chor The Chamber Orchestra of Europa Claudio Abbado - conductor

Abbado and the COE give joyful performances of this magical incidental music. It is a revelation to hear the most popular of the entr'actes played so gently: it is like a whispered meditation... Anne Sofie von Otter is an ideal soloist. ---The Penguin Guide

Schubert provided an overture and nine numbers for a play called Rosamunde, Queen of Cyprus by Wilhelmine von Chézy. It was a resounding flop, closing in two nights, but the music was well-received. Even so, Schubert did not take advantage of the evident high regard the audience had for it by extracting the music for concert purposes; that service was not performed until 1868, when Grove and Sullivan made their famous discovery of a treasury of forgotten Schubert scores (including the Unfinished Symphony) in Vienna. Schubert's nine numbers are: (1) Entr'acte in B minor; (2) Ballet in B; (3) Entr'acte No. 2 in D major and Romanza; (4) Spirit Chorus; (5) Entr'acte No. 3 in B flat major. (6) Shepherd's Melody; (7) Shepherds' Chorus; (8) Hunters' Chorus; and (9) Ballet No. 2 in G. Schubert re-used the tune of No. (5) in a later Impromptu and in his Quartet, D. 804. The score was composed at great speed and to some extent thrown together from other sources: the overture used (now commonly called the "Rosamunde" Overture) was originally written for an operetta called Die Zauberharfe. Another piece is also designated "Rosamunde" Overture for piano duet, but it was also composed

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earlier, for the operetta Alfonso und Estrella. Incidentally, Gerald Abraham speculates that the B minor Entr'acte is the missing final movement of the Unfinished Symphony in B minor. Scientific examination of the manuscripts themselves tends counter to this view. ---Joseph Stevenson, Rovi

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