

SCHUMANN
Dichterliebe - Liederkreis

Dichterliebe: "It would seem, on the face of it, inconsistent to make no objection to a woman singing Schubert's *Die Winterreise*, as Elena Gerhardt used to do so superbly, and to object to a woman singing Schumann's *Dichterliebe*, as Lotte Lehmann used beautifully to do. Suzanne Danco, like Lotte Lehmann, is far too good a singer and musician to fail in her task. Her tone is by nature bright and cool, her legato singing very fine, and she does bring tenderness into the tenth and twelfth songs, which are quite lovely. The pianist, Guido Agosti, is in the Gerald Moore class, than which there can be no higher praise, and his performance is a delight throughout."

Liederkreis: "She is at her best in the first song, *In der Fremde* (In a strange land), the cry of an orphaned girl who will lie beneath the rustling woods forgotten by everyone, and in the equally pathetic *Zwielicht* (Twilight), a song that betrays a lack of trust in mankind and concludes with advice to be on guard against the wounds life can inflict. Of the remaining songs, *Intermezzo*, *Schöne Fremde* (Strange and beautiful) and *Auf einer Burg* (On a castle), which has an astonishing cadence at the end of its first verse, are the most enjoyable. Guido Agosti, the excellent accompanist, is, as nearly always happens, recorded too distantly, but the disc, as a whole, will give much pleasure."

A.R., *The Gramophone*, March 1950 & April 1953 (excerpts)

Producer's note

The Belgian soprano Suzanne Danco (22 January 1911 – 10 August 2000) sang in and recorded a number of operas, but is perhaps better known and remembered for her concert recitals and song cycle recordings. Yet in her twenty-two studio engagements for Decca between 1947 and 1956 she made only two recordings of the music of Robert Schumann - the two song cycles presented here. In both instances the Italian pianist Guido Agosti (11 August 1901 – 2 June 1989) accompanied her, as he would do for the majority of her song recordings.

Once again I am grateful to collector Richard Morris for loaning the rare Decca 78s for the present transfer of *Dichterliebe* - its first appearance in the digital age. The recording apparently also appeared on a 10" LP, LX.3039, but I was unable to source a copy on vinyl. It is therefore unclear as to whether the vinyl issue was a 78rpm transfer or directly mastered from tape. The answer may in fact be somewhat academic as Decca's earliest LP pressings were not the best: I managed to find two copies of *Liederkreis* on 10" LP, one a near-mint British pressing on the US London label, the other a French pressing acquired from a Swiss collector. Despite the latter having acquired more clicks and crackles over the years, the former suffered considerably from surface swish baked into the vinyl, and proved decidedly inferior. Of the two it's the earlier which is perhaps the better recorded, with a more even balance between singer and piano and a very slightly better tone for the latter. Both managed to capture the clarity and purity of Suzanne Danco's voice very well indeed.

Andrew Rose

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM
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Suzanne Danco
sings
Schumann

DICHTERLIEBE, Op. 48

LIEDERKREIS, Op. 39

WITH
GUIDO AGOSTI
PIANO

Studio recordings, 1949 & 1952

SUZANNE DANCO *sings Schumann*

PRISTINE
AUDIO

PACO 116

XR remastering by Andrew Rose

Cover artwork based on a
photograph of Suzanne Danco

Special thanks to Richard Morris for
loaning the Dichterliebe discs

Dichterliebe

Recorded 26-28 April, 1949
West Hampstead Studios, London
Issued as Decca 78s AK.2310-12
Matrix Nos. AR 13428-33

Liederkreis

Recorded 9 April, 1952
Victoria Hall, Geneva
Issued as Decca LP LX 3107
Matrix Nos. SAR 637-42

Total duration: 51:32

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SCHUMANN Dichterliebe, Op. 48

1. Im wunderschönen Monat Mai (1:15)
2. Aus meinen Tränen sprießen (0:51)
3. Die Rose, die Lilie, die Taube, die Sonne (0:33)
4. Wenn ich in deine Augen seh (1:28)
5. Ich will meine Seele tauchen (0:50)
6. Im Rhein, im heiligen Strome (1:52)
7. Ich grolle nicht (1:43)
8. Und wüßten's die Blumen, die kleinen (1:10)
9. Das ist ein Flöten und Geigen (1:18)
10. Hör' ich das Liedchen klingen (1:56)
11. Ein Jüngling liebt ein Mädchen (0:59)
12. Am leuchtenden Sommermorgen (1:59)
13. Ich hab' im Traum geweinet (2:01)
14. Allnächtlich im Traume (1:33)
15. Aus alten Märchen winkt es (2:21)
16. Die alten, bösen Lieder (4:41)

SCHUMANN Liederkreis, Op. 39

1. In der Fremde (2:05)
2. Intermezzo (1:51)
3. Waldesgespräch (2:26)
4. Die Stille (1:26)
5. Mondnacht (3:30)
6. Schöne Fremde (1:20)
7. Auf einer Burg (2:44)
8. In der Fremde (1:54)
9. Wehmut (2:29)
10. Zwielficht (2:47)
11. Im Walde (1:16)
12. Frühlingsnacht (1:14)

Suzanne Danco *soprano*
Guido Agosti *piano*