

# Nachthelle ("Die Nacht ist heiter..."), for tenor, male voices & piano, D. 892 (Op. posth. 134)

AMG AllMusic Guide to Classical Music:

- Date: 1826 09
- Composer: [Franz Schubert](#)
- Period: Romantic (1820-1869)

## Review

During the month of September 1826, Schubert set two -- and possibly three -- poems by Johann Seidl for male chorus: Widerspruch (Contrariness) (D. 865), in which the poet fearfully turns his back on the vast vistas of infinity; Grab und Mond (D. 893), in which the poet tremblingly peers into the black abyss of eternity; and Nachthelle (Night Brightness) (D. 892), in which the poet is literally enlightened by the clear light of infinity and rather than averting his gaze embraces his epiphany. Although all three songs are wonderful each in their own way, Nachthelle may be the most truly full of wonder. Set not only for male chorus, but for a heroically high solo tenor whose voice seems to rise upwards into the heavens, Schubert's Nachthelle glows with spiritual exaltation. Against shimmering repeated chords high on the piano, the tenor and chorus exchange phrases as they harmonically ascend from earthbound C major into the cloudless night sky. Each phrase, each verse, each modulation takes the singers higher until the solo tenor breaks through to his high B flat, floating above the world in a vision of infinity that Schubert's music makes audible. Nachthelle is one of Schubert's very greatest choral songs. ~ James Leonard, Rovi

## Albums with Complete Performances of the Work

Title	Date
<a href="#">An 1826 Schubertiad</a>	1996
<a href="#">Chorus: Masterworks of choral music (18th-20th centuries)</a>	2005
<a href="#">Franz Peter Schubert: Schubertiade Nachtmusik</a>	2011
<a href="#">Franz Schubert Part-Songs</a>	1989
<a href="#">Franz Schubert: Der Lindenbaum</a>	1996
<a href="#">Franz Schubert: Gesang der Geister über den Wassern</a>	
<a href="#">Franz Schubert: The Complete Songs</a>	2005
<a href="#">Kein Schöner Land</a>	1987
<a href="#">Lieder &amp; Arias</a>	2001
<a href="#">Männerchöre: Songs by Schubert for Male Voice Choir</a>	
<a href="#">Night song</a>	1997
<a href="#">O Seligkeit!: Franz Schubert Partsongs</a>	2005
<a href="#">Schubert: Choral Music</a>	
<a href="#">Schubert: Choral Works</a>	1997
<a href="#">Schubert: Complete Part Songs for Male Voices Vol. 1</a>	
<a href="#">Schubert: Lieder</a>	2009
<a href="#">Schubert: Male Choruses</a>	2000
<a href="#">Schubert: Nachtgesang</a>	
<a href="#">Schubert: Part Songs For Equal Voices With And Without Piano Accompaniment</a>	
<a href="#">Schubert: Part Songs, Vol. 3</a>	2009
<a href="#">Schubert: Psalms and Partsongs</a>	1997
<a href="#">Schubert: Secular Vocal Works</a>	
<a href="#">Schubert: Songs for Male Chorus</a>	1994
<a href="#">Schubert: Ständchen - Works for Men's Voices</a>	2006
<a href="#">Schubert: The Collector's Edition [Box Set]</a>	2007
<a href="#">Schubert: The Complete Secular Choral Works</a>	2008
<a href="#">Schubert: Works for Choir and Piano</a>	1997
<a href="#">Schumann: Dichterliebe; Schubert: Songs</a>	2011
<a href="#">Still Wie Die Nacht</a>	
<a href="#">The Best of the King's Singers</a>	2008

Previous: [Nachtgruss \("In dem Himmel ruht die Erde"\), song for voice & piano](#)  
Next: [Nachthymne \("Hinüber wall' ich"\), song for voice & piano, D. 687](#)

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