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Franz Schubert: The Complete Songs

Graham Johnson

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Graham Johnson : Franz Schubert: The Complete Songs before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Franz Schubert: The Complete Songs:

28 of 30 people found the following review helpful. Long-awaited masterwork of musicology -- but what else would you expect from Graham Johnson?By James ConnellyIf you checked Gramophone's Hyperion Records adverts every month from 1988 to 2000 waiting for word of the next new CD in Graham Johnson's Complete Schubert Songs, then you've probably been waiting for this long-in-the-making study to be published -- perhaps even calling Yale University Press about it. One expected something along the lines of Johnson's study of French mlodie, that excellent one-volume book also published by Yale. But one little expected this three-volume encyclopedia that appeared today, 16 December. Even a few hours of leafing through it and spot-reading show what a marvel of musicology this is and how worth the wait it has been. Its c. 3000 pages and endless illustrations cover each song and Schubert's lyricists and

special topics like Schubert's piano, Schubert's letters and diaries, Ossian, etc., etc. The price is substantial, but it is cheap compared to the hours of pleasure Johnson promises. Our indebtedness to him continues to mount. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Comprehensive; expensive but worth every penny; essential By George Goldberg Comprehensive (obviously, at 3000 pages), learned, a scholar with, literally, hands-on experience (he is the accompanist on all 40 CDs of the Hyperion Schubert lieder set), Johnson's essays are at the very peak of Schubert learning. There is really nothing comparable to it in English. For singers, players, and serious music lovers, it is essential. One caveat, however: some of the essays are quite technical and assume a knowledge of at least basic music theory. Expensive but worth every penny. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. happy, time learning the answer By David Warren Just ask yourself any question about a Schubert Lied. Then spend a rewarding, happy, time learning the answer. Maybe not everyone would find it so compelling, but I can't express how useful [er, rewarding? er, entertaining?] this set has been for me.

This three-volume boxed set is the definitive work on Franz Schubert's vocal music with piano. A richly illustrated encyclopedia, these substantial volumes contain more than seven hundred song commentaries with parallel text and translations (by Richard Wigmore), detailed annotations on the songs' poetic sources, and biographies of one hundred and twenty poets, as well as general articles on accompaniment, tonality, transcriptions, singers, and more. Written by Graham Johnson, celebrated accompanist, author, and the first pianist ever to record all of Schubert's songs and part-songs, this sumptuous work is a must for performers, scholars, and all lovers of Schubert lieder.

Indispensable . . . very, very hard to put down. Matthew Gurewitsch, *The Wall Street Journal*