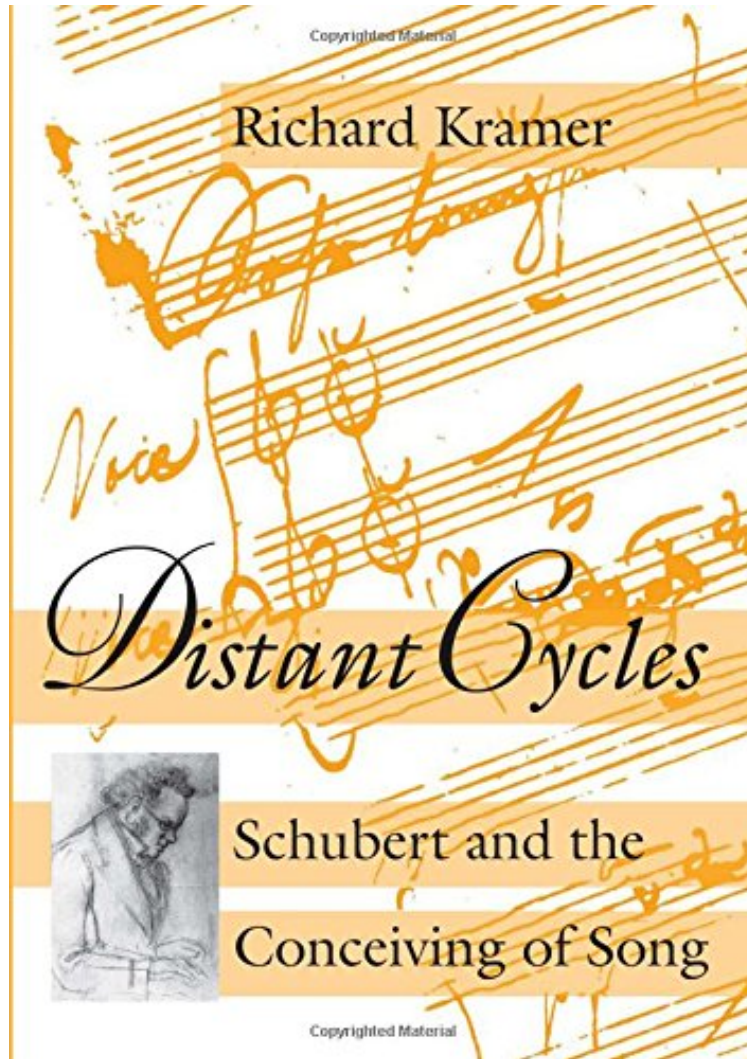


(Ebook pdf) Distant Cycles: Schubert and the Conceiving of Song (Anthropology)

Distant Cycles: Schubert and the Conceiving of Song (Anthropology)

Richard Kramer

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Richard Kramer : Distant Cycles: Schubert and the Conceiving of Song (Anthropology) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Distant Cycles: Schubert and the Conceiving of Song (Anthropology):

Franz Schubert's song cycles *Schöne Müllerin* and *Winterreise* are cornerstones of the genre. But as Richard Kramer argues in this book, Schubert envisioned many other songs as components of cyclical arrangements that were never

published as such. By carefully studying Schubert's original manuscripts, Kramer recovers some of these "distant cycles" and accounts for idiosyncrasies in the songs which other analyses have failed to explain. Returning the songs to their original keys, Kramer reveals linkages among songs which were often obscured as Schubert readied his compositions for publication. His analysis thus conveys even familiar songs in fresh contexts that will affect performance, interpretation, and criticism. After addressing problems of multiple settings and revisions, Kramer presents a series of briefs for the reconfiguring of sets of songs to poems by Goethe, Rellstab, and Heine. He deconstructs *Winterreise*, using its convoluted origins to illuminate its textual contradictions. Finally, Kramer scrutinizes settings from the *Abendrote* cycle (on poems by Friedrich Schlegel) for signs of cyclic process. Probing the farthest reaches of Schubert's engagement with the poetics of *lieder*, *Distant Cycles* exposes tensions between Schubert the composer and Schubert the merchant-entrepreneur.

From *School Library Journal* Closely argued, deeply insightful, and technically demanding, this scholarly study of musical design in Schubert songs is grounded in reexamination of autograph scores, recognition that Schubert's musical culture held aesthetic beliefs regarding characteristics of individual keys, and astute readings of poetic texts based upon contemporary literary theory. Kramer (music, SUNY-Stony Brook) challenges facile acceptance of key transpositions in Schubert and proposes that internal evidence in many songs reveals that Schubert actually composed more than two song cycles. His analysis of *Winterreise* reexamines patterns in that famous cycle. Kramer has argued his interpretation of this essential body of tonal music with colleagues over many years. Now all serious Schubert scholars can reap the benefits. For academic collections. Bonnie Jo Dopp, formerly with Dist. of Columbia P.L. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author Richard Kramer is distinguished professor emeritus of music at the CUNY Graduate Center. A fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, he is the author of the award-winning *Distant Cycles: Schubert and the Conceiving of Song*, also published by the University of Chicago Press, and *Unfinished Music*.