

SONGS OF FAREWELL

R. Schumann

Gedichte der Königen Maria Stuart opus 135 (10')

Der Sennens abschied opus 79 (3')

Nachtlied opus 96 (3'30)

Requiem opus 90 (4')

Total 10'30

F. Schubert

Abschied D475 (5'30)

Der Tod und das mädchen (2'30)

Total 8'

Max Reger

Traum durch die Dämmerung (2')

Britten

Since she whom I loved (3'30)

Crumb

The night in silence (3'30)

When lilacs last in the dooryard bloomed (1'25)

Come lovely and soothing death (7'40)

Total 12'35

Poulenc

Voyage (3'10)

Fleur (2'45)

Debussy

Soupir (3'10)

Faure

Les berceaux (3'00)

Errollyn Wallen

On the mountain

The lake

Rain

(10')

Photo © Phil Sharp

RUBY HUGHES, SOPRANO
JULIUS DRAKE, PIANO



INTRODUCTION

Following the critical success of her most recent recording for the BIS label titled *Amidst the Shades*, soprano **Ruby Hughes** collaborates with duo partner **Julius Drake** in a powerful recital program ***Songs of Farewell***.

The songs in this program explore parting, loss, and transformation: sometimes mournful, sometimes joyful, radiant and seductive.

With a long and celebrated partnership that includes performances at **Carnegie Hall, Concertgebouw, Wigmore Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall** and **the Louvre**, Hughes and Drake have chosen some of their most beloved songs in the song repertoire to share with audiences.

Songs of Farewell offers an inspired juxtaposition of repertoire across time and language. Masterworks by **Schubert** and **Schumann** are placed alongside 20th and 21st century songs by **Faure, Debussy, Britten, Ives** and **George Crumb**, and some breathtaking songs by composer and Master of the Kings music **Errollyn Wallen**.

Highlights include Crumb's hypnotic *Come Lovely and Soothing Death*, Britten's poignant *Since she whom I loved* and a world of poetic introspection from Schumann's *Nachtlied* to Wallen's song *Rain*.

This is a program which hopefully resonates with today's audiences: it's a meditation on what it means to say goodbye; to people, to places, to eras, and how song can hold all the complexity of those emotions.

Songs of Farewell is an ideal program for a recital series and for festivals.

Availability: 2026 season and beyond.

Format: Recital (75–90 mins), with optional spoken introductions. A shorter lunchtime version is also available upon request.

Languages: English, German, French.

Artist links:



[Britten | wonder as I wander](#)



[Debussy | Chanson de Bilitis](#)



[Ruby Hughes with Julius Drake: website audio files](#)

REVIEWS

“Ruby Hughes is increasingly proving to be a key singer of the 21st Century”

Klassik Music Magazine

“Hughes rises to the challenge with bombproof technical strength and control, plenty of firepower where needed, and a thrilling instinct for capturing the persona of this fearsome anti-heroine... They and Hughes also explore the rapturous soundworld of Mahler’s Rückert-Lieder with mesmerising poise and finesse: I’ve never heard the opening line of ‘Ich atmet’ sung more beautifully..”

Malcolm Hayes, 5* Record of the Month, BBC Music Magazine

“Hughes’s clean timbre and perfect intonation give the Rückert Lieder a new dimension ... she finds the romantic naiveties in them, suggesting the poignant tragedy of innocence ... The climax of ‘Um Mitternacht’ brought a lump to my throat.”

Rupert Christiansen, The Telegraph

“...it’s Hughes’s performance that carries the whole enterprise: vivid, powerful and superbly committed, bringing a real complexity and vulnerability to the character. She’s impressive in the couplings, too... in a sharply etched account of Mahler’s Rückert Lieder (with an especially fine ‘Um Mitternacht’) and a focused, uncompromising account of Berg’s Altenberg Lieder.”

Hugo Shirley, Editor’s choice, Gramophone Magazine

“Hughes’s big, vibrato-free sound was ideally matched ... and in Schumann’s ‘Liederkreis’ Hughes and her excellent accompanist Julius Drake brought this composer’s doom-laden world to passionate life.”

Michael Church, The Independent

“In all these, the peerless Drake brought out the wit and elegance of the piano writing, with such characterisation and dramatic detail as to complete a vivid aural picture.”

The Guardian

“The piano felt like a whole orchestra, descriptive and evocative; Drake’s magisterial command of tonal inflections allowing him to invest Schubert’s transitions from minor to major mode and major to minor with acute emotional point.”

Rian Evans, 5* The Guardian

“The pianist Julius Drake, a collaborator gifted with sensitive phrasing and insight.”

Joshua Barone, The New York Times

RUBY HUGHES & JULIUS DRAKE

