

Séminaire du GREAM

Misha - Salle Europe

Vendredi 8 mars 2019

9h30 - 11h00

Lorraine Byrne Bodley
(Maynooth University)

*Ars et Amicitia: The Aesthetics of
Friendship in Schubert's Circle*



Whereas the cult of friendship and the aesthetic discourse of Schubert's circle have each separately received a fair amount of scholarly attention, a more thorough examination of the aesthetics of friendship on the formation of Schubert's works is needed. Schubert's compositions and correspondence offer insight into the intimate connections between friendship and the aesthetics of the period, not only due to the extent to which such discourses resonate in his musical output, but also because of how uniquely he regards musical activity itself as friendship. This lecture will reexamine Schubert's relationship with his best friend, Franz Schober, and engage in close readings of a wide variety of his vocal and instrumental works – his songs, part songs and works for piano four hands, a medium which Alfred Einstein noted is 'symbolic of friendship'. Through this we will not only come to a greater understanding of the extent to which the discourses of friendship and aesthetics intersect with and fundamentally affect one another with particular intensity in Schubert's musical practice and production, but also a greater understanding of his aspirations for achieving artistic greatness. We will also discover, moreover, that friendship emerges as Schubert's preferred mode for conceptualizing and shaping the complex relations between a composer, his work of art, and his ideal audience.

Lorraine Byrne Bodley is Professor of Musicology at Maynooth University. She has published 15 books and is currently writing a new biography of Schubert (Yale Univeristy Press). Recent awards include a DMUS in Musicology, a higher doctorate on published work (2012); DAAD and Gerda-Henkel Foundation Scholarships (2014) and she was Principal Investigator of an IRC National Project on Public Musicology (2016). In 2015 she was elected President of the Society for Musicology in Ireland and Member of The Royal Irish Academy.