

WIGMORE HALL

Monday 17 January 2022 1.00pm

Journeys: Longing and Leaving

Sandrine Piau soprano

David Kadouch piano



This concert is being broadcast on BBC Radio 3

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Mignon (Kennst du das Land) D321 (1815)

From *Gesänge aus Wilhelm Meister* D877 (1826)

Heiss mich nicht reden • Nur wer die Sehnsucht kennt

Clara Schumann (1819-1896)

Er ist gekommen Op. 12 No. 1 (1841)

Sie liebten sich beide Op. 13 No. 2 (1842)

Lorelei (1843)

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

Kennst du das Land from *Lieder und Gesänge aus Wilhelm Meister* Op. 98a (1849)

Henri Duparc (1848-1933)

La vie antérieure (1884)

L'invitation au voyage (1870)

Lili Boulanger (1893-1918)

From *Clairières dans le ciel* (1913-14)

Si tout ceci n'est qu'un pauvre rêve • Je garde une médaille d'elle •

Vous m'avez regardé avec toute votre âme

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Les soirs illuminés par l'ardeur du charbon (1917)

From *5 poèmes de Baudelaire* (1890)

Le jet d'eau • Recueillement • La mort des amants

Welcome back to Wigmore Hall

We are grateful to our Friends and donors for their generosity as we rebuild a full series of concerts in 2021/22 and reinforce our efforts to reach audiences everywhere through our broadcasts. To help us present inspirational concerts and support our community of artists, please make a donation by visiting our website: Wigmore-hall.org.uk/donate. Every gift is making a difference. Thank you.

Wigmore Hall is a no smoking venue. No recording or photographic equipment may be taken into the auditorium nor used in any other part of the Hall without the prior written permission of the management.

In accordance with the requirements of City of Westminster persons shall not be permitted to stand or sit in any of the gangways intersecting the seating, or to sit in any other gangways. If standing is permitted in the gangways at the sides and rear of the seating, it shall be limited to the number indicated in the notices exhibited in those positions. Disabled Access and Facilities - full details from 020 7935 2141.

Wigmore Hall is equipped with a 'Loop' to help hearing aid users receive clear sound without background noise. Patrons can use this facility by switching hearing aids to T.



Please ensure that watch alarms, mobile phones and any other electrical devices which can become audible are switched off. Phones on a vibrate setting can still be heard, please switch off.

The Wigmore Hall Trust Registered Charity No. 1024838
36 Wigmore Street, London W1U 2BP • Wigmore-hall.org.uk • John Gilhooly Director

Wigmore Hall Royal Patron HRH The Duke of Kent, KG

Honorary Patrons Aubrey Adams OBE; André and Rosalie Hoffmann; Louise Kaye; Kohn Foundation; Mr and Mrs Paul Morgan



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Longing and leaving are, alas, endemic to the human condition. From the vast repertory of songs about beloved lands and people longed-for and lost, tonight's performers have fashioned an exquisite programme.

We really must begin with the character who embodies *Sehnsucht*, or longing, above all others: the mysterious adolescent waif Mignon in Goethe's novel *Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre* (1795–6). Here, the title character's growth to maturity is moulded by those he encounters on his journeys, including Mignon, the child by incest of the Harper, born Augustin Cipriani, and his sister Sperata; kidnapped when young, she is rescued from life in a circus troupe by Wilhelm. In 'Kennst du das Land', she yearns for her lost Italian homeland. In Schubert's 1815 setting, 'a gentle wind' wafts in one of this composer's magical changes of key shortly after the beginning and the refrain, with her excited calls to go '*Dahin, dahin!*' ('There, there!') with Wilhelm, is an excited flurry of musical motion. For 'Nur wer die Sehnsucht kennt', we hear Schubert's sixth and final version, a re-working of an earlier song, 'Ins stille Land' D403. A beautifully-shaped melody of lamentation is varied in mid-song by emotional upheaval registered in powerful harmonies. The vow of which Mignon sings in 'Heiss mich nicht reden' was made to the Virgin Mary: she would, she swore, never tell her story and would live and die in expectation of divine intervention. Schubert sets these grave words to the dactylic rhythms that often tell of cosmic matters in his songs, while the last page is a blaze of proto-Wagnerian harmonies. In the Goethe centenary year 1849, Robert Schumann also set 'Kennst du das Land', in the wake of his discovery of Wagner's music. Here, Mignon's passion is both Wagner-inflected and filled with familiar Schumann hallmarks.

If only Clara Schumann hadn't persuaded herself that women were not meant to compose! Her scant repertory of song is extraordinary (and unlike her husband's): would we had more of it. Clara's setting of the Orientalist Friedrich Rückert's 'Er ist gekommen' is a journey from wild abandon and questioning whether 'his heart is mine, my heart is his' to radiant surety. Whatever paths he takes, he is hers. 'Sie liebten sich beide' is a miniature tale in which the Romantic Muse and post-Romantic poet love one another passionately, refuse to admit it, and are condemned to soul-death and separation. Clara's economical setting is broken into fragments, with funereal chanting at the words 'They died so long ago'. What follows this condensed lament is one of the most ferocious and magnificent songs of the century: 'Lorelei'. For this mythical woman who sits on a rocky promontory by the Rhine at St Goar and lures sailors to their death, Clara devised music that almost bursts the bounds of song.

Charles Baudelaire made of his tortured existence - addiction to laudanum, syphilis, fraught family affairs, erotic complications - pure poetic gold. The sonnet *La vie antérieure* is the poet's attempt

to escape from the horrors of modern life to an imaginary exotic island - but it ends with the darkness of unnamed grief. In this, his last song, *Henri Duparc* tracks every twist-and-turn of the poem; farewells to music seldom come more gorgeous than this anticipated departure from life itself. And Duparc would be immortal if he had composed nothing other than 'L'invitation au voyage'. Here, the poet seduces the beloved with his vision of a realm of perfect beauty, steeped in calm and bathed in a Watteau-like amber glow of sensuality. Over an elemental-hollow low bass (the ocean bed of this song), watery harmonies shift and change.

Lili Boulanger, sister of Nadia Boulanger, studied composition with Gabriel Fauré (among others) but died at age 24 of intestinal tuberculosis. *Clairières dans le ciel*, on poems by Francis Jammes, is the most important work completed during her Prix de Rome year in 1914. Her death-haunted music is darkly intense: 'Si tout ceci n'est qu'un pauvre rêve' begins with what seems like a 20th-century Frenchified version of the utmost yearning at the start of *Tristan und Isolde* - yet again, Wagner. In 'Vous m'avez regardé avec toute votre âme', we hear the sort of measured harmonic trills one also finds in Debussy, with the pianist alternating back and forth between two chords or two different voicings of the same chord. And yet, Boulanger is no copyist aping her elders but has her own voice.

In the 1880s, Debussy himself was under Richard Wagner's spell, but he soon began searching for a personal style *beyond* Wagner. 'I am finding it very difficult to avoid the ghost of old Klingsor alias Richard Wagner, at the turning of a measure,' he wrote to Ernest Chausson. The *5 Poems of Baudelaire* are among those transitional works which blend Wagnerian traces with Debussy's own voice.

Les soirs illuminés par l'ardeur du charbon, with its epigraph from Baudelaire's *Le Balcon* (which Debussy included in the *5 Poems*) is this composer's last work for solo piano; born of gratitude to his coal merchant in the bitter cold of March 1917, these two pages are a miniature lexicon of Debussyan fingerprints: the different spatial registers, the parallel thirds and chords, and more. In 'Le jet d'eau', the beauty and melancholy of desire are symbolized by a fountain, its waters leaping upwards and then descending in a dying cascade. 'Recueillement' is a dialogue-poem between the poet and his Sorrow, both salved by the approach of night. Debussy is too subtle to quote Wagner openly, but this song begins as a 'fascinated doodling round the Tristan-chord', according to Robin Holloway. From the final section of *Les fleurs du mal*, the singer of 'La mort des amants' envisions an exquisite death, culminating in the vision of an afterlife where all that was tarnished on earth will be reborn in consummate beauty.

Journeys: Longing and Leaving

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Mignon (Kennst du das Land) D321 (1815)

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Kennst du das Land, wo die Zitronen blühn,
Im dunkeln Laub die Goldorangen glühn,
Ein sanfter Wind vom blauen Himmel weht,
Die Myrte still und hoch der Lorbeer steht,
Kennst du es wohl?
Dahin! Dahin
Möcht ich mit dir, o mein Geliebter, ziehn.

Kennst du das Haus? Auf Säulen ruht sein Dach,
Es glänzt der Saal, es schimmert das Gemach,
Und Marmorbilder stehn und sehn mich an:
Was hat man dir, du armes Kind, getan?
Kennst du es wohl?
Dahin! Dahin
Möcht ich mit dir, o mein Beschützer, ziehn.

Kennst du den Berg und seinen Wolkensteg?
Das Maultier sucht im Nebel seinen Weg;
In Höhlen wohnt der Drachen alte Brut;
Es stürzt der Fels und über ihn die Flut,
Kennst du ihn wohl?
Dahin! Dahin
Geht unser Weg! o Vater, lass uns ziehn!

Mignon (Do you know the land)

Do you know the land where lemons blossom,
where oranges grow golden among dark leaves,
a gentle wind drifts across blue skies,
the myrtle stands silent, the laurel tall,
do you know it?
It's there, it's there
I long to go with you, my love.

Do you know the house?
Columns support its roof,
its hall gleams, its apartment shimmers,
and marble statues stand and stare at me:
what have they done to you, poor child?
Do you know it?
It's there, it's there
I long to go with you, my protector.

Do you know the mountain and its cloudy path?
The mule seeks its way through the mist,
in caverns dwell the dragons' ancient brood,
the cliff falls sheer, the torrent over it,
do you know it?
It's there, it's there
our pathway lies! O father, let us go!

Denn mein Geheimnis ist mir Pflicht;
Ich möchte dir mein ganzes Innre zeigen,
Allein das Schicksal will es nicht.

Zur rechten Zeit vertreibt der Sonne Lauf
Die finstre Nacht, und sie muss sich erhellen;
Der harte Fels schliesst seinen Busen auf,
Missgönnt der Erde nicht die tiefverborgnen Quellen.

Ein jeder sucht im Arm des Freundes Ruh,
Dort kann die Brust in Klagen sich ergiessen;
Allein ein Schwur drückt mir die Lippen zu,
Und nur ein Gott vermag sie aufzuschliessen.

Nur wer die Sehnsucht kennt

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Nur wer die Sehnsucht kennt Weiss, was ich leide!
Allein und abgetrennt Von aller Freude,
Seh' ich an's Firmament Nach jener Seite.
Ach! der mich liebt und kennt Ist in der Weite.
Es schwindelt mir, es brennt Mein Eingeweide.
Nur wer die Sehnsucht kennt Weiss, was ich leide!

for I am bound to secrecy;
I should love to bare you my soul,
but Fate has willed it otherwise.

At the appointed time the sun dispels
the dark, and night must turn to day;
the hard rock opens up its bosom,
does not begrudge earth its deeply hidden springs.

All humans seek peace in the arms of a friend,
there the heart can pour out its sorrow;
but my lips, alas, are sealed by a vow,
and only a god can open them.

Only those who know longing

Only those who know longing know what I suffer!
Alone and cut off from every joy,
I search the sky in that direction.
Ah! he who loves and knows me is far away.
My head reels, my body blazes,
Only those who know longing know what I suffer!

Clara Schumann (1819-1896)

Er ist gekommen Op. 12 No. 1 (1841)

Friedrich Rückert

Er ist gekommen
In Sturm und Regen,
Ihm schlug beklommen
Mein Herz entgegen.
Wie konnt ich ahnen,
Dass seine Bahnen
Sich einen sollten meinen Wegen?

He came in storm and rain,
my anxious heart beat against his.
How could I have known that his path should unite itself with mine?

From Gesänge aus Wilhelm Meister D877 (1826)

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Heiss mich nicht reden

Bid me not speak

Heiss mich nicht reden, heiss mich schweigen,

Bid me not speak, bid me be silent,

Er ist gekommen
In Sturm und Regen,
Er hat genommen
Mein Herz verwegen.
Nahm er das meine?
Nahm ich das seine?
Die beiden kamen sich entgegen.

Er ist gekommen
In Sturm und Regen.
Nun ist gekommen
Des Frühlings Segen.
Der Freund zieht weiter,
Ich seh es heiter,
Denn er bleibt mein auf allen
Wegen.

Sie liebten sich beide Op. 13 No. 2 (1842)

Heinrich Heine

Sie liebten sich beide, doch
keiner
Wollt' es dem andern gestehn;
Sie sahen sich an so
feindlich,
Und wollten vor Liebe vergehn.

Sie trennten sich endlich und
sah'n sich
Nur noch zuweilen im Traum;
Sie waren längst gestorben
Und wussten es selber kaum.

Lorelei (1843)

Heinrich Heine

Ich weiss nicht, was soll es
bedeuten,
Dass ich so traurig bin;
Ein Märchen aus alten Zeiten,
Das kommt mir nicht aus dem Sinn.

Die Luft is kühl und es dunkelt,
Und ruhig fliesst der Rhein;
Der Gipfel des Berges funkelt
Im Abendsonnenschein.

Die schönste Jungfrau sitzet
Dort oben wunderbar,
Ihr goldnes Geschmeide blitzet,
Sie kämmt ihr goldenes Haar.

He came
in storm and rain,
audaciously
he took my heart.
Did he take mine?
Did I take his?
Both drew near to each other.

He came
in storm and rain.
Now spring's blessing
has come.
My friend journeys on,
I watch with good cheer,
for he shall be mine wherever
he goes.

They loved one another

They loved one another, but
neither
wished to tell the other;
they gave each other such
hostile looks,
yet nearly died of love.

In the end they parted and
saw
each other but rarely in dreams.
They died so long ago
and hardly knew it themselves.

The Loreley

I do not know what it
means
that I should feel so sad;
there is a tale from olden times
I cannot get out of my mind.

The air is cool, and twilight falls,
and the Rhine flows quietly by;
the summit of the mountain glitters
in the evening sun.

The fairest maiden is sitting
in wondrous beauty up there,
her golden jewels are sparkling,
she combs her golden hair.

Sie kämmt es mit goldenem
Kamme
Und singt ein Lied dabei;
Das hat eine wundersame,
Gewaltige Melodei.

Den Schiffer im kleinen Schiffe
Ergreift es mit wildem Weh;
Er schaut nicht die Felsenriffe,
Er schaut nur hinauf in die Höh'.

Ich glaube, die Wellen verschlingen
Am Ende Schiffer und Kahn;
Und das hat mit ihrem Singen
Die Lorelei getan.

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

Kennst du das Land from *Lieder und Gesänge aus Wilhelm Meister* Op. 98a

(1849)

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Kennst du das Land, wo die
Zitronen blühn,
Im dunkeln Laub die
Goldorangen glühn,
Ein sanfter Wind vom blauen
Himmel weht,
Die Myrte still und hoch der
Lorbeer steht,
Kennst du es wohl?
Dahin! Dahin
Möcht ich mit dir, o mein
Geliebter, ziehn.

Kennst du das Haus? Auf
Säulen ruht sein Dach,
Es glänzt der Saal, es
schimmert das Gemach,
Und Marmorbilder stehn und
sehn mich an:
Was hat man dir, du armes Kind,
getan?
Kennst du es wohl?
Dahin! Dahin
Möcht ich mit dir, o mein
Beschützer, ziehn.

Kennst du den Berg und seinen
Wolkensteg?
Das Maultier sucht im Nebel
seinen Weg;

She combs it with a golden
comb
and sings a song the while;
it has an awe-inspiring,
powerful melody.

It seizes the boatman in his skiff
with wildly aching pain;
he does not see the rocky reefs,
he only looks up to the heights.

I think at last the waves swallow
the boatman and his boat
and that, with her singing,
the Loreley has done.

Do you know the land?

*Lieder und Gesänge aus
Wilhelm Meister* Op. 98a

(1849)

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Do you know the land where
lemons blossom,
where oranges grow golden
among dark leaves,
a gentle wind drifts across blue
skies
the myrtle stands silent, the
laurel tall,
do you know it?
It's there, it's there
I long to go with you,
my love.

Do you know the house?
Columns support its roof,
its hall gleams, its apartment
shimmers,
and marble statues stand and
stare at me:
what have they done to you,
poor child?
Do you know it?
It's there, it's there
I long to go with you, my
protector.

Do you know the mountain and
its cloudy path?
The mule seeks its way through
the mist,

In Höhlen wohnt der Drachen alte Brut; Es stürzt der Fels und über ihn die Flut, Kennst du ihn wohl? Dahin! Dahin Geht unser Weg! o Vater, lass uns ziehn!	in caverns dwell the dragons' ancient brood; the cliff falls sheer, the torrent over it, do you know it? It's there, it's there our pathway lies! O father, let us go!	Au pays qui te ressemble! Les soleils mouillés De ces ciels brouillés Pour mon esprit ont les charmes Si mystérieux De tes traîtres yeux, Brillant à travers leurs larmes.	in the land that is like you! The watery suns of those hazy skies hold for my spirit the same mysterious charms as your treacherous eyes shining through their tears.
Henri Duparc (1848-1933)			
La vie antérieure (1884)	A previous life		
Charles Baudelaire			
J'ai longtemps habité sous de vastes portiques Que les soleils marins teignaient de mille feux, Et que leurs grands piliers, droits et majestueux, Rendaient pareils, le soir, aux grottes basaltiques.	For long I lived beneath vast colonnades tinged with a thousand fires by ocean suns, whose giant pillars, straight and majestic, made them look, at evening, like basalt caves.	Vois sur ces canaux Dormir ces vaisseaux Dont l'humeur est vagabonde; C'est pour assouvir Ton moindre désir Qu'ils viennent du bout du monde. – Les soleils couchants Revêtent les champs, Les canaux, la ville entière, D'hyacinthe et d'or; Le monde s'endort Dans une chaude lumière.	See on those canals those vessels sleeping, vessels with a restless soul; to satisfy your slightest desire they come from the ends of the earth. The setting suns clothe the fields, canals and all the town with hyacinth and gold; the world falls asleep in a warm light.
Les houles, en roulant les images des cieux, Mêlaient d'une façon solennelle et mystique Les tout-puissants accords de leur riche musique Aux couleurs du couchant reflété par mes yeux.	The sea-swells, mingling the mirrored skies, solemnly and mystically interwove the mighty chords of their mellow music with the colours of sunset reflected in my eyes.	Là, tout n'est qu'ordre et beauté, Luxe, calme et volupté.	There – nothing but order and beauty dwell, abundance, calm and sensuous delight.
C'est là que j'ai vécu dans les voluptés calmes, Au milieu de l'azur, des vagues, des splendeurs Et des esclaves nus, tout imprégnés d'odeurs,	It is there that I have lived in sensuous repose, with blue sky about me and brightness and waves and naked slaves all drenched in perfume,		
Qui me rafraîchissaient le front avec des palmes, Et dont l'unique soin était d'approfondir Le secret dououreux qui me faisait languir.	Who fanned my brow with fronds of palm, and whose only care was to fathom the secret grief which made me languish.	Si tout ceci n'est qu'un pauvre rêve	If all this is but a poor dream
L'invitation au voyage (1870)	Invitation to journey	Si tout ceci n'est qu'un pauvre rêve, et s'il faut Que j'ajoute, dans ma vie, une fois encore, La désillusion aux désillusions; Et, si je dois encore, par ma sombre folie, Chercher dans la douceur du vent et de la pluie Les seules vaines voix qui m'aient en passion: Je ne sais si je guérirai, ô mon amie...	If all this is but a poor dream, and if I must, once more in my life, add disillusion to disillusion; and, if I must once more, in my dark distraction, seek in the sweetness of the wind and rain the only voices - unreal ones - that adore me: I do not know, my friend, if I shall recover...
Charles Baudelaire			
Mon enfant, ma sœur, Songe à la douceur D'aller là-bas vivre ensemble! Aimer à loisir, Aimer et mourir	My child, my sister, think how sweet to journey there and live together! To love as we please, to love and die		

Je garde une médaille d'elle	I keep a medallion of her	Ainsi ton âme qu'incendie L'éclair brûlant des voluptés S'élance, rapide et hardie, Vers les vastes cieux enchantés. Puis, elle s'épanche, mourante, En un flot de triste langueur, Qui par une invisible pente Descend jusqu'au fond de mon coeur.	And so your soul, lit by the searing flash of ecstasy, leaps swift and bold to vast enchanted skies. And then, dying, spills over in a wave of sad listlessness, down some invisible incline into the depths of my heart.
Je garde une médaille d'elle où sont gravés Une date et les mots: prier, croire, espérer. Mai mois, je vois surtout que la médaille est sombre: Son argent a noirci sur son col de colombe.	I keep a medallion of her, engraved with a date and the words: pray, believe, hope. But above all I see the medallion lacks lustre: the silver has darkened on her dove-like neck.		
Vous m'avez regardé avec toute votre âme	You gazed at me with all your soul	La gerbe d'eau qui berce Ses mille fleurs, Que la lune traverse De ses pâleurs, Tombe comme une averse De larges pleurs.	The sheaf of water swaying its thousand flowers, through which the moon gleams with its pallid light, falls like a shower of great tears.
Vous m'avez regardé avec toute votre âme. Vous m'avez regardé longtemps comme un ciel bleu. J'ai mis votre regard à l'ombre de mes yeux ... Que ce regard était passionné et calme ...	You gazed at me with all your soul. You gazed at me long like a blue sky. I set your gaze in the shade of my eyes... How this gaze was passionate and calm...	O toi, que la nuit rend si belle, Qu'il m'est doux, penché vers tes seins, D'écouter la plainte éternelle Qui sanglote dans les bassins! Lune, eau sonore, nuit bénie, Arbres qui frissonnez autour, Votre pure mélancolie Est le miroir de mon amour.	O you, whom night renders so beautiful, how sweet, as I lean toward your breasts, to listen to the eternal lament sobbing in the fountain's basin! O moon, lapping water, blessed night, trees that quiver all around, your sheer melancholy is the mirror of my love.
Claude Debussy (1862-1918)	Les soirs illuminés par l'ardeur du charbon (1917)	La gerbe d'eau qui berce Ses mille fleurs, Que la lune traverse De ses pâleurs, Tombe comme une averse De larges pleurs.	The sheaf of water swaying its thousand flowers, through which the moon gleams with its pallid light, falls like a shower of great tears.
From 5 poèmes de Baudelaire (1890) Charles Baudelaire	Le jet d'eau	The fountain	Recueillement
Tes beaux yeux sont las, pauvre amante! Reste longtemps, sans les rouvrir, Dans cette pose nonchalante Où t'a surprise le plaisir. Dans la cour le jet d'eau qui jase Et ne se tait ni nuit ni jour, Entretient doucement l'extase Où ce soir m'a plongé l'amour.	Your beautiful eyes are fatigued, poor lover! Rest awhile, without opening them anew, in this careless pose, where pleasure surprised you. The babbling fountain in the courtyard, never silent night or day, sweetly prolongs the ecstasy where love this evening plunged me.	Sois sage, ô ma Douleur, et tiens-toi plus tranquille. Tu réclamas le Soir ; il descend ; le voici : Une atmosphère obscure enveloppe la ville, Aux uns portant la paix, aux autres le souci.	Meditation Be good, O my Sorrow, and keep more calm. You longed for Evening; it is falling; now: A dusky atmosphere enfolds the town, Bringing peace to some, to others care.
La gerbe d'eau qui berce Ses mille fleurs, Que la lune traverse De ses pâleurs, Tombe comme une averse De larges pleurs.	The sheaf of water swaying its thousand flowers, through which the moon gleams with its pallid light, falls like a shower of great tears.	Pendant que des mortels la multitude vile, Sous le fouet du Plaisir, ce bourreau sans merci, Va cueillir des remords dans la fête servile, Ma Douleur, donne-moi la main ; viens par ici,	While the vile multitude of mortals, Lashed by Pleasure, that pitiless tormentor, Goes gathering remorse in abject revels, Give me your hand, my Sorrow; come this way.

Loin d'eux. Vois se pencher
les défuntes Années,
Sur les balcons du ciel,
en robes surannées ;
Surgir du fond des eaux
le Regret souriant ;

Far from them. See
the departed Years leaning,
In outmoded dress,
from the heavens' balustrades;
See smiling Regret
well up from the water's depths;

Le Soleil moribond
s'endormir sous une arche,
Et, comme un long linceul
traînant à l'Orient,
Entends, ma chère, entendis
la douce Nuit qui marche.

The dying sun fall asleep
beneath an arch,
And like a long shroud
trailing in the East,
Listen, my love, listen
to the tread of gentle Night.

La mort des amants

Nous aurons des lits pleins
d'odeurs légères,
Des divans profonds comme des
tombeaux,
Et d'étranges fleurs sur des
étagères,
Écloses pour nous sous des
cieux plus beaux.

We shall have beds drenched in
light scents,
divans as deep as
tombs,
and displays of exotic
flowers
that bloomed for us beneath
fairer skies.

Usant à l'envi leurs chaleurs
dernières,
Nos deux coeurs seront deux
vastes flambeaux,
Qui réfléchiront leurs doubles
lumières
Dans nos deux esprits, ces
miroirs jumeaux.

Outdoing even their most recent
passions
our two hearts will be two
mighty torches,
reflecting their twin
lights
in our two twin-mirrored
souls.

Un soir fait de rose et de bleu
mystique,
Nous échangerons un éclair
unique,
Comme un long sanglot tout
chargé d'adieux ;

On an evening of pink and
mystic blue,
we shall exchange a single
radiant glance,
like a long sob laden with
farewells;

Et plus tard un Ange,
entr'ouvrant les portes,
Viendra ranimer, fidèle et
joyeux,
Les miroirs ternis et les
flammes mortes.

And later an Angel, pushing the
portals ajar,
will come, faithful and joyous, to
revive
the tarnished mirrors and
lifeless flames.