Shaping the Community through Song – Ideology in the Song Collections of Johann Friedrich Reichardt

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(Via Skype)

Abstract: In the second half of the 18th century German musicians began to direct their interest towards the newly emerging middle class. Here they found an audience seeking to validate its social status through the acquisition of cultural capital and hence with an interest in music. Musicians began to produce collections of songs and chamber music for this audience, as well as journals and magazines with musical content. In addition to cultural capital the music also provided the middle class with a cultural identity. This was particularly pertinent given that the German territories at the time were fragmented into countless disparate pieces. With their music the musicians helped create a community and provided an emotional expression for that community.

One musician with a keen interest in this audience was the Prussian court Kapellmeister Johann Friedrich Reichardt (1752-1814). This seminar will focus on how Reichardt, with song collections such as Wiegenlieder für gute deutsche Mütter and Lieder für die Jugend, not only provided his middle class audience with a cultural identity, but also actively sought to shape it.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Audience participation via Skype is also welcome.