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A Winter's Journey

British tenor Ian Bostridge is in Rome to perform a soulful recital of romantic German Lieder and 20th-century English Art Song.

Tiffany Parks has the details.

It's not every day that classical music lovers get the chance to have one of the greatest tenors alive all to themselves for a dramatic evening of Art Song. British tenor **Ian Bostridge** is not only an acclaimed star on the international opera scene, but also in the world of German Lieder. Bostridge will perform a solo recital at Teatro Argentina on 27 March, accompanied by pianist Julius Drake, with whom he has collaborated for over a decade. The exciting program opens with the rarely performed First Version of Schubert's song cycle, *Winterreise*, one of the pieces which garnered him international attention at the beginning of his career in the early '90s. The name of this glorious song cycle, one of the most celebrated works of German Lieder ever composed, translates to "Winter Journey." It tells the

story of unrequited love, set against the backdrop of a cold, barren winter landscape. The songs, which together create the equivalent of a melodic soliloquy, have been compared to an opera for their dramatic depth and scope for storytelling. The text comes from a group of poems by Wilhelm Müller narrated by a spurned lover in the course of his solitary travels through the countryside during the darkest part of the year, a bleak winter journey that is a metaphor for the poet's emotional journey. The program continues its wintery theme with Benjamin Britten's *Winter Words*, a cycle of eight songs set to poems by Thomas Hardy and composed in 1953. The evening concludes with Charles Ives' *Memories*, another deeply contemplative 20th-century work (p54).

Laugh out Loud

Take a break from the art and ruins for a night of hilarious entertainment. **Rome's Comedy Club** is a homegrown stand-up group founded by Italo-American and Cincinnati native Marsha De Salvatore. All routines are performed in English by both expats and locals. 28 March. 11pm (doors 8:45pm). Skené Club. Via Francesco Carletti, 5. Tel 065755561. €15 (show plus drink) or €35 (show plus full dinner).

