

Missing in Reaction

I look through the compact discs
for some music by Alma Schindler,
but there is none, nor
any under the name
of Alma Mahler—though
there are symphonies
and songs by Gustav.

Before they married, you see,
he made her promise that after
she would never try to fulfill
her promise as a young composer.
His wife must have no career
save to make her husband comfortable.
He will create the music
in the family, thank you very much.

So she wrote
not one note more
during the next sixty years—
including five decades
that she survived
after Gustav's death.

I have no way of knowing, however,
as I browse today,
that Alma's music is what I crave—
to restore the rhyme my life is missing.
And so I'll keep on searching.

Steve Bloom
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