

◆ RICHARD THOMAS MURRAY ◆

Franz Schuberts

The identity crisis of a friend
who will remain anonymous
took a comical turn
when he searched for a therapist
who shared his name.
Explained it best himself
with a studied expression:
*We'll reduce multiple personalities
to a forged signature
on a declaration of mental health.*

Another Richard Murray might've laughed,
but that's not me.
I recognized my friend
was in double trouble
so I also refrained
from repeating this story
about Franz Schubert of Vienna:
His ballad rejected by a publisher,
The King of the Fairies
(now deemed a classic),
was mailed by mistake
to Franz Schubert of Dresden,
a big-name songwriter
few today associate with his name
because his music is largely forgotten;
the same Franz Schubert
who fired that manuscript
back to the sender
with a sour note
for good measure:
*I would never put my name
to such wretched stuff,*
to quote Franz Schubert on Franz Schubert.