



## Schiller and Kant on Freedom

Isaiah Berlin Online aims to post, in the fullness of time, PDFs of all Berlin's uncollected and unpublished work, including lectures, interviews and broadcasts, so that it is conveniently readable and searchable online. The present PDF is part of this series.

The PDF is posted by the Isaiah Berlin Legacy Fellow at Wolfson College, with the support of the Trustees of the Isaiah Berlin Literary Trust.

All enquiries, including those concerning rights, should be directed to the Legacy Fellow at [berlin@wolfson.ox.ac.uk](mailto:berlin@wolfson.ox.ac.uk)

## Schiller and Kant on Freedom

Foreword to R. D. Miller, *Schiller and the Ideal of Freedom: A Study of Schiller's Philosophical Works with Chapters on Kant* (Oxford, 1970: Clarendon Press),

v



*Portrait of Schiller by Ludovike Simanowicz (1794)*

THE FACT that Schiller was one of the most gifted of Kant's disciples, and indeed perhaps the most philosophically talented of all the German poets, has often been asserted, but the claim has seldom been made good by biographers and commentators. The central Kantian doctrine, which most deeply affected Schiller and indeed dominated his imagination, was that of personal and political liberty. Mr Miller seems to me to have written what is far the clearest, most accurate and intelligent account of the intellectual relationship between Kant and Schiller in their treatment of this problem to be found in any language. His book has been unjustly neglected, since most critics and professors of literature are not

## SCHILLER AND KANT ON FREEDOM

interested in philosophy, and most philosophers (at any rate in English-speaking countries) are not interested in German poetry. Mr Miller's book is, in my opinion, an exceptionally illuminating contribution to this still living and central philosophical and human issue.

© Isaiah Berlin 1970

**Posted in Isaiah Berlin Online 19 January 2023**