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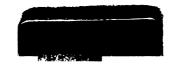
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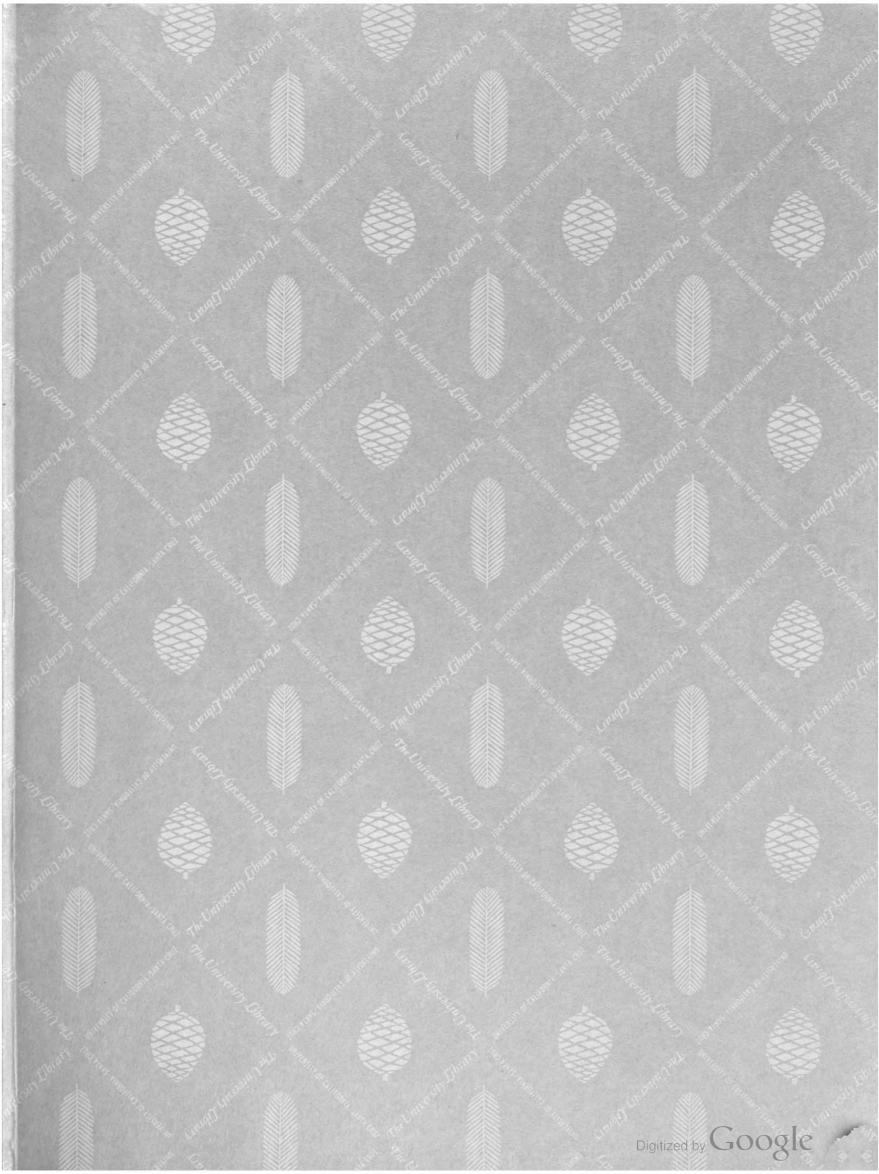
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FORTY SONGS BY JOHANNES BRAHMS

EDITED BY

JAMES HUNEKER

FOR HIGH VOICE



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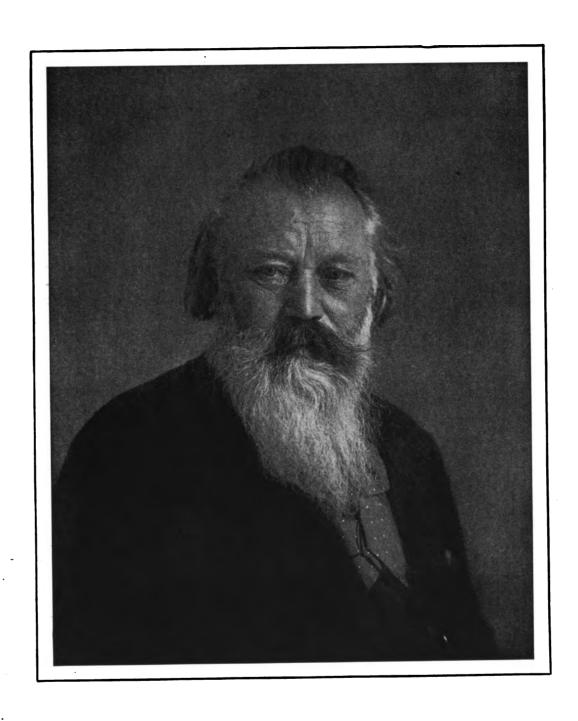
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J. Mahms.

JOHANNES BRAHMS



HE composer Johannés Brahms was born at Hamburg, May 7, 1833. He died at Vienna, April 3, 1897. And as Louis Ehlert wrote: "It is characteristic of his nature that he was born in a Northern seaport and his father a contrabassist. Sea air and basses, these are the ground elements of his music. Nowhere is there to be found a Southern luxuriance, amid which golden fruits smile upon every bough, nor the superabundance that spreads its fragrant breath over hill and dale. Nor may there be met that enervating self-absorption, renunciation of effort or Southern brooding submission to fate. . . . Brahms neither dazzles nor does he conquer by assault. Slowly but surely he wins all those hearts that demand from art not only excitement but also that it be filled with sacred fire and endowed with the lovely proportions of the beautiful."

We shall see presently that if Brahms is often austere and self-contained in his instrumental music, he is the reverse in his songs. It was a primal error in criticism to range Brahms among the classicists. He is a romantic by nature; even his formal edifices, built as they are on Bach and Beethoven, depart widely from traditional outlines. A Brahms symphony is no more like a Schumann than a Beethoven symphony; it stands alone in its severe magnificence of mass and color. Ehlert wittily remarks: "We receive the impression that he feels with his head and thinks with his heart."

If the life of Chopin resolved itself into one overshadowing romance, if Tchaïkovsky's career was an enigma to his friends, what may be said of the uneventful record of Brahms's long years of industry? Truly his days were spent in labor, in the unremitting toil Art demands from her votaries, and truly his works are the foundations of his fame. No man devoted himself so

absolutely to his art. It was a consecration. Like Beethoven, Brahms was a bachelor. We catch no glimpses of love disappointments, no tragic partings, no profound griefs except one—the filial regrets over the loss of his mother which culminated in that true temple of manly restrained sorrow and hope, the German Requiem. His father was a double-bass player in the Hamburg City Theatre and gave the boy Johannes his first instruction. Later Marxsen took him in hand, drilling him soundly in theory and piano playing. At fourteen he made his first public appearance, playing his own variations on a folk-song. In 1853 he went on a professional tour with Remenyi. He was then twenty, but so accomplished a musician that he transposed at sight the piano part of Beethoven's Kreutzer Sonata from A to B flat, the piano being a semitone below pitch.

His piano performances are said to have been brilliant and solid, and not without charm. He wrote for the instrument like a master. We may easily credit the astounding stories told of his memory displayed in the Bach and Beethoven scores. In 1853 Brahms met Joseph Joachim, the Hungarian violin virtuoso, and a lifelong friendship began. Joachim gave the youthful genius, whose powerful head and mobile mask predestined for him a great future, a letter to Robert Schumann. At Düsseldorf that same year he played to Schumann his Opus 1, the C major piano sonata which so impressed the elder composer that he wrote the historic criticism New Paths, and in a day Brahms became famous. No adulation, public or critical, could disturb the rhythms of the man's ambitions. He had determined to be Beethoven's successor in the domain of the symphony, and to that goal he marched without haste, without rest. He became conductor of Prince of Lippe-Detmold's orchestra. From 1858 to 1862 he remained in

Hamburg sedulously studying, and then went to Vienna, where he conducted the Singakademie until 1864. During the following five years Brahms lived in Hamburg, Zurich and Baden-Baden, making concert tours with Julius Stockhausen, the Lieder singer. He returned to Vienna in 1869, where, until 1874, he directed the orchestral concerts of the "Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde." Again he left Vienna, residing near Heidelberg. In 1878 he made Vienna his permanent home, not leaving it except on concert tours or for occasional trips to Italy.

Brahms won wealth, honors and content. His life was a simple one; its emotional experiences may be guessed in his music. His was not the impassioned, dramatic temperament of a Richard Wagner, against whom he was unfortunately pitted by such critical admirers as Eduard Hanslick. Homely in his tastes, hating notoriety, he led the existence of a prosperous bourgeois. He had a few intimate friends, and heartily disliked being "lionized." This trait possibly led him to decline the honor of a degree from Cambridge University in 1877. Rather unsocial and timid, he could come out of his shell and be caustically witty when he so desired. He usually spent his summers at Ischl, where he enjoyed chambermusic in his house. The record given us by his contemporaries proves Johannes Brahms to have been a great and a warm-hearted man.

H

It is not rashly premature to assign a place among the immortals to Brahms. Coming after the last of the belated romanticists, untouched by the fever of the theatre, a realist with imagination, both a classicist and a romanticist, he led music back into its proper channels by showing that a phenomenal sense of form and a mastery of polyphony, second only to Bach, are not incompatible with the faculty of uttering old things in a new way. Brahms is not a reactionary any more than is Richard Wagner. Neither of these men found what he looked for in modern music, so one harked back to Gluck and the Greeks, the other to Bach and Beethoven. Consider the massiveness of Brahms's tonal architecture; consider those structures erected after years of toil; regard the man's enormous fertility of ideas and his enormous patience in developing them; consider the ease with which he moves, shackled by the most difficult forms—not assumed for the mere sake of the difficulty, but because it was the only form in which he could successfully express himself; consider his leavening genius, his active geniality—a geniality that militates against pedantry, scholastic dryness and the arithmetic music of the Kapellmeister; consider also the powerful brain of this composer, and then realize that all great works of art are the arduous victories of

great minds over great imaginations. Brahms ever consciously schooled his imagination.

He was his own severest critic. He worked slowly, he produced slowly, and, born contemplative rather than dramatic, he incurred the reproach of being phlegmatic, Teutonic, heavy and thick. There is enough sediment in his collected works to give the color of truth to this allegation; but from the richness and cloudiness of the ferment is drawn off the finest wine; and how fine, how incomparably stimulating, is a draught of this wine after the thin, acid, frothing and bubbling stuff concocted at every season's musical vintage! Brahms is a living reproach to the haste of a superficial generation. Whatever he wrought, he wrought in bronze and for time and not for the hour. He restored to music its formal beauty; he is the greatest symphonist in the constructive sense since Beethoven. He did not fill the symphony with as romantic a content as Schumann, but he never defaced or distorted its flowing contours. Above all, his themes are symphonic. Not a colorist like Berlioz or Liszt, he is one of the greatest masters of pure orchestral line that ever lived. He is accused of not scoring happily. The accusation is not untrue. Brahms does not display the same gracious sense of voicing the needs and capabilities of the orchestral army as Berlioz, Dvořák and Richard Strauss. His instrumentation is often drab and opaque; but his nobility of utterance, his remarkable eloquence and ingenuity in treatment, allied with the feeling for the appropriate hue, render one forgetful that he was not a painter of tones. He was first the thinker, and wrote as if to him the garb were naught, the pure form, all.

Brahms is the first composer since Beethoven to sound the note of the sublime in his orchestra. He has been called austere for this. He compassed sublimity at times; and to this is allied a rather forbidding quality, a want of commonplace sympathy, a lack of personal profile that made his music disliked by critic, amateur and professional. He never rendered any concession to popularity; indeed he often and perversely went out of his way to displease. The cheap, facile triumph he despised; he saw all Europe covered with second-rate men in music, and he noted that they pleased; their only excuse for living was to give cheap pleasure. This libertinism in art was abhorred by Brahms, for the naturally serious bent of his mind superinduced a species of puritanism. It is a sign of his great culture and flexible mental operations that he studied and admired Wagner.

When the printed list of Brahms's achievements in song, symphony and choral works of vast proportions is studied, amazement is evoked at the fertility and versatility of the man. It is not alone that he wrote four symphonies of surpassing power, two piano concertos, a violin concerto, a double concerto for violin and violoncello, songs, piano pieces, great set compositions like the Song of Destiny, Rinaldo and the German Requiem, duos, trios, quartets, quintets, sextets, all manners of combinations for wood, wind, strings, voices; it is really the sum total of high excellence, the stern unvielding adherence to ideals sometimes almost frostily inhuman, in a word, the logical, consistent and philosophical trend of the man's mind that forces homage. For half a century he pursued the beautiful in its most elusive and difficult form; pursued it when the fashions of the hour, day and year mocked at

such undeviating devotion, when form was called old-fashioned, sobriety voted dull, and footlight passion had invaded music's realm and menaced it in its very stronghold—the symphony.

In a complete life of Johannes Brahms this trait of fidelity, this marvellous spiritual obstinacy, should be lovingly set forth. Because Brahms refused to challenge current tendencies in art and literature, it was believed that he held himself aloof from humanity, was a Brahmin of art, not a bard chanting its full-blooded wants and woes with full throat. Nothing could be wider of the mark. His music throbs with humanity, with its richest blood. He is the greatest contrapuntist after Bach, the greatest architectonist after Beethoven; yet in his songs he is nearly as naïve, as manly, as tender as Robert Burns. His topmost peaks are tremendously remote and glitter and gleam in a rarefied atmosphere; yet how intimate, how full of charm, of graciousness, are his lyrics!

Brahms's workmanship is well-nigh impeccable, his technical mastery of material as great as Beethoven's and only outstripped by Bach's. His contribution to the technics of rhythm is rich, and he has literally popularized the harmonic crossrelations, rediscovered the arpeggio and elevated it from the lowly position of an accompanying figure to an integer of the melodic phrase. He rescued the chord of the sixth from its Bellini and Verdi servitude, as did Wagner the essential turn. The sharp transitions in modulation, the sharpening of minor chords and sixths, the playing of common time against triple and the use of tonalities and rhythms vague, indeterminate and almost misleading are all truly Brahmsian, and enhance the structural values and beauty of his music. He is a wonderful variationist and has the gift of catching and imprisoning moods we call spiritual. Sobriety, earnestness, an intensity that is like the blow of a steam-hammer and a rich informing fantasy are his, a virile spirit and, as Ehlert says, his "art undoubtedly rests upon the golden background of Bach's purity and concentration."

THE LITTLE SANDMAN

(SANDMÄNNCHEN)

(Published in 1858)







FAITHFUL LOVE (LIEBESTREU)

(Published in 1854)

(Original Key)

ROBERT REINICK
Translated by Arthur Westbrook

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 3, Nº 1











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To Albert Dietrich

TRUE LOVE

(TREUE LIEBE)

(Published in 1854)

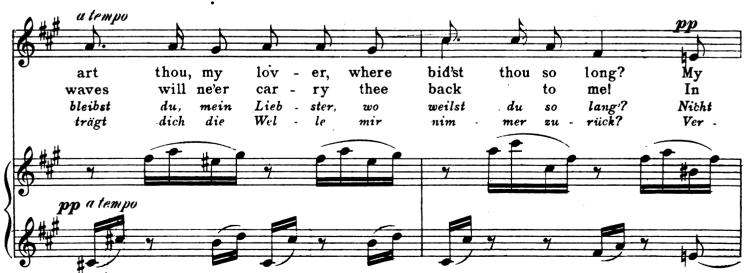
(Original Key)

FERRAND Translated by Arthur Westbrook

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 7, Nº 1







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THE HUNTSMAN

(PAROLE)

(Published in 1854)

(Original Key)

JOSEPH von EICHENDORFF (1788-1857)

Translated by Arthur Westbrook

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 7, Nº 2



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MY MOTHER LOVES ME NOT

(DIE TRAUERNDE)



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A MAIDEN ROSE AT EARLY DAWN

(VOM VERWUNDETEN KNABEN)

(Published in 1861)

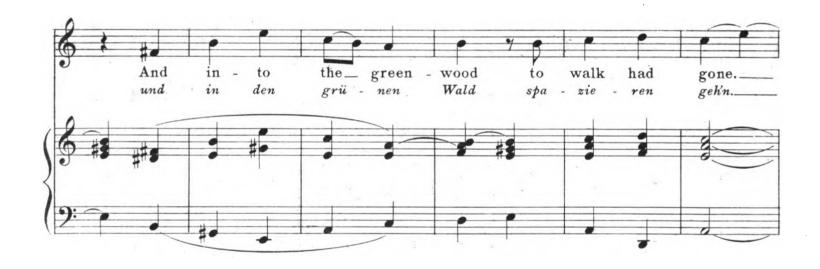
(Original Key)

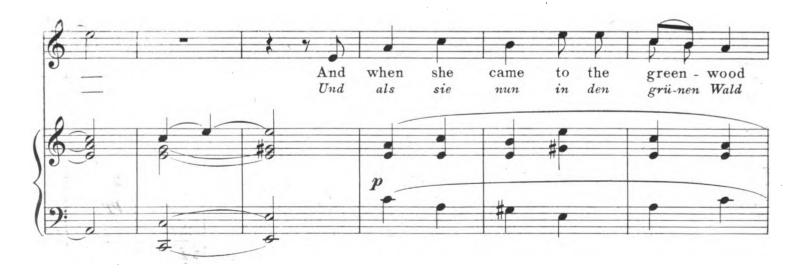
GERMAN FOLKSONG

Translated by Frederic Field Bullard

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 14, Nº 2







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EDUARD MÖRIKE (1804-1875)

TO AN AEOLIAN HARP

(AN EINE AEOLSHARFE)

(Published in 1862)









ML-259-6











MY QUEEN (WIE BIST DU MEINE KÖNIGIN)

(Composed in 1864)

Original Key,





ML-80-4





To Julius Stockhausen SLUMBER - SONG (RUHE, SÜSSLIEBCHEN)

from the Magelone Cyclus

(Published in 1868)

(Original Key)

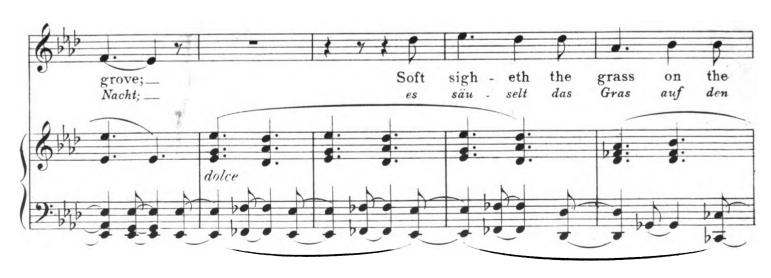
JOHANN LUDWIG TIECK (1778-1853)

Translated by John S. Dwight

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 88, Nº 9







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LOVE IS FOR EVER

(VON EWIGER LIEBE)

(Published in 1868)

(Original Key, B)

JOS. WENTZIG

Translated by R.H.Benson and Arthur Westbrook

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 43, Nº 1





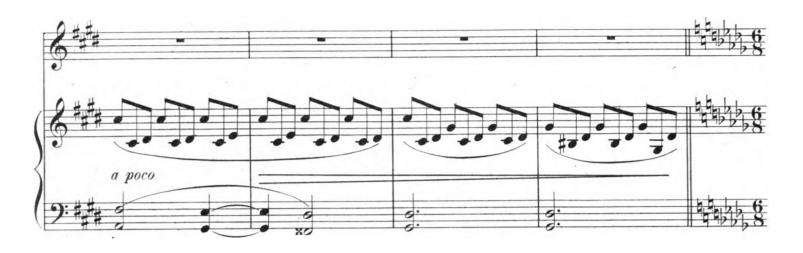


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THAT NIGHT IN MAY (DIE MAINACHT)

(Published in 1868)

(Original Key, Eb)

LUDWIG H.C. HÖLTY (1748-1776) Translated by Frederic Field Bullard JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 43, Nº 2









TO THE NIGHTINGALE (AN DIE NACHTIGALL)

(Published in 1868)

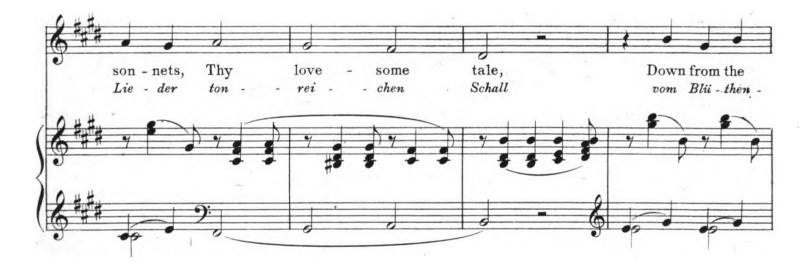
(Original Key)

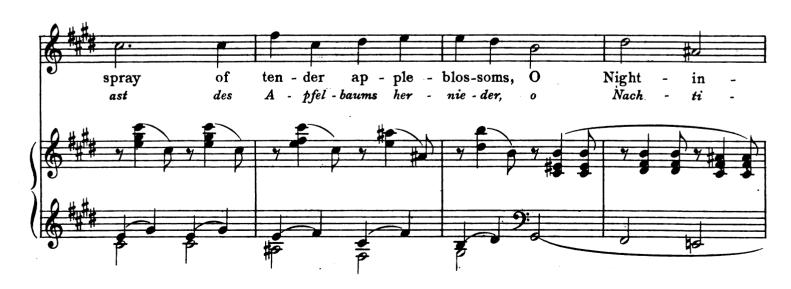
H. von HÖLTY (1828-1887)

Translated by Frederic Field Bullard

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 46, Nº 4







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THE WATCHFUL LOVER

(DER GANG ZUM LIEBCHEN)

(Published in 1868)









TOAVIOLET

(AN EIN VEILCHEN)
(Published in 1868)

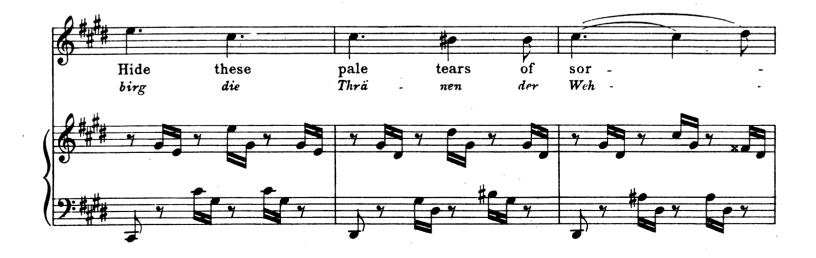
(Original Key)

H.von HÖLTY (1828-1887)
Translated by Arthur Westbrook

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 49, Nº 2







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CRADLE SONG

(WIEGENLIED)

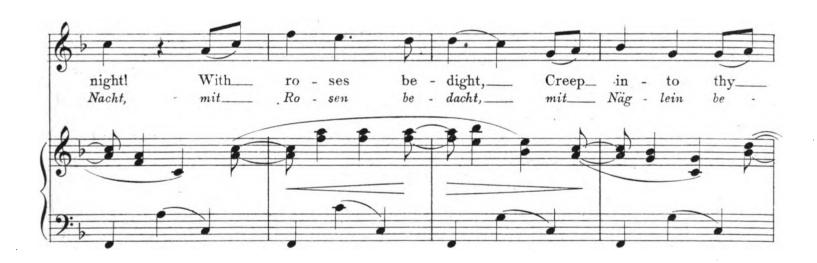
(Published in 1868)

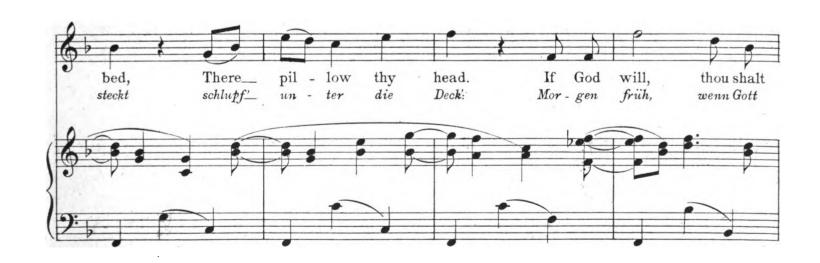
(Original Key, Eb)

KARL SIMROCK (1802 - 1876)
Translated by Arthur Westbrook

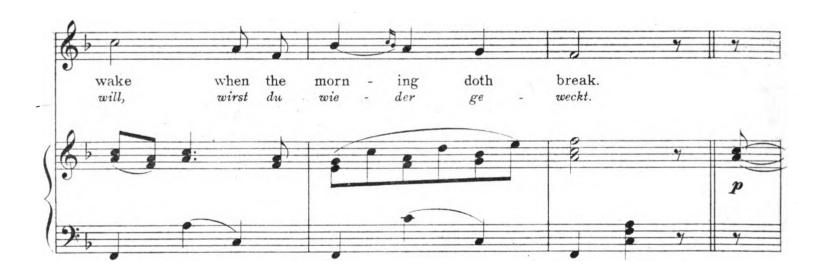
JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 49, Nº 4



















ML-266-3

REMEMBRANCE (ERINNERUNG)

(Published in 1874)

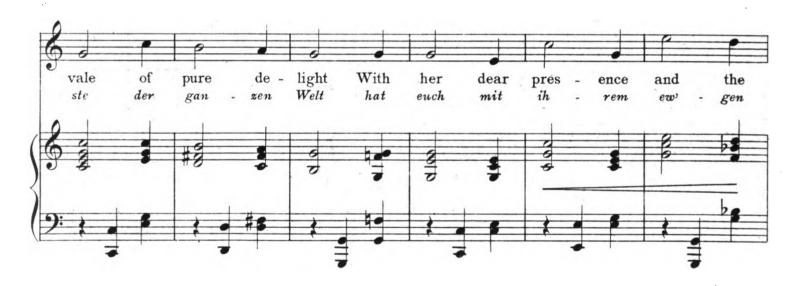
(Original Key)

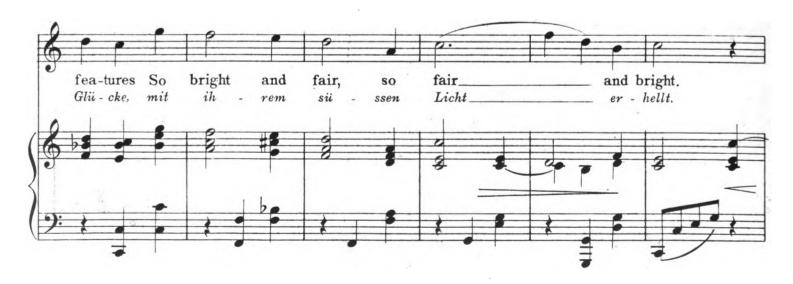
MAX von SCHENKENDORF (1783-1817)

Translated by Frederic Field Bullard

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 6







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MY HEART IS IN BLOOM

(MEINE LIEBE IST GRÜN)

(Published in 1874)

(Original Key)

FERD. SCHUMANN

Translated by Frederic Field Bullard

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 63, NO 5









To B.F. in Vienna

CRADLE SONG

(WIEGENLIED)

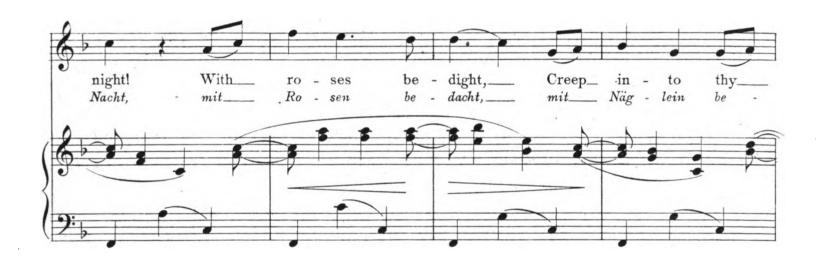
(Published in 1868)

(Original Key, Eb)

KARL SIMROCK (1802 - 1876)
Translated by Arthur Westbrook

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 49, Nº 4











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ML-266-8

REMEMBRANCE

(ERINNERUNG)

(Published in 1874)

(Original Key)

MAX von SCHENKENDORF (1788-1817)

Translated by Frederic Field Bullard

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op.63, Nº 2















MY HEART IS IN BLOOM

(MEINE LIEBE IST GRÜN)

(Published in 1874)

(Original Key)

FERD. SCHUMANN

Translated by Frederic Field Bullard

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 63, Nº 5







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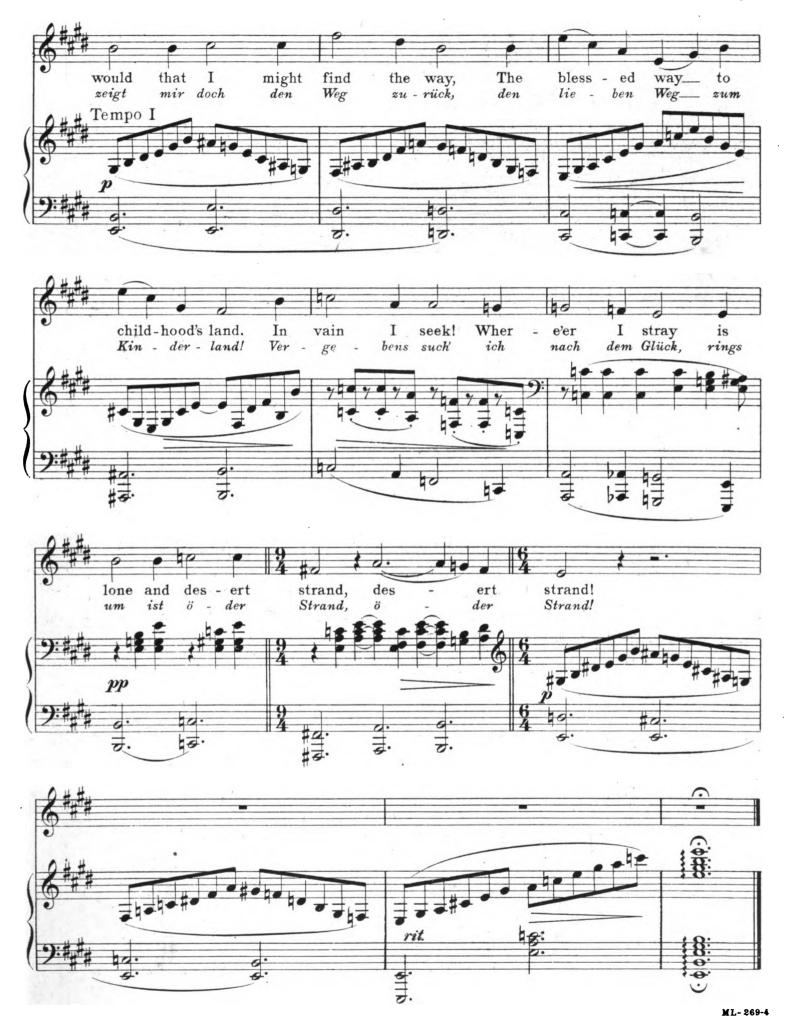
OH, THAT I MIGHT RETRACE THE WAY (O WÜSST' ICH DOCH DEN WEG ZURÜCK)

(Published in 1874)

KLAUS GROTH (1819-1899) (Original Key) JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 63, Nº 8 Rather slowly (Etwas langsam) VOICE PIANO Oh, way, that might trace The the re wiisst' ichdoch den Weg zu - riick, den hap child - hood's land! far from home why way. A Kin - der - land! sucht rumdid I stray, And leave my moth - er's hand, my er's moth dem Glück liess Hand, und ML-269 Cliver Ditson Company







SONG OF THE SKYLARK

(LERCHENGESANG)

(Published in 1877)

(Original Key)

KARL CANDIDUS

Translated by Natalia Macfarren

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 70, Nº 2



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LOVE SONG

(MINNELIED)

(Composed in 1877)

(Original Key)

N. HÖLTY (1828-1887)
Translated by Arthur Westbrook

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op.71, Nº 5



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SONG OF THE SKYLARK

(LERCHENGESANG)

(Published in 1877)

(Original Key)

KARL CANDIDUS
Translated by Natalia Macfarren

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 70, Nº 2



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LOVE SONG

(MINNELIED)

(Composed in 1877)

(Original Key)

N. HÖLTY (1828-1887)
Translated by Arthur Westbrook

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 71, Nº 5



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THE QUIET WOOD (O KÜHLER WALD)

(Published in 1877)

(Original Key, Ab)

CL. BRENTANO (1778-1842)
Translated by Frederic Field Bullard

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 72, Nº 3









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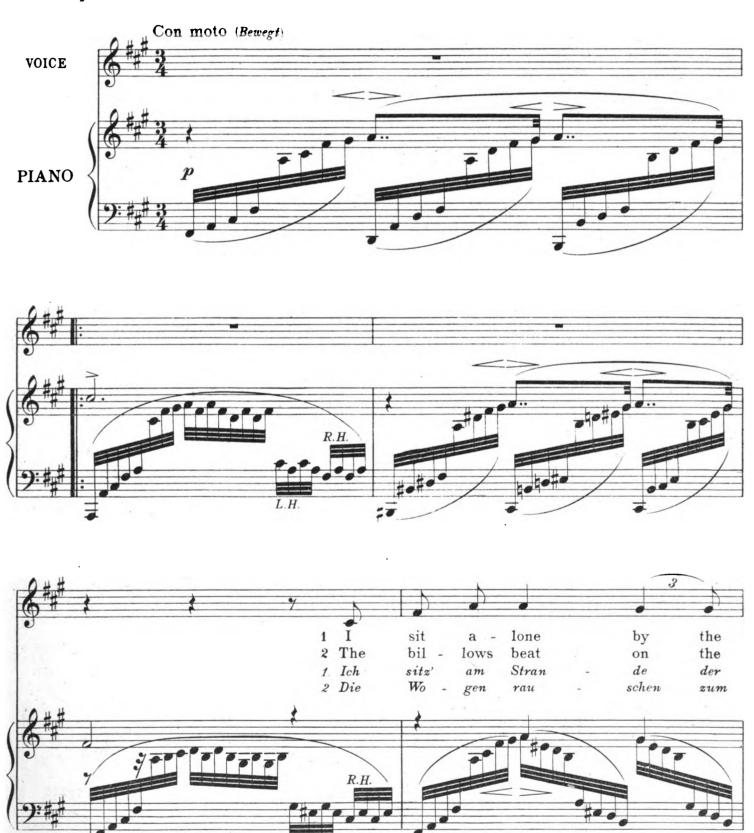
LAMENT (VERZAGEN)

(Published in 1877)

(Original Key)

KARL LEMCKE
Translated by Frederic Field Bullard

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 72, Nº 4



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L.H.

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THE DISAPPOINTED SERENADER

(VERGEBLICHES STÄNDCHEN)

(Publishel in 1882)

(Original Key)

Lower Rhine Folksong
Translated by Frederic Field Bullard

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 84, Nº 4



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IN LONELY WOOD (IN WALDESEINSAMKEIT)

(Published in 1882)

(Original Key)

KARL LEMCKE
Translated by Arthur Westbrook

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 85, Nº 6







IN SUMMER FIELDS (FELDEINSAMKEIT)

(Published in 1882)

HERMANN ALMERS

Translated by Paul England (Verse 1) and Frederic Field Bullard (Verse II)

(Original Key, F)

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op.86, Nº2







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ARISE, BELOVED VISION (STEIG' AUF, GELIEBTER SCHATTEN)

(Published in 1884)
(Original Key)



JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 94, Nº 2







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SAPPHIC ODE

(SAPPHISCHE ODE)

(Published in 1884)



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MY EVERY THOUGHT IS WITH THEE, LOVE (BEI DIR SIND MEINE GEDANKEN)

(Published in 1884)

(Original Key)

FRIEDRICH HALM
Translated by Frederic Field Bullard

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 95, Nº 2







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MAIDEN'S SONG (MÄDCHENLIED)

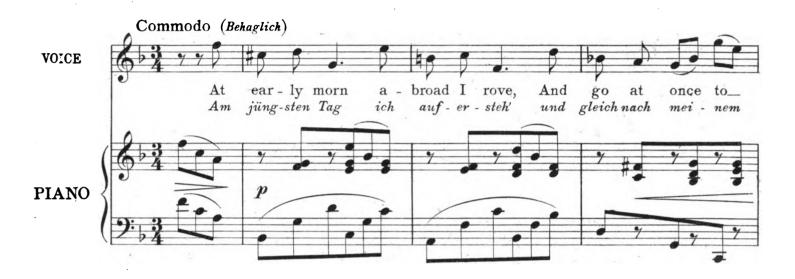
(Published in 1884)

PAUL HEYSE (1830 -)
(after the Italian)

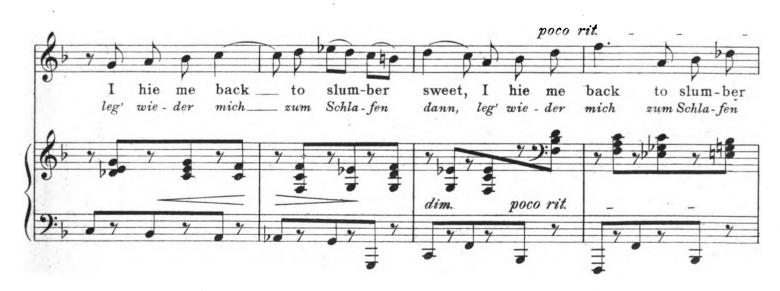
Translated by Frederic Field Bullard

(Original Key)

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op.95, Nº 6







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OH, DEATH IS LIKE THE COOLING NIGHT

(DER TOD, DAS IST DIE KÜHLE NACHT)

(Composed in 1886)

(Original Key)

HEINRICH HEINE (1799-1856)
Translated by Frederic Field Bullard

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 96, Nº 1



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NIGHTINGALE (NACHTIGALL)

(Published in 1886)

(Original Key)

C.REINHOLD
Translated by Frederic Field Bullard

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 97, Nº 1



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A BIRD FLIES OVER THE RHINE

(AUF DEM SCHIFFE)

Published in 1886)

(Original Key)

C. REINHOLD Translated by Frederic Field Bullard

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 97, Nº 2



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COME SOON (KOMM BALD)

(Published in 1886)

(Original Key)

KLAUS GROTH, (1819 - 1899)

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 97, Nº 5



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DO YOU OFTEN CALL TO MIND?

(KOMMT DIR MANCHMAL IN DEN SINN?)

(From Gipsy Songs)
(Zigeunerlieder)

(Published in 1888)

(Original Key)

German text by HUGO CONRAT from the Hungarian Translated by Arthur Westbrook

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 103, Nº 7











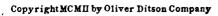
ML-284-8

A THOUGHT LIKE MUSIC

(WIE MELODIEN ZIEHT ES MIR)

(Composed in 1889)











LIGHTER FAR IS NOW MY SLUMBER (IMMER LEISER WIRD MEIN SCHLUMMER)

(Published in 1889)

(Original Key,C#)

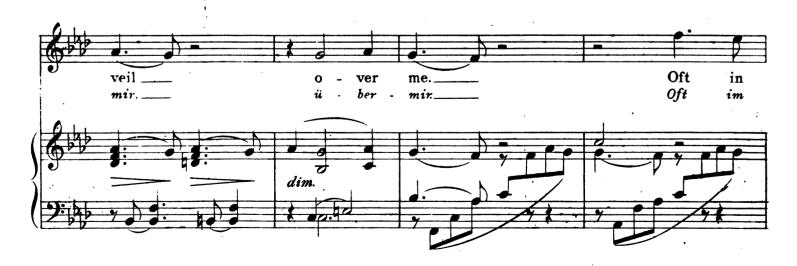
HERMANN LINGG

Translated by Frederic Field Bullard

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op.105, No 2







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TREACHERY (VERRATH)

(Published in 1889)

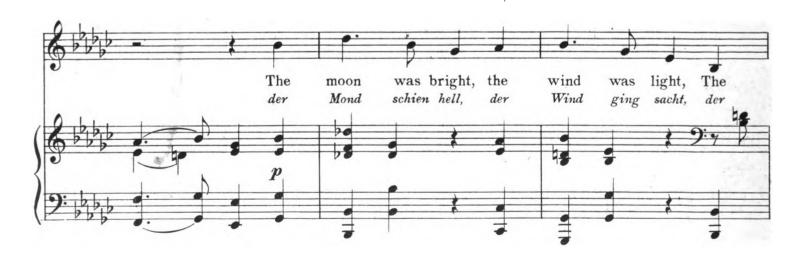
(Original Key, B minor)

KARL LEMCKE
Franslated by Arthur Westbrook

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 105, Nº 5







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SERENADE

(STÄNDCHEN)

(Published in 1889)

(Original Key)

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FRANZ KUGLER



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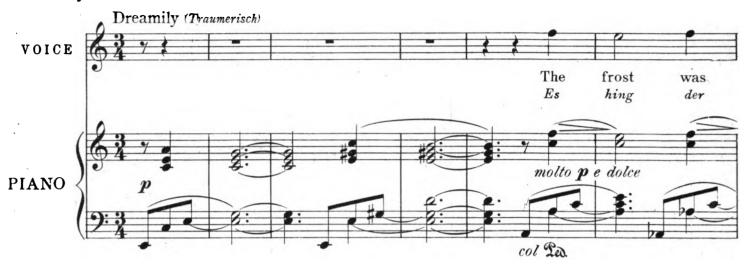


THE FROST WAS WHITE (ES HING DER REIF)

(Published in 1889)
(Original Key)

KLAUS GROTH (1819-1899) Translated by Frederic Field Bullard

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 106, Nº 3







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MY SONGS (MEINE LIEDER)

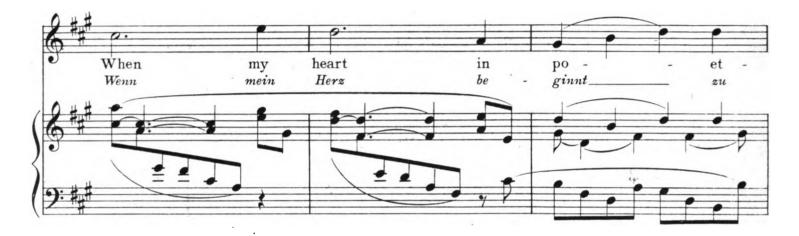
(Published in 1889)

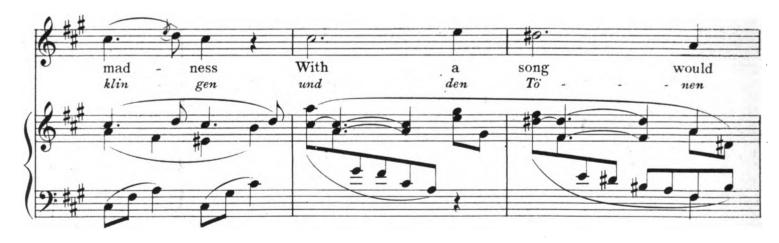
ADOLF FREY
Translated by Frederic Field Bullard

(Original Key)

JOHANNES BRAHMS, Op. 106, Nº 4









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