

## Johannes Brahms, Three Songs

### Editor's Note

The Three Songs of Opus 42 are among Brahms' loveliest choral works. Composed between 1859 and 1864, they were first published by August Cranz in 1868. The second of them, *Vinea*, has been published repeatedly with English texts, and may be considered one of the composer's better-known choral pieces. 1 The other two are still relatively unknown.

The present edition is the first to appear with both original and English texts for all three compositions. It is based on the 1868 publication by Cranz, with reference in doubtful cases to the complete Edition of 1927. Dynamic and articulation signs and markings are consistent in both sources and are here reproduced as faithfully as possible.

The English versions of Nos. 1 and 3 are by the present editor. 2 That in No. 2 was adapted from an anonymous translation from the *New York Post*, reprinted in *Littell's Living Age* in 1852.

The piano accompaniments, doubtless by the composer, are explicitly labeled ad libitum in both sources. A cappella performance is obviously preferred.

1. Wilhelm Muller's romantic poem about a sunken city was immensely popular in the United States in the nineteenth century. Very little effort unearthed eleven different translations dating from 1842 to 1907.
2. In preparing the English text for No. 3 the editor referred to the original English in *The Poems of Ossian*, translated by James MacPherson, Esq. (1761), p. 381, as well as to the German translation by Johann Gottfried von Herder (*Werke*, II [Leipzig, s. d.], 173).
3. In measures 92-93 both the 1868 and 1927 sources for Brahms' setting have replaced original word *Wiederschein* with *Wunderschein*.

J. E.

# Three Songs

# **for Six-Part Chorus of Mixed Voices with Optional Piano Accompaniment**

**Clemens Brentano**  
**English text by J.E.**

## **1. Abendständchen (Evening Serenade)**

**Johannes Brahms, Op. 42, No. 1**  
**Edited by James Erb**

Langsam

(Evening Serenade)

Johannes Brahms, Op. 42, No. 1  
Edited by James Erb

Soprano      *pp*

Hör'. es klagt die Flö - te wie - der, und die  
Hark. the flute a - gain la - ment - ing, and the

Alto I      *pp*

Hör' es klagt die Flö - te wie - der, und die  
Hark. the flute a - gain la - ment - ing, and the

Alto II      *pp*

Hör' es klagt die Flö - te wie - der, und die  
Hark. the flute a - gain la - ment - ing, and the

Tenor      *pp*

Hör'. es klagt die Flö - te wie - der, und  
Hark, the flute a - gain la - ment - ing, and

Bass I      *pp*

Hör'. es klagt die Flö - te wie - der, und  
Hark, the flute a - gain la - ment - ing, and

Bass II      *pp*

Hör'. es klagt die Flö - te wie - der, und  
Hark, the flute a - gain la - ment - ing, and

Piano (optional)      *Langsam*  
*pp*

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küh - len Brun - nen rau - - - schen, gol -  
dark, cool foun - tains mur - - - mur. Gold -

küh - len Brun - nen rau - - - schen, gol - den  
dark, cool foun - tains mur - - - mur. Gold - en

küh - len Brun - nen rau - schen, rau - schen. gol - den  
dark, cool foun - tains mur - mur. Gold - en

die küh - len Brun - nen rau - schen, gol - den  
the dark, cool foun - tains mur - mur. Gold - en

die küh - len Brun - nen rau - schen. gol -  
the dark, cool foun - tains mur - mur. Gold -

die küh - len Brun - nen rau - schen. gol -  
the dark, cool foun - tains mur - mur. Gold -

pp

10

- den wehn die Tö - ne nie - der;  
- en waft the tones de-scend-ing;

stil - le, stil - le, stil - le,  
si - lent, si - lent, si - lent,

wehn die Tö - ne nie - der;  
waft the tones de - scand - ing;

stil - le, stil - le, stil - le,  
si - lent, si - lent, si - lent,

wehn die Tö - ne nie - der;  
waft the tones de - scand - ing;

stil - le, stil - le, stil - le,  
si - lent, si - lent, si - lent,

wehn die Tö - ne nie - der;  
waft the tones de - scand - ing;

stil - le, stil - le, stil - le,  
si - lent, si - lent, si - lent,

- den wehn die Tö - ne nie - der;  
- en waft the tones de-scend-ing;

stil - le, stil - le, stil - le,  
si - lent, si - lent, si - lent,

- den wehn die Tö - ne nie - der;  
- en waft the tones de-scend-ing,

stil - le, stil - le, stil - le,  
si - lent, si - lent, si - lent,

10

{

stil - le, lass uns lau - schen,  
si - lent, let us lis - ten,  
stil - le, stil - le, lass uns  
si - lent, let us  
stil - le, lass uns lau - schen,  
si - lent, let us lis - ten,  
stil - le, stil - le, lass uns  
si - lent, let us  
stil - le, lass uns lau - schen,  
si - lent, let us lis - ten,  
stil - le, stil - le, lass uns  
si - lent, let us  
lass uns lau - schen, stil - le, stil - le, lass uns lau - schen, lass uns  
let us lis - ten, si - lent, si - lent, let us lis - ten, let us lis - ten, si - lent, si - lent, let us lis - ten, let us lis - ten,  
lass uns lau - schen, stil - le, stil - le, lass uns lau - schen, lass uns  
let us lis - ten, si - lent, si - lent, let us lis - ten, let us lis - ten, si - lent, si - lent, let us lis - ten, let us lis - ten,  
stil - le, lass uns lau - schen, stil - le, stil - le, lass uns  
si - lent, let us lis - ten,

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lau - schen!  
lis - ten!

Hol - des Bit - ten, mild Ver - lan - gen,  
Love - ly plead-ing, gen - tle woo - ing,

lau - schen!  
lis - ten!

Hol - des Bit - ten, mild Ver - lan - gen,  
Love - ly plead-ing, gen - tle woo - ing,

lau - schen!  
lis - ten!

Hol - des Bit - ten, mild Ver - lan - gen,  
Love - ly plead-ing, gen - tle woo - ing,

lau - schen!  
lis - ten!

Hol - des Bit - ten, mild Ver - lan - gen,  
Love - ly plead-ing, gen - tle woo - ing,

lau - schen!  
lis - ten!

Hol - des Bit - ten, mild Ver - lan - gen,  
Love - ly plead-ing, gen - tle woo - ing,

20

*ff*

*f*

*ff*

*f*

*ff*



wie es süß zum Herzen spricht! durch  
Sweet it speaks un - to the heart! Through

wie es süß, es süß zum Her - zen spricht! durch  
Sweet it speaks. it speaks un - to the heart! Through

wie es süß. es süß zum Her - zen spricht! durch  
Sweet it speaks, it speaks un - to the heart! Through

wie es süß zum Her - zen spricht! durch die  
Sweet it speaks un - to the heart! Through the

wie es süß zum Her - zen spricht! durch die  
Sweet it speaks un - to the heart! Through the

wie es süß zum Her - zen spricht! durch die  
Sweet it speaks un - to the heart! Through the

30

*p cresc.*

die Nacht. die mich um - fan - gen,  
the night all wrapt a - round me blickt shines zu mir.  
zu me,

die Nacht. die mich um - fan - gen,  
the night all wrapt a - round me blickt zu mir. zu  
shines to me, to

die Nacht. die mich um - fan - gen,  
the night all wrapt a - round me blickt zu mir. zu  
shines to me. to

Nacht. die mich um - fan - gen, blickt zu mir. zu  
night all wrapt a - round me shines to me, to

Nacht. die mich um - fan - gen. blickt zu mir.  
night all wrapt a - round me shines to me.

Nacht. die mich um - fan - gen. blickt zu mir.  
night all wrapt a - round me shines to me,

30

*p cresc.*

Nacht. die mich um - fan - gen. blickt zu mir.  
night all wrapt a - round me shines to me,

blickt zu mir der Tö - ne Licht, — blickt zu  
 shines to me the tones' fair light, — shines to  
 f  
 mir, zu mir der Tö - ne Licht, blickt zu  
 me, to me the tones' fair light, shines to  
 f  
 mir, zu mir der Tö - ne Licht, blickt zu  
 me. to me the tones' fair light, shines to  
 f  
 mir, blickt zu mir der Tö - ne Licht, blickt zu mir der Tö - ne  
 me, shines to me the tones' fair light, shines to me the tones' fair  
 f  
 blickt zu mir der Tö - ne Licht, blickt zu mir der Tö - ne  
 shines to me the tones' fair light, shines to me the tones' fair  
 f  
 blickt zu mir der Tö - ne Licht, blickt zu mir der Tö - ne  
 shines to me the tones' fair light, shines to me the tones' fair  
 f

rit.

**p**

mir me der the Tö - ne fair Licht. light.

rit.

**p**

mir me der the Tö - ne Licht. der Tö - ne Licht. tones' fair light. the tones' fair light.

rit.

**p**

mir me der the Tö - - - ne Licht. tones' fair light.

rit.

**p**

Licht. der the Tö - ne fair Licht. light.

rit.

**p**

Licht. zu mir der Tö - ne Licht. light. to me the tones' fair light.

rit.

**p**

Licht, der the Tö - ne fair Licht. light.

rit.

**p**