

Wie Melodien zieht es mir

poem by Klaus Johann Groth

Opus 105, No. 1. Original key. Composed 1886. First published 1889, N. Simrock, Berlin. The 5 *Lieder* of Opus 5 were inspired by Brahms' romantic friendship with Hermine Spies, a young singer. Frau Elisabet von Herzogenberg called them the "Spies songs." The beginning of "Wie Melodien zieht es mir" is also heard in the first movement of Brahms' *Violin Sonata* in A major. The text is found in Groth's *Hundert Blätter, Paralipomena zum Quickborn* (1854). Much of Groth's (1819–99) fame came from the use of his native Plattdeutsch, or Low German, dialect of Northern Germany. Groth's Low German poetry brought a new level of respect to speakers of the dialect. Brahms, also a native of Northern Germany, set only Groth's High German poetry to music, calling his Low German pieces "all too personal." Low German was Brahms' native dialect and the language spoken by his father. Brahms and Groth were good friends.

Wie Melodien zieht es
Mir leise durch den Sinn,
Wie Frühlingsblumen blüht es
Und schwebt wie Duft dahin.

*Like melodies it pervades
my senses softly.
Like spring flowers it blooms
and drifts along like fragrance.*

Doch kommt das Wort und faßt es
Und führt es vor das Aug,
Wie Nebelgrau erblaßt es
Und schwindet wie ein Hauch.

*But when a word comes and grasps it
and brings it before the eye,
like gray mist it fades
and vanishes like a breath.*

Und dennoch ruht im Reime
Verborgen wohl ein Duft,
Den mild aus stillem Keime
Ein feuchtes Auge ruft.

*And yet there remains in the rhyme
a certain hidden fragrance,
which, gently from the dormant bud,
a tearful eye evokes.*

Zart Sweet & tender

Wie Me - lo - di - en — zieht es mir lei - se durch den

p sempre dolce

Sinn, wie Frühlings-blumen blüht es und schwebt wie Duft da -

9

hin, und schwebt wie Duft da - hin.

14

Doch kommt das Wort und faßt es und führt es vor das

18

Aug, wie Ne - bel-grau er - blaßt es und schwin - det wie ein

dim.

22

Hauch, und schwin - det wie ein Hauch.

This system contains measures 22 through 25. The vocal line begins with a whole rest in measure 22, followed by a half note G4 in measure 23, a quarter note F#4 in measure 24, and a quarter note E4 in measure 25. The piano accompaniment features a continuous eighth-note pattern in the left hand and chords in the right hand.

26

Und den - noch ruht — im —

This system contains measures 26 through 29. The vocal line has whole rests in measures 26 and 27, followed by a half note G4 in measure 28 and a half note F#4 in measure 29. The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note pattern in the left hand and chords in the right hand.

30

Rei - me ver - bor - gen wohl ein Duft, den mild aus stil - lem

This system contains measures 30 through 33. The vocal line starts with a half note G4 in measure 30, followed by quarter notes F#4, E4, and D4 in measures 31, 32, and 33 respectively. The piano accompaniment features a continuous eighth-note pattern in the left hand and chords in the right hand.

34

Kei - me ein feuch - tes Au - ge ruft, den

dim.

38

mild aus stil - lem Kei - me ein feuch - tes, ein feuch - tes

42

Au - ge ruft.

rit.