

Song Translations

Io son l'umile ancella

Francesco Cilèa

Adriana's Aria from Act I of the Opera *Adriana Lecouvreur*.
Libretto by Arturo Colautti

Look here; I'm scarcely breathing...
I'm but the humble servant
of the brilliant creator;
offers me the words
that I impart to the heart...
I'm the verse's music,
the echo of human drama,
the fragile instrument,
the lowly hand-maiden...
Timid, joyous, terrible,
I'm called Faithfulness.
My voice is just a whisper
which, with the new day, will die.

He: The night is so cold,
and the wind so icy
that my heart will freeze,
and my love will be extinguished!
Open for me, sweet girl!

She: If your love starts dying,
then let it be extinguished!
If it keeps dying,
go home to bed, and rest!
Good night, my boy!

Meine Liebe ist grün

Felix Schumann (1854-1879)

My love is as green as the lilac bush,
And my love is as fair as the sun,
which gleams down on the lilac bush
and fills it with fragrance and bliss.

My soul has the wings of a nightingale
and rocks itself in blooming lilac,
and, intoxicated by the fragrance,
cheers and sings
a good many love-drunk songs.

Therese

Gottfried Keller (1819-1890)

You milk-young boy,
why do you look at me so?
What a question
your eyes have asked!
All the councilmen in the town
and all the wisemen in the world
Would be struck dumb by the question
that your eyes have posed!

A seashell lies
upon my cousin's cupboard;
Press your ear to it;
then you'll hear something!

Schön war, das ich dir weihte

Georg Friedrich Daumer (1800-1875)

Fair was my gift to you
of golden jewellery;
sweet was the sound of the lute
that I chose for you.
The heart that offered them both to you
should have deserved
to receive a better reward.

Feldeinsamkeit

Hermann Allmers (1821-1902)

I rest quietly in the tall green grass
And for a long time send my gaze aloft,
Surrounded by the unceasing whirr of crickets,
Enfolded wondrously by blue sky.

The lovely white clouds drift by
Through the deep blue, like beautiful, silent dreams;
I feel as though I am long dead
And drift blissfully along through eternal space.

Brahms Lieder

Von ewiger Liebe

Josef Wenzig (1807-1876)

Dark, how dark it is in the forest and field!
Night has fallen; the world now is silent.
Nowhere a light and nowhere smoke.
Yes, now even the lark is silent.

From yonder village there comes the young lad,
Taking his beloved home.
He leads her past the willow bushes,
Talking so much, and of so many things:

"If you suffer shame and if you grieve,
If you suffer disgrace before others because
of me,
Then our love shall be ended ever so fast
As fast as we once came together;
It shall go with the rain and go with the wind,
As fast as we once came together."

Then says the maiden, the maiden says:
"Our love shall never end!
Steel is firm and iron is firm,
Yet our love is firmer still.

Iron and steel can be recast by the smith
But who would transform our love?
Iron and steel can melt;
Our love, our love will have to last forever!"

Vergebliches Ständchen

Author unknown (based on folklore)

He: Good evening, my treasure,
good evening, sweet girl!
I come from love of you,
Ah, open the door,
open the door for me!

She: My door is locked,
and I won't let you in:
My mother has advised me well!
If you came in,
It would all be over for me!