

I Geistliche Lieder (Sacred Songs)

J. S. Bach
(1685-1750)

1. Eins ist not (One thing is important)

One thing is important, Lord, teach me to know it. All else is only a heavy yoke. The heart suffers and complains and yet never finds true happiness. I shall achieve this: that all will be transformed and I will be joyful in one and all things. Soul! do you want to find this, seek not in creation. Let earthly things go. When God and mankind are united, there is perfect fulfillment.

2. Jesu, du bist mein (Jesu, you are mine)

Jesu, you are mine, since I must flit upon the earth. Let me belong to you, let my life please you. In death also I will trust you alone, Jesu, you are mine, when the cross is heavier than stone, you too had a cross, why then should I lose courage? When I must lie down sick and no doctor can help me, let me call on your mercy, which only can make me healthy. When I must die, take me up into heaven's joy with all thy angels, Jesu you are mine!

3. Mit Gott vergnügt (One with God)

I hold faithfully still and love my God, tho' often oppressed by fear and danger. I am one with God and patiently hold out, for He is my protection. So I thank God and do His will, And when at last I approach His altar, so God doesn't put upon a man more than he can bear. When it pleases Him to take me from the world, I follow Him faithfully into Heaven.

4. Lobgesang (Song of praise)

To you, You Jehova will I sing! For where is there such a God as you? I bring my songs and my strength. This I do in the name of Jesus Christ, that they, through him, please you. Lend me goodness that my singing be rightly done, that my soul and heart may rise to thee and I sing psalms in the high choir. Grant me right and I shall praise thee forever.

5. Gebet (Prayer)

I pray to you, high God, who have led me through youth out of fear, danger and need, that you keep my thoughts upright and that I consider always my ending.

6. Ins Light (Toward the light)

O dark night, when will you be over? When will I break forth from sin to light and new life? O sweet death, when will you come end my strife in victory? Then when sin is conquered and light has risen, then night must flee. Yes, come Lord Jesus, thy grace shall conquer sin. Amen.

II Sei Ariette

Vincenzo Bellini
(1801-1835)

1. Malinconia, Ninfa gentile

Sadly, oh gentle nymph, I consecrate my life to you. Your cowardly pleasures have not been born to true pleasure. Fountains and hills are temples of the Gods; Hear me at last, I'll live content. Never shall I trespass that fountain of desire, nor that mountain.

2. Vanne, o rosa fortunata

Go, fortunate rose, to rest in Nice's heart and each will envy you. Oh had you but the power to transform me for a single moment, this heart could have no more contentment than to sigh. Lovely rose, you pale, your forehead discolours out of disdain and sadness. Lovely Rose, we are both fated to die, you of envy, I of love.

3. Bella Nice, che d'amore

Lovely Nice the fated day is not far when death will break me. I have always loved you, so scatter but one flower on my tomb and less of its pain will reach me. I don't ask that you weep on my ashes. If I cannot hope, I will gladly die.

4. Almen se non poss'io

If I cannot possess the lover I pursue, then let my heart follow him. Then, always near him, he will never go forth alone.

5. Per pieta, bel'idol mio

Have pity, my idol, do not call me faithless. The heavens have done enough to me! Love and the gods know my struggle. My heart, and yours, know it too.

6. Ma rendi pur contento

For my sake, be happy and forgive me if I am not. Each of your troubles increases mine because the more I live for you, the more you live in me.

III Ridente la calma

W. A. Mozart
(1756-1791)

Smiling peace awakes in my soul not a trace of anger or fear remains.
You come, meantime to bind me fast with sweet chains.

Das Veilchen (The Violet)

A violet stood in the field alone and unseen, it was a dear little violet. There came along a young shepherdess with light step and happy mood over the field and sang. "Oh," thought the violet, "if only I were the loveliest flower of nature, and not just a little violet; then she would pick me and press me to her heart, even for just a quarter of an hour!" O! but oh! the girl came and paying no attention to the violet, stepped on the poor violet! It sank and died and even so was happy: "So I die, so I die through her, at her feet!" The poor little violet, it was a dear little violet.

Abendempfindung (Evening Contemplation)

It is evening, the sun has disappeared and the moon beams silvery light; Thus flee life's loveliest hours flee away as if in dance. Soon are life's colorful scenes flown and the curtain drops. Our play is over! The tears of our friends already flow over our grave. Soon perhaps, a quiet foreboding, like the quiet west wind, pains me; I end this Life's pilgrimage, and fly to the land of Peace. Shall you then weep over my grave, mourn over my ashes, then oh friends, I shall appear to you and Heaven will comfort you. Shed a tear for me, and gather one violet for my grave, and look down on me with longing glance. Don't be ashamed to weep for me, for your tears shall become the most beautiful pearls in my diadem.

An Chloë (To Chloë)

When love shines from your blue, bright, wide eyes, and my heart beats for joy to look into them, and I hold you and kiss your flushed cheeks, beloved girl, and I embrace you trembling in my arms! And I press you to my heart and would only let you go in my last dying moment! That look brightens all my dark moments, and I sit beside you amazed, but so happy.

V 1. All mein Gedanken (All my Thoughts)

Richard Strauss
(1864-1949)

All my thoughts, my heart and my senses, are wandering there where my beloved is. They go their way through wall and gate, no locks nor moats can stand in the way; they fly like little birds high through the air, they need no bridges o'er the water and chasms. They find the little town, they find the house, they seek out her window from among all others, and knock and call: Open, let us enter, we come from your beloved and greet you, open, open, let us enter.

2. Breit' über mein Haupt (Let fall upon my Head)

Let your raven hair fall upon my head, bring your face closer to me, there streams into my soul so brightly and clearly the light of your eyes. I do not wish for the sun's splendor above, nor for the radiant wreath of the stars; I want only the darkness of your raven locks, and the brightness of your glance.

3. Ich schwebe (I float)

I float as if on angel's wings, my feet barely touch the ground, I hear a sound in my ears like the farewell of my beloved. It sounds so sweet, so soft and gentle, it speaks so shy, tender and clear, the echo of its melody lulls me to sleep in an enraptured dream. My gleaming eye, (while I am filled with the sweetest of melodies) sees, without disguise of robes and veils, my smiling love pass by.

4. Amor

On the fire sat the child, Amor, and was blind, with his little wings fanned the flames and laughed, sly child. The flames burn the child, Amor, he runs quickly, crying for help, to the shepherdess and she helps the child Amor. Shepherdess, look out, your heart is catching fire, see how quickly the flames spread! Beware, Beware the sly child! Fanning, laughing, sly child!

5. Als mir dein Lied erklang (Since your song resounded)

Your song resounds! I have heard it as it floated through roses toward the moon; like the butterfly which flew colorfully in Spring, like the faithful bees, you have returned. I long for those roses since I have heard your song. The nightingale mourns, oh my peace, sweet swansong of where are they gone who heard your song? Your song resounds! No tone was in vain, all Springtime which sighed from love has, since you sang, sunk down into the ardent stream of my life, in the sun's going down, since your song resounded.