

*Love Songs & Dances: An Evening of Liebeslieder*

-English Translations-

**Ziguenerlieder, Op. 103**

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

**Gypsy, pluck your strings!**

Hey, Gypsy, pluck your strings!  
Play the song of the unfaithful maiden!  
Let the strings weep and lament, mournful and despairing,  
Until hot tears flow down these cheeks!

**High-towering River Rima**

High-towering River Rima,  
How murky you are;  
On the water's edge I lament  
Loudly for you, my beloved!

The waves flee, the waves stream by,  
Roaring toward me on the shore;  
At the edge of the Rima let me  
Weep for her forever!

**Do you know...**

Do you know when my beloved is the fairest?  
When her sweet little mouth jests and laughs and kisses,  
Maiden you are mine; dearly I kiss you,  
Dear heaven created you for me alone!

Do you know when my beloved pleases me the best?  
When he enfolds me in his arms.  
My treasure, you are mine; dearly I kiss you,  
Dear heaven created you for me alone!

**Dear God, You know...**

Dear God, You know how often I've been sorry  
That I once gave my beloved a little kiss.  
My heart told me that I had to kiss him  
As long as I live, I'll think about that first kiss.

Dear God, You know how often in the silent night  
I've thought of my beloved in joy and sorrow.  
Love is sweet, even if regret is bitter;  
My poor heart will forever be true to him.

**Ziguenerlieder, Op. 103** (continued)

**A swarthy young man**

A swarthy young man leads to the dance  
His fair, blue-eyed maiden;  
His spurs strike boldly together  
The csárdás melody begins.  
He kisses and hugs his sweet little dove,

He whirls her around, leads her, cheers, and jumps;  
And he tosses three shining silver pieces  
Upon the cymbal so that it jingles.

**Three little roses in a row, blossoming...**

Three little roses in a row, blossoming so red,  
That it is not forbidden for the boy to woo a maiden!  
Dear God, if it had been forbidden,  
The beautiful wide world would long have been no more;  
To remain single would be a sin!

The loveliest village in Alföld is Kecskemét,  
There are many maidens who live there, pretty and nice!  
Friends, choose a little bride there,  
Ask for her hand and build your house,  
And drain the cup of happiness!

**Do you sometimes remember, my sweet love...**

Do you sometimes remember, my sweet love,  
What you once swore to me with a sacred vow?  
Do not deceive me, do not leave me –  
You do not know how much I love you!  
If you loved me as I love you,  
God's favour would stream down upon you!

**Hark, the wind laments in the branches...**

Hark, the wind laments in the branches, mournful and soft;  
Sweet love, we must part: good night.  
Ah, how gladly I rested in your arms,  
But the hour of parting is approaching, may God protect you.

Dark is the night: not even a small star gives any light.  
Sweet love, trust in God and do not weep;  
If our dear God one day leads me back to you,  
We will be united forever in love's bliss.

**Rede, Mädchen, allzu liebes**

Speak, girl whom I love all too well,  
you, who with your glance have hurled  
these wild feelings of ardor  
into my once- indifferent heart.

Won't you soften your heart?  
Do you wish to remain overly pious  
without a sweet bliss of your own,  
or do you want me to come to you?

To remain without a sweet bliss of my own-  
I don't want such a bitter penance.  
So come, dark-eyed boy,  
Come when the stars greet you.

**Wohl schön bewandt war es**

Previously my life was a quite pleasant one,  
And so was my love;  
Through a wall, yes, through ten walls  
my sweetheart's eyes recognized me;  
but now, alas no matter how close I stand  
to the eyes of that cold boy,  
nether his eyes nor his heart will take notic.

**Nicht wandle, mein Licht**

Light of my life, don't walk out there  
in the meadows!  
Your tender feet would get too wet, too soaked.

The paths there are all flooded  
and so are the trails  
because my eyes wept  
so copiously there.

**An jeder Hand die Finger**

My fingers on either hand  
I had adorned with rings  
that my brother had given me  
out of his loving kindness;  
and one after the other  
I gave them away to that handsome but  
unworthy boy.

**Ich kose süß mit der und der**

I sweetly caress this girl and that,  
But I fall silent and feel ill,  
Because eternally, eternally my thoughts  
Return to you, Nonna!

**Zum Schluss**

Now, you Muses, enough!  
In vain you strive to depict  
How lamentation and happiness  
alternate in the heart that loves.

You cannot heal the wounds  
that Amour has inflicted,  
but, you kind ones, relief  
comes only from you.

**Ah! Leve-toi soleil!**

Love, love! yes, its ardor  
 Has troubled all of my being!  
 But, what sudden light  
 Dazzles at that window?  
 It is there that in the night  
 Radiates her beauty!

Ah! rise, sun!  
 Make pale the stars  
 Which, in the azure, without veils,  
 Glitter in the heavens  
 Ah, arise! Appear!  
 Star – pure and charming!  
 She is dreaming, she unties  
 A lock of hair which comes to caress her cheek.  
 Love! Love! carry to her my vows!  
 She speaks! How beautiful she is!  
 Ah! I heard nothing!  
 But her eyes speak for her!  
 And my heart has responded!

**Nuit d'hyménée**

Wedding night!  
 Oh sweet night of love!  
 Destiny  
 Follow me to you without return.  
 O pleasure to live!  
 O all-powerful charms!  
 Your sweet look intoxicates me,  
 Your voice delights my senses!  
 Under your flame kisses  
 The sky shines in me!  
 I gave you my soul,  
 To you, always to you!

*The first light of day illuminates the panes of the window. We hear the lark sing.*

JULIETTE

Romeo! What have you got?

ROMEO

Listen, O Juliette!  
 The lark already announces us the day!

JULIETTE

No, no it's not the day, it's not the lark  
 Whose singing hit your worried ear,  
 He is the sweet nightingale, the confidant of love!

Selections from *Roméo et Juliette* (continued)

ROMEO

It's the lark, alas! Messenger of the day!  
See these jealous rays whose horizon is golden;  
From the night the torches turn pale, and the dawn  
In the vapors of the Orient get up with a smile!

JULIETTE

No, no it is not the day, this fatal glow  
It is only the sweet reflection of the beautiful star of the nights!  
Rest! Rest!

ROMEO

Ah! therefore come death! I'm staying!

JULIETTE

Ah! you tell the truth, it's the day! Flee, you have to leave your Juliet!

ROMEO

No! no! it's not the day! This is not the lark!  
This is the sweet nightingale, confidant of love!

JULIETTE

It's the lark, alas! Messenger of the day. Pars! My life!

ROMEO

A kiss, and I'm leaving

JULIETTE

Cruel law! Cruel law!

ROMEO

Ah, rest! Stay still in my arms entwined!  
Keep staying one day it will be sweet to our faithful love  
To remember these past torments.

JULIETTE

We must leave, alas! We must leave these arms where I press you,  
And tear you away from this ardent drunkenness!

ROMEO

We must leave alas! While in her arms she presses me  
And tear it away from this ardent drunkenness!

ROMEO and JULIETTE

Ah! that the fate of you separates me,  
More than death is cruel and barbarous! We must leave, alas! etc.

ROMEO

Farewell! My Juliet! farewell.....

JULIETTE

Farewell! ....

ROMEO and JULIETTE

... always yours!

JULIETTE

Farewell! My soul! Goodbye my life! Angels of heaven to you I entrust it!

Selections from *Roméo et Juliette* (continued)

**Amour, ranime mon courage**

Love, revive my courage,  
And from my heart chase fright!  
To hesitate, is to insult you,  
Trembling is a lack of faith!  
Pour! Pour! This beverage yourself!  
Ah! Pour this beverage!  
O Romeo, I drink to you!

But if tomorrow, however, in these funereal vaults  
I woke up before his return? Powerful God!  
This horrible thought freezes all my blood!  
What will become of me in the darkness?  
In this stay of death and moans,  
Where past centuries have filled with bones?  
Where Tybalt still bleeding from his wound,  
Near me in the night obscured  
God!!! My hand will meet his hand!  
What is this shadow of escaped death?  
It's Tybalt! He calls me!  
He wants to separate me from my husband with his fatal sword!  
No, ghosts! Disappear!  
Dissipate yourself, fatal dream!  
May the dawn of happiness rise  
On the shadows of past torments