

## TRANSLATIONS

### ***Frauenliebe und Leben, op. 42***

#### **Seit Ich ihn gesehen (Since first seeing him)**

Since first seeing him,  
I think I am blind,  
Wherever I look,  
Him only I see;  
As in a waking dream  
His image hovers before me,  
Rising out of deepest darkness  
Ever more brightly.

All else is dark and pale  
Around me,  
My sisters' games  
I no more long to share,  
I would rather weep  
Quietly in my room;  
Since first seeing him,  
I think I am blind.

#### **Er. Der Herrlichste von Allen (He, the most wonderful of all)**

He, the most wonderful of all,  
How gentle and loving he is!  
Sweet lips, bright eyes,  
A clear mind and firm resolve.

Just as there in the deep-blue distance  
That star gleams bright and brilliant,  
So does he shine in my sky,  
Bright and brilliant, distant and sublime.

Wander, wander on your way,  
Just to gaze on your radiance,

Just to gaze on in humility,  
To be but blissful and sad!

Do not heed my silent prayer,  
Uttered for your happiness alone,  
You shall never know me, lowly as I am,  
You noble star of splendour!

Only the worthiest woman of all  
May your choice elate,  
And I shall bless that exalted one  
Many thousands of times.

Then shall I rejoice and weep,  
Blissful, blissful shall I be,  
Even if my heart should break,  
Break, O heart, what does it matter?

#### **Ich kann's nicht fassen, nicht glauben (I cannot grasp it, believe it)**

I cannot grasp it, believe it,  
A dream has beguiled me;  
How, from all women, could he  
Have exalted and favoured poor me?

He said, I thought,  
'I am yours forever',  
I was, I thought, still dreaming,  
After all, it can never be.

O let me, dreaming, die,  
Cradled on his breast;  
Let me savour blissful death  
In tears of endless joy.

**Du ring an meinem finger**  
**(You ring on my finger)**

You ring on my finger,  
My golden little ring,  
I press you devoutly to my lips,  
To my heart.

I had finished dreaming  
Childhood's peaceful dream,  
I found myself alone, forlorn  
In boundless desolation.

You ring on my finger,  
You first taught me,  
Opened my eyes  
To life's deep eternal worth.

I shall serve him, live for him,  
Belong to him wholly,  
Yield to him and find  
Myself transfigured in his light.

You ring on my finger,  
My golden little ring,  
I press you devoutly to my lips,  
To my heart.

**Helft mir, ihr Schwestern**  
**(Help me, my sisters)**

Help me, my sisters,  
With my bridal attire,  
Serve me today in my joy,  
Busily braid  
About my brow  
The wreath of blossoming myrtle.

When with contentment  
And joy in my heart  
I lay in my beloved's arms,  
He still called,  
With longing heart,  
Impatiently for this day.

Help me, my sisters,  
Help me banish  
A foolish fearfulness;  
So that I with bright eyes  
May receive him,  
The source of all my joy.

Have you, my love,  
Really entered my life,  
Do you, O sun, give me your glow?  
Let me in reverence,  
Silent hiding  
Let me in humility  
Bow before my lord.

Scatter flowers, O sisters,  
Scatter flowers before him,  
Bring him budding roses.  
But you, sisters,  
I greet with sadness,  
As I joyfully take leave of you.

**Süsser Freund, du blickest**  
**(Sweet friend, you look)**

Sweet friend, you look  
At me in wonder,  
You cannot understand  
How I can weep;  
Let the unfamiliar beauty  
Of these moist pearls  
Tremble joyfully bright  
In my eyes!

How anxious my heart is,  
How full of bliss!  
If only I knew  
How to say it in words;  
Come and hide your face  
Here against my breast,  
For me to whisper you  
All my joy.

Do you now understand the tears  
That I can weep,  
Should you not see them,  
Beloved husband?  
Stay by my heart,  
Feel how it beats,  
That I may press you  
Closer and closer.

Here by my bed  
There is room for the cradle,  
My blissful dream;  
The morning shall come  
When the dream awakens,  
And your likeness  
Laughs up at me.

**An meinem Herzen, an meinem Brust**  
**(on my heart, at my breast)**

On my heart, at my breast,  
You my delight, my joy!  
Happiness is love, love is happiness,  
I've always said and say so still.

I thought myself rapturous,  
But now am delirious with joy.  
Only she who suckles, only she who loves  
The child that she nourishes;

Only a mother knows  
What it means to love and be happy.  
Ah, how I pity the man  
Who cannot feel a mother's bliss!

You dear, dear angel, you,  
You look at me and you smile!  
On my heart, at my breast,  
You my delight, my joy!

**Nun hast du mir den ersten Schmerz**  
**getan**

**(now you have caused the first pain)**  
Now you have caused me my first pain,  
But it struck hard,  
You sleep, you harsh and pitiless man,  
The sleep of death.  
The deserted one stares ahead,  
The world is void.  
I have loved and I have lived,  
And now my life is done.  
Silently I withdraw into myself,  
The veil falls,  
There I have you and my lost happiness,  
You, my world!

**SECHS LIEDER, Op. 13**

**Clara Schumann**

**Ich stand in dunklen Träumen  
(I Stood Darkly Dreaming)**

I stood darkly dreaming  
And stared at her picture,  
And that beloved face  
Sprang mysteriously to life.

About her lips  
A wondrous smile played,  
And as with sad tears,  
Her eyes gleamed.

And my tears flowed  
Down my cheeks,  
And ah, I cannot believe  
That I have lost you!

**Sie liebten sich beide  
(They loved one another)**

They loved one another, but neither  
Wished to tell the other;  
They gave each other such hostile looks,  
I saw in your eyes  
The ray of eternal love,  
I saw on your cheeks  
The roses of heaven.

And as the ray dies in your eyes,  
And as the roses scatter,  
Their reflection, forever new,  
Has remained in my heart,

And never will I look at your cheeks,  
And never will I gaze into your eyes,  
And not see the glow of roses,  
And the ray of love.  
Yet nearly died of love.

In the end they parted and saw  
Each other but rarely in dreams.  
They died so long ago  
And hardly knew it themselves.

**Liebeszauber  
(Love's magic)**

Love, as a nightingale,  
Perched on a rosebush and sang;  
The wondrous sound floated  
Along the green forest.

And as it sounded, there arose a scent  
From a thousand calyxes,  
And all the treetops rustled softly,  
And the breeze moved softer still;

The brooks fell silent, barely  
Having babbled from the heights,  
The fawns stood as if in a dream  
And listened to the sound.

Brighter, and ever brighter  
The sun shone on the scene,  
And poured its red glow  
Over flowers, forest and glen.

But I made my way along the path  
And also heard the sound.  
Ah! all that I've sung since that hour  
Was merely its echo.

**Der Mond kommt still gegangen  
(The moon rises silently)**

The moon rises silently  
With its golden glow.  
The weary earth then falls asleep  
In beauty and splendour.

Many thousand loving thoughts  
From many faithful minds  
Sway on the breezes  
Over those who slumber.

And down in the valley  
The windows sparkle of my beloved's  
house;  
But I in the darkness gaze  
Silently out into the world.

**Ich hab' in deinem Auge  
(I saw in your eyes)**

I saw in your eyes  
The ray of eternal love,  
I saw on your cheeks  
The roses of heaven.

And as the ray dies in your eyes,  
And as the roses scatter,  
Their reflection, forever new,  
Has remained in my heart,

And never will I look at your cheeks,  
And never will I gaze into your eyes,  
And not see the glow of roses,  
And the ray of love.

**Die stille lotosblume  
(The silent lotus flower)**

The silent lotus flower  
Rises out of the blue lake,  
Its leaves glitter and glow,  
Its cup is as white as snow.

The moon then pours from heaven  
All its golden light,  
Pours all its rays  
Into the lotus flower's bosom.

In the water, round the flower,  
A white swan circles,  
It sings so sweetly, so quietly,  
And gazes on the flower.

It sings so sweetly, so quietly,  
And wishes to die as it sings.  
O flower, white flower,  
Can you fathom the song?