

Mendelssohn's choral songs were immensely popular during the composer's lifetime. They were not written for the concert hall but as occasional pieces for social gatherings of choral singers. Of the four sets of partsongs Mendelssohn published, one (for male voices, Op. 50) was dedicated to the Leipzig singing societies; the others (for mixed voices, Opp. 41, 48 and 59) were, according to their title pages, "for singing in the open air". A favorite pastime of Mendelssohn's choral singers was to take long walks together, and he composed these songs for them to sing while they were resting.

Because of the occasional nature of the songs, Mendelssohn did not publish further collections, leaving three more sets for male voices and two more for mixed voices in manuscript. These were issued after his death, testimony to their continuing popularity in the later nineteenth century. Two of the three songs in this edition, *Neujahrslied* and *Die Waldvögelein*, are from the 1851 *Sechs Lieder*, Op. 88, where they are respectively Nos. 1 and 4. *Die Nachtigall* is No. 4 in Mendelssohn's 1843 publication, *Sechs Lieder*, Op. 59.

The source for this performing edition is the critical edition of Mendelssohn's complete works prepared under the supervision of the composer's friend and former colleague Julius Rietz and published in Leipzig between 1874 and 1877. The original key of *Die Waldvögelein* is F major. Most singers will feel more comfortable at the transposed pitch, but care should be taken that the song does not lose any of its delicate vivaciousness in the tonally richer key of E flat. Editorial interference has otherwise been confined mainly to ensuring consistency in rhythmic phrasing and the positioning of dynamics. Details are given in the Editorial Notes on page 12, where information about the texts may also be found.

Though not primarily intended for concert performance, these songs could well be included in a concert program either individually or as a set. They have lost none of the charm which so beguiled Mendelssohn's contemporaries.

Peter Aston
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January 2005

Peter Aston has combined a career in music education with work as a composer, conductor and musicologist. He has held senior academic posts at the University of York and the University of East Anglia (where he was Head of Music for 24 years and is now Professor Emeritus). He appears as guest conductor with choirs and orchestras at leading European festivals, and is frequently invited to conduct his own music at venues on both sides of the Atlantic.

Dr. Aston has published editions of music by various composers of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. He has made a special study of Italianate church music in 17th-century England, and has written extensively on that period.

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Three Partsongs

3. Die Waldvögelein

The Woodland Songsters

(S.A.T.B., Unaccompanied)

Words by H. Schütz (fl. early 19th century) Music by FELIX MENDELSSOHN (1809-1847)
English words by Peter Aston and Christopher Smith Edited by Peter Aston

Allegro assai

Soprano
Alto

Kommt, lasst uns geh'n spa-zie - ren Durch den viel - grü - nen Wald,
Come, let us leave the ci - ty And for the woods be bound,

Tenor
Bass

Kommt,
Come,

Piano for rehearsal only

Die Vö-gel mu - si - ci - ren, Dass
Where birds trill out their dit - ty Till

lasst uns geh'n spa-zie - ren Durch den viel - grü - nen Wald, Die Vö-gel mu - si - ci - ren, Dass
let us leave the ci - ty And for the woods be bound, Where birds trill out their dit - ty Till

Berg und Thal er-schallt, Die Vö-gel mu - si - ci - ren, Dass
hill and dale re-sound, Where birds trill out their dit - ty Till

Berg und Thal er-schallt, Die Vö-gel mu - si - ci - ren,
hill and dale re-sound, Where birds trill out their dit - ty

P1274

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Berg und Thal er-schallt,
hill and dale re-sound,

er-schallt,
re-sound,

dass Berg und Thal er -
till hill and dale re -

Dass Berg und Thal er-schallt,
Till hill and dale re-sound,

dass Berg und Thal er -
till hill and dale re -

dass Berg und Thal,
till hill and dale,

schallt,
sound,

dass Berg und Thal er - schallt,
till hill and dale re - sound,

dass Berg und Thal,
till hill and dale,

Die
Where
pp

Thal er-schallt,
dale re-sound,

dass Berg und Thal er - schallt,
till hill and dale re - sound, Where birds trill out their

dass Berg und Thal,
till hill and dale,

Die
Where
pp

Thal er-schallt,
dale re-sound,

dass Berg und Thal er - schallt,
till hill and dale re - sound, Where birds trill out their

Vö - gel mu - si - ci - ren, Dass Berg und Thal er - schallt.
birds trill out their dit - ty Till hill and dale re - sound.

ci - ren, die Vö - gel mu - si - ci - ren, Dass Berg und Thal, und Thal er - schallt.
dit - ty, where birds trill out their dit - ty, Till hill and dale, and dale re - sound.

ci - ren, die Vö - gel mu - si - ci - ren, Dass Berg und Thal, und Thal er - schallt.
dit - ty, where birds trill out their dit - ty, Till hill and dale, and dale re - sound.

Wohl dem, der frei kann sin - gen Wie du, du Volk der Luft,
With you we raise our voi - ces In song, O warb-ling birds,

Wohl dem, der frei kann sin - gen Wie du, du Volk der Luft,
With you we raise our voi - ces In song, O warb-ling birds,

Wohl dem, der frei kann sin - gen Wie
With you we raise our voi - ces In

Wohl dem, der frei kann sin - gen Wie
With you we raise our voi - ces In

26 *p* 27 *f* 28 *f*

— Und sei-ne Stim-me schwin-gen Zu der, auf die er hofft, Und
 For hap-py song re - joi - ces Our hearts with glad-some words, For

p *f*

— Und sei-ne Stim-me schwin-gen Zu der, auf die er hofft, Und
 For hap-py song re - joi - ces Our hearts with glad-some words, For

du, du Volk der Luft, Und sei-ne Stim-me schwin-gen Zu der, auf die er hofft,
 song, O warb-ling birds, For hap-py song re - joi - ces Our hearts with glad-some words,

p *f*

du, du Volk der Luft, Und sei-ne Stim-me schwin-gen Zu der, auf die er hofft,
 song, O warb-ling birds, For hap-py song re - joi - ces Our hearts with glad-some words,

29 30 31

sei-ne Stim-me schwin-gen — Zu der, auf die er hofft, —
 hap-py song re - joi - ces — Our hearts with glad-some words, —

sei-ne Stim-me schwin-gen — Zu der, auf die er hofft, —
 hap-py song re - joi - ces — Our hearts with glad-some words, —

Und sei-ne Stim-me schwin-gen — Zu
 For hap-py song re - joi - ces — Our

Und sei-ne Stim-me schwin-gen — Zu
 For hap-py song re - joi - ces — Our

32 *f* 33 *f* 34 *p*

— zu der, auf die er hofft, zu der, auf
 our hearts with glad-some words, our hearts with

f *f*

— zu der, auf die er hofft,
 our hearts with glad-some words,

der, auf die er hofft, — auf die er hofft,
 hearts with glad-some words, — with glad-some words,

der, auf die er hofft, zu der, auf die er hofft,
 hearts with glad-some words, our hearts with glad-some words,

35 *f* 36 *f* 37 *p* 38 *p*

die, auf die er hofft, zu der, auf die er hofft, — zu der, auf
 glad - some, glad-some - words, our hearts with glad-some words, — our hearts with

p *f* *f*

zu der, auf die er hofft, zu der, auf die er hofft, —
 our hearts with glad-some words, our hearts with glad-some words, —

zu der, auf die er hofft, zu der, auf die er hofft, —
 our hearts with glad-some words, our hearts with glad-some words, —

zu der, auf die er hofft, zu der, auf die er hofft, —
 our hearts with glad-some words, our hearts with glad-some words, —

39 40 41

die, auf die er hofft, Und sei-ne Stim-me
glad - some, glad-some words, For hap - py song re -

zu der, auf die er hofft, Und sei-ne Stim-me schwin-gen, und sei-ne Stim-me
our hearts with glad-some words, For hap-py song re - joi - ces, for hap-py song re -

zu der, auf die er hofft, Und sei-ne Stim-me schwin-gen, und sei-ne Stim-me
our hearts with glad-some words, For hap-py song re - joi - ces, for hap-py song re -

zu der, auf die er hofft, Und sei-ne Stim-me schwin-gen, und sei-ne Stim-me
our hearts with glad-some words, For hap-py song re - joi - ces, for hap-py song re -

pp

42 43 44 45

schwin - gen Zu der, auf die er hofft. Wohl je-dem, der frei le - bet Wie
joi - ces Our hearts with glad - some words. How hap - py, we now li - ving Like

schwin-gen Zu der, auf die, auf die er hofft. Wohl je-dem, der frei le - bet Wie
joi - ces Our hearts with glad-some, glad-some words. How hap - py, we now li - ving Like

schwin-gen Zu der, auf die, auf die er hofft.
joi - ces Our hearts with glad-some, glad-some words.

schwin-gen Zu der, auf die, auf die er hofft.
joi - ces Our hearts with glad-some, glad-some words.

f

46 47 48

du, du leich-te Schaar, In
you, as free as air, In

du, du leich-te Schaar, In
you, as free as air, In

Wohl je-dem, der frei le - bet Wie du, du leich-te Schaar, In
How hap - py, we now li - ving Like you, as free as air, In

Wohl je-dem, der frei le - bet Wie du, du leich-te Schaar, In
How hap - py, we now li - ving Like you, as free as air, In

f

49 50 51

Trost und Frie-den schwe-bet Und aus - ser al - ler Fahr, In Trost und Frie-den schwe-bet—
peace and glad-ness thri - ving Se - cure from ev' - ry care, In peace and glad-ness thri - ving—

Trost und Frie-den schwe-bet Und aus - ser al - ler Fahr, In Trost und Frie-den schwe-bet
peace and glad-ness thri - ving Se - cure from ev' - ry care, In peace and glad-ness thri - ving

Trost und Frie-den schwe-bet Und aus - ser al - ler Fahr, In
peace and glad-ness thri - ving Se - cure from ev' - ry care, In

Trost und Frie-den schwe-bet Und aus - ser al - ler Fahr, In
peace and glad-ness thri - ving Se - cure from ev' - ry care, In

f

52 Und aus-ser al-ler Fahr, und *f*
 Se-cure from ev'-ry care, se-

53 Und aus-ser al-ler Fahr, und *f*
 Se-cure from ev'-ry care, se-

Trost und Frie-den schwe-bet Und aus-ser al-ler Fahr, *f*
 peace and glad-ness thri-ving Se-cure from ev'-ry care, se-

Trost und Frie-den schwe-bet Und aus-ser al-ler Fahr, und *f*
 peace and glad-ness thri-ving Se-cure from ev'-ry care, se-

55 aus-ser al-ler Fahr, aus al-ler Fahr, aus al-ler Fahr, und aus-ser *f*
 cure from ev'-ry care, from ev'-ry care, from ev'-ry care, se-cure from

56 aus-ser al-ler Fahr, und aus-ser al-ler Fahr, und aus-ser *p*
 cure from ev'-ry care, se-cure from ev'-ry care, se-cure from

57 - aus al-ler Fahr, und aus-ser al-ler Fahr, und aus-ser *f*
 - from ev'-ry care, se-cure from ev'-ry care, se-cure from

aus-ser al-ler Fahr, und aus-ser al-ler Fahr, und aus-ser *f*
 cure from ev'-ry care, se-cure from ev'-ry care, se-cure from

59 al-ler Fahr, aus al-ler Fahr, aus al-ler Fahr, In *pp*
 ev'-ry care, from ev'-ry care, from ev'-ry care, In

al-ler Fahr, und aus-ser al-ler Fahr, In Trost und Frie-den *pp*
 ev'-ry care, se-cure from ev'-ry care, In peace and glad-ness

al-ler Fahr, und aus-ser al-ler Fahr, In Trost und Frie-den *pp*
 ev'-ry care, se-cure from ev'-ry care, In peace and glad-ness

al-ler Fahr, und aus-ser al-ler Fahr, In Trost und Frie-den *pp*
 ev'-ry care, se-cure from ev'-ry care, In peace and glad-ness

63 Trost und Frie-den schwe-bet Und aus-ser al-ler Fahr. *[rall.]* 66
 peace and glad-ness thri-ving Se-cure from ev'-ry care.

schwe-bet, in Trost und Frie-den schwe-bet, Aus al-ler Fahr, aus al-ler Fahr.
 thri-ving, in peace and glad-ness thri-ving, Se-cure from care, from ev'-ry care.

schwe-bet, in Trost und Frie-den schwe-bet, Aus al-ler Fahr, aus al-ler Fahr.
 thri-ving, in peace and glad-ness thri-ving, Se-cure from care, from ev'-ry care.

schwe-bet, in Trost und Frie-den schwe-bet, Aus al-ler Fahr, aus al-ler Fahr. *[rall.]*
 thri-ving, in peace and glad-ness thri-ving, Se-cure from care, from ev'-ry care.