

Geistliches Lied

Johannes Brahms (1833 - 1897)

Brahms wrote for the church choir as well as for the concert hall, and he composed several sets of unaccompanied motets. This short piece, written with an organ accompaniment, reveals Brahms at his most lyrical and idiomatic. It was composed in 1856, when he was twenty-three, and is particularly remarkable for the fact that the voice parts are constructed as a strict double canon throughout. Such was Brahms' skill, however, that the listener is most unlikely to be aware of this contrapuntal device. The piece has an unmistakeable visionary quality which clearly foreshadows the later *Requiem*.

programme notes by John Bawden

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Lass dich nur nichts nicht dauren,
mit Trauren, sei stille, wie Gott es Fugt,
so sei vergnugt mein Wille!
Was willst du heute sorgen auf morgen?

Der Eine steht allem fur, der gibt auch dir das Deine.
Sei nur in allem Handel ohn' Wandel, steh feste,

was Gott beschleusst, das ist und heisst das Beste.
Amen.

*Let trouble never move you, or grieve you,
but bear it; what God has sent be your delight, my spirit.
Why contemplate with sorrow tomorrow?*

*His action makes all things new and gives to you your portion.
Be strong in all temptation and passion, not ceasing;
what God ordains, that still remains your blessing.
Amen.*