

Two Mendelssohn Part Songs

from *Sechs Lieder im Freien zu singen*

In terms of his choral music, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809-1847) is predominantly known for the large oratorios *Elijah* and *St. Paul*. However, in his short life he not only wrote a significant amount of sacred music but also composed five sets of part songs for mixed voices totaling 28 pieces (opp. 41, 48, 59, 88, and 100). He also penned 21 songs for male chorus (opp. 50, 75, 76, and 120). Three of the sets for mixed choir are labeled with the instruction “To be sung in the open air,” an indication Mendelssohn never meant these pieces as concert hall fare, but rather for outdoor informal gatherings. Secular choral songs such as these were quite popular with choral societies, which were prevalent in nineteenth-century Germany. For his part songs Mendelssohn was most attracted to the poetry of Eichendorff, Goethe, Uhland, and Heine, the themes of which typically deal with the romanticized ideals of springtime, birds in carefree flight, forests, the hunt, and the general goodness of nature.

Im Walde

(In the Forest)

Op. 41, No. 1

Although it is the first song in the *Sechs Lieder im Freien zu singen*, Op. 41, *Im Walde* (1836) was actually written three or four years after the others in the set. The simplicity of the musical setting is equal to that of the poetry: the rhyming verse is set in three strophes with vocal parts almost entirely moving in note-against-note style in order to deliver the text as clearly as possible. It should not be sung too quickly, otherwise the lingering feel of the dotted rhythms will take on a march-like character. Expressions in [brackets] are the editor’s interpretive suggestions. A freely translated version is supplied for those choirs who choose to sing the song in English.

Jagdlied

(Hunting Song)

Op. 59, No. 6

Dating from the year 1843, *Jagdlied* is the brilliant close to Op. 59, *Sechs Lieder im Freien zu singen*. As with many of the part songs, Mendelssohn sets this poem in strophes, the first two verses of which are identical. In contrast, however, he writes new music for the second half of the third verse, changing the mode from minor to major. The piece closes with an exciting “codetta” signaled by a sudden return of the opening music. In order to produce the effect of the galloping horses, *Jagdlied* should be sung as briskly as proper diction allows.

Expressions in [brackets] are the editor’s interpretive suggestions. A freely translated version is supplied for those choirs who choose to sing the song in English.

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Two Mendelssohn Part Songs

I. Im Walde

Op. 41, No. 1
(In the Forest)

SATB a cappella

August Graf von Platen
English version by Scott MacPherson

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809-1847)
Edited by Scott MacPherson

Lento e dolce [♩ = 60]

p *sf*

Ihr Vö - gel in den Zwei - gen schwank, wie seid ihr froh und
You birds now in the branch - es high, you do with joy so

p *sf*

Ihr Vö - gel in den Zwei - gen schwank, wie seid ihr froh und
You birds now in the branch - es high, you do with joy so

p *sf*

Ihr Vö - gel in den Zwei - gen schwank, wie seid ihr froh und
You birds now in the branch - es high, you do with joy so

p *sf*

Ihr Vö - gel in den Zwei - gen schwank, wie seid ihr froh und
You birds now in the branch - es high, you do with joy so

p (For rehearsal only) *sf*

Duration: *Im Walde*: 2:30

Jagdlied: 3:30

5

p

frisch und frank, und tril - lert Mor - gen - chö - re.
hap - p'ly fly, and trill in morn - ing cho - rus.

p *p*

frisch und frank, und tril - lert Mor - gen - chö - re, und tril - lert Mor - gen -
hap - p'ly fly, and trill in morn - ing cho - rus, and trill in morn - ing

p *p*

frisch und frank, und tril - lert Mor - gen - chö - re, und tril - lert Mor - gen -
hap - p'ly fly, and trill in morn - ing cho - rus, and trill in morn - ing

p

frisch und frank, und tril - lert Mor - gen - chö - re.
hap - p'ly fly, and trill in morn - ing cho - rus.

9

cresc. *sf* *p*

Ich füh - le mich im Her - zen krank, wenn ich's von un - ten hö - re,
I feel my heart so sad - ly sigh, when here be - low I hear it,

cresc. *sf* *p*

chö - re. Ich füh - le mich im Her - zen krank, wenn ich's von un - ten hö - re,
cho - rus. I feel my heart so sad - ly sigh, when here be - low I hear it,

cresc. *sf* *p*

chö - re. Ich füh - le mich im Her - zen krank, wenn ich's von un - ten hö - re,
cho - rus. I feel my heart so sad - ly sigh, when here be - low I hear it,

cresc. *sf* *p*

Ich füh - le mich im Her - zen krank, wenn ich's von un - ten hö - re,
I feel my heart so sad - ly sigh, when here be - low I hear it,

14 *cresc.* *f*

wenn ich's von un - ten hö - re, wenn ich's von
when here be - low I hear it, when here be -

cresc. [*mf*] *f*

wenn ich's von un - ten hö - re, wenn ich's von un - ten, von
when here be - low I hear it, when here be - low, be -

cresc. *f*

wenn ich's von un - ten hö - re, wenn ich's von
when here be - low I hear it, when here be -

cresc. *f*

wenn ich's von un - ten hö - re, wenn ich's von
when here be - low I hear it, when here be -

19 *p*

un - ten hö - re. Ein
low I hear it. Just

p *p*

un - ten hö - re. wenn ich's von un - ten hö - re. Ein
low I hear it, when here be - low I hear it. Just

p *p*

un - ten hö - re. wenn ich's von un - ten hö - re. Ein
low I hear it. when here be - low I hear it. Just

p *p*

un - ten hö - re. Ein
low I hear it. Just

24

Stünd - chen schleich' ich bloß he - raus in eu - er lu - stig Som - mer - haus, und
for an hour do I slip out in - to your cheer - ful sum - mer - house, of

Stünd - chen schleich' ich bloß he - raus in eu - er lu - stig Som - mer - haus, und
for an hour do I slip out in - to your cheer - ful sum - mer - house, of

Stünd - chen schleich' ich bloß he - raus in eu - er lu - stig Som - mer - haus, und
for an hour do I slip out in - to your cheer - ful sum - mer - house, of

Stünd - chen schleich' ich bloß he - raus in eu - er lu - stig Som - mer - haus, und
for an hour do I slip out in - to your cheer - ful sum - mer - house, of

28

muß mich dess be - kla - gen. Ihr le - bet stets in
this I am la - ment - ing. You live in cons - tant

muß mich dess be - kla - gen, und muß mich dess be - kla - gen. Ihr le - bet stets in
this I am la - ment - ing, of this I am la - ment - ing. You live in cons - tant

muß mich dess be - kla - gen, und muß mich dess be - kla - gen. Ihr le - bet stets in
this I am la - ment - ing, of this I am la - ment - ing. You live in cons - tant

muß mich dess be - kla - gen. Ihr le - bet stets in
this I am la - ment - ing. You live in cons - tant

33

sf *p* *cresc.*

Saus und Braus, seht's nach - ten hier und ta - gen, seht's nach - ten
care - free bliss for day and night con - tent - ing, for day and

sf *p* *cresc.*

Saus und Braus, seht's nach - ten hier und ta - gen, seht's nach - ten
care - free bliss for day and night con - tent - ing, for day and

sf *p* *cresc.*

Saus und Braus, seht's nach - ten hier und ta - gen, seht's nach - ten
care - free bliss for day and night con - tent - ing, for day and

sf *p* *cresc.*

Saus und Braus, seht's nach - ten hier und ta - gen, seht's nach - ten
care - free bliss for day and night con - tent - ing, for day and

37

f

hier — und ta - gen, seht's nach - ten hier — und
night — con - tent - ing, for day and night — con -

[mf] *f*

hier und ta - gen, seht's — nach - ten hier, nach - ten hier und
night con - tent - ing, for — day and night, day and night con -

f

hier — und ta - gen, seht's nach - ten hier — und
night — con - tent - ing, for day and night — con -

f

hier und ta - gen, seht's nach - ten hier und
night con - tent - ing, for day and night con -

II. Jagdlied

Op. 59, No. 6

(Hunting Song)

Joseph von Eichendorff

English version by Scott MacPherson

Allegro molto quasi presto [♩ = 120]

p *cresc.*
Durch schwank - en - de
Through tree - tops —

pp
Durch schwank - en - de Wip - fel schießt gol - den - er Strahl, durch schwank - en - de
Through tree - tops — sway - ing flash gold - en — rays through tree - tops —

pp *cresc.*
Durch schwank - en - de Wip - fel schießt gol - den - er Strahl, durch schwank - en - de
Through tree - tops — sway - ing flash gold - en — rays through tree - tops —

pp *cresc.*
Durch schwank - en - de Wip - fel schießt gol - den - er Strahl, durch schwank - en - de
Through tree - tops — sway - ing flash gold - en — rays through tree - tops —

pp (For rehearsal only) *p* *cresc.*

4 *f*
Wip - fel schießt gol - den - er Strahl, tief un - ter den Gip - feln das neb - li - ge
sway - ing flash gold - en — rays be - low dis - tant sum - mits, the mist - y —

f
Wip - fel schießt gol - den - er Strahl, tief un - ter den Gip - feln das neb - li - ge
sway - ing flash gold - en — rays be - low dis - tant sum - mits, the mist - y —

f
Wip - fel schießt gol - den - er Strahl, tief un - ter den Gip - feln das neb - li - ge
sway - ing flash gold - en — rays be - low dis - tant sum - mits, the mist - y —

f
Wip - fel schießt gol - den - er Strahl,
sway - ing flash gold - en — rays

7

dim. *[poco ritard]* *pp*

Thal, _____ tief un - ter den Gip - feln das neb - li - ge Thal.
 vale, _____ be - low dis - tant sum - mits, the mist - y _____ vale.

Thal, das neb - li - ge Thal. _____
 vale, the mist - y _____ vale.

Thal, das neb - li - ge Thal. _____
 vale, the mist - y _____ vale.

f *dim.* *pp*

tief un - ter den Gip - feln das neb - li - ge Thal. _____
 be - low dis - tant sum - mits, the mist - y _____ vale.

[poco ritard] *pp*

12

f

Fern halt es vom Schlo - sse, das Wald - horn
 From cas - tle it e - choes, the horn calls

f

Fern halt es vom Schlo - sse, das Wald - horn
 From cas - tle it e - choes, the horn calls

f

Fern halt es vom Schlo - sse, das Wald - horn ruft, das Wald - horn
 From cas - tle it e - choes, the horn calls out, the horn calls

f

Fern halt es vom Schlo - sse, das Wald - horn ruft, das Wald - horn
 From cas - tle it e - choes, the horn calls out, the horn calls

f

16 *ff*

ruft, es wie-hern die Ros - se, es wie - hern die Ros - se in die Luft, in die
out, and bray the hor - ses and bray the hor - ses in the air, in the

ruft, es wie-hern die Ros - se, es wie - hern die Ros - se in die Luft, in die
out, and bray the hor - ses and bray the hor - ses in the air, in the

ruft, es wie-hern die Ros - se, es wie - hern die Ros - se in die Luft, in die
out, and bray the hor - ses and bray the hor - ses in the air, in the

ruft, es wie-hern die Ros - se, es wie - hern die Ros - se in die Luft, in die
out, and bray the hor - ses and bray the hor - ses in the air, in the

20 *f*

Luft, es wie-hern die Ros - se in die Luft, in die Luft, in die
air, and bray the hor - ses in the air, in the air, in the

Luft, es wie-hern die Ros - se in die Luft, in die Luft, in die
air, and bray the hor - ses in the air, in the air, in the

Luft, es wie-hern die Ros - se in die Luft, in die Luft, in die
air, and bray the hor - ses in the air, in the air, in the

Luft, es wie-hern die Ros - se in die Luft, in die Luft, in die
air, and bray the hor - ses in the air, in the air, in the

25

ff

Luft, in die Luft, in die Luft, in die Luft!
air, in the air, in the air, in the air!

ff *pp*

Luft, in die Luft, in die Luft, in die Luft! Bald Län - der und
air, in the air, in the air, in the air! Now lands and—

ff *pp*

Luft, in die Luft, in die Luft, in die Luft! Bald Län - der und
air, in the air, in the air, in the air! Now lands and—

ff *pp*

Luft, in die Luft, in die Luft, in die Luft! Bald Län - der und
air, in the air, in the air, in the air! Now lands and—

30

p *cresc.*

Bald Län - der und See - en, bald Wol - ken -
Now lands and lakes, now stir - ring

cresc.

See - en, bald Wol - ken - zug, bald Län - der und See - en, bald Wol - ken -
lakes, now stir - ring clouds, now lands and lakes, now stir - ring

cresc.

See - en, bald Wol - ken - zug, bald Län - der und See - en, bald Wol - ken -
lakes, now stir - ring clouds, now lands and lakes, now stir - ring

cresc.

See - en, bald Wol - ken - zug, bald Län - der und See - en, bald Wol - ken -
lakes, now stir - ring clouds, now lands and lakes, now stir - ring

33 *f*

zug, tief schim-mernd zu se - hen in schwin - deln-dem Flug,
 clouds, are deep - ly — gleam - ing in diz - zy - ing flight,

zug, tief schim-mernd zu se - hen in schwin - deln-dem Flug, in
 clouds, are deep - ly — gleam - ing in diz - zy - ing flight, in

zug, tief schim-mernd zu se - hen in schwin - deln-dem Flug, in
 clouds, are deep - ly — gleam - ing in diz - zy - ing flight, *f* in

zug, tief schim-mernd zu
 clouds, are deep - ly —

36 *dim.* [*poco ritard*] *pp*

tief schim-mernd zu se - hen in schwin - deln-dem Flug.
 are deep - ly — gleam - ing in diz - zy - ing flight.

schwin - deln - dem Flug.
 diz - zy - ing flight.

schwin - deln - dem Flug.
 diz - zy - ing flight.

se - hen in schwin - deln-dem Flug.
 gleam - ing in diz - zy - ing flight.

dim. [*poco ritard*] *pp*