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Botschaft

Georg Friedrich Daumer
(1800–1875)

Johannes Brahms
(1833–1897)

Opus 47, No. 1. Original key: B-flat minor. Composed summer, 1868. First published 1868, N. Simrock, Berlin. The 5 *Lieder und Gesänge* of Opus 47 were largely written during June and July of 1868, shortly after the premiere of *Ein deutsches Requiem*. Brahms worked extensively on *Lieder* that summer, both composing new songs and refining existing ones. The manuscript of "Botschaft" is dated June, 1868, at Bonn. This song became well-known immediately following its publication. The text is found in Daumer's *Hafis: Neue Sammlung perischer Gedichte* (1852), a collection of translated poetry by the Persian poet Hafiz (1319–1389). Daumer was a theologian and linguist who translated poetry from many languages into German. Brahms admired Daumer's work and set some sixty of his poems to music, bringing the poet considerable fame. While on a trip from Nuremberg to Karlsruhe, in May of 1872, Brahms stopped in Würzburg to look up the poet. He was surprised to find Daumer a small, elderly man who was completely unaware of Brahms and his songs.

Botschaft

Wehe, Lüftchen, lind und lieblich
Um die Wange der Geliebten,
Spiele zart in ihrer Locke,
Eile nicht hinweg zu fliehn!
Tut sie dann vielleicht die Frage,
Wie es um mich Armen stehe,
Sprich: "Unendlich war sein Wehe,
Höchst bedenklich seine Lage;
Aber jetzt kann er hoffen,
Wieder herrlich aufzuleben,
Denn du, Holde, denkst an ihn."

Message

Blow, gentle breeze, softly and sweetly
around the cheeks of my beloved;
play tenderly among her curls.
Be in no hurry to fly away!
If she then, perhaps, asks
how things are going with me, poor man,
say "Endless was his misery,
most grave his condition;
but now he can hope
to be gloriously revived
because you, lovely one, are thinking of him."

Grazioso

p leggiero

5

We - he, Lüft - chen, lind und

sfz *p*