

Liedeslieder –Brahms translated

1. Rede Mädchen....

Speak, maiden, whom I love all too much,
who hurled into my once aloof heart,
with only one glance,
these wild, ardent feelings!

Will you not soften your heart?

Do you wish to be chaste
and remain without sweet bliss,
or do you want me to come to you?

To remain without sweet bliss -

I would never make such a bitter penance.
So come, dark-eyes,
come when the stars greet you.

2. Am Gesteine rauscht die Flut.....

Against the stones the stream rushes,
powerfully driven:
those who do not know to sigh there,
will learn it when they fall in love.

3. O die Frauen....

O women, O women,
how they melt one with bliss!
I would have become a monk long ago
if it were not for women!

4. Wie des Abends...

Like the evening's lovely red,
would I, a poor maiden, like to glow,
to please one, one boy -
and to then radiate bliss forever.

5. Die grüne Hopfenranke....

The green hops vine,
it winds along the ground.

The young, fair maiden -
so mournful are her thoughts!

You - listen, green vine!

Why do you not raise yourself heavenwards?

You - listen, fair maiden!

Why is your heart so heavy?

How can the vine raise itself
when no support lends it strength?
How can the maiden be merry

when her sweetheart is far away?

6. Ein kleiner hübscher Vogel....

A small, pretty bird
took flight
into the garden -
there was fruit enough there.
If I were a pretty,
small bird,
I would not hesitate -
I would do just as he did.

Malicious lime-twigs
lurked in that place;
the poor bird
could not escape.
If I were a pretty,
small bird,
I would have hesitated,
I would not have done that.

The bird came
into a pretty girl's hand,
and it caused him no pain,
the lucky thing.
If I were a pretty,
small bird,
I would not hesitate --
I would do just as he did.

7. Wohl schön bewandt...

Quite fair and contented
was I previously
with my life
and with my sweetheart;
through a wall,
yes, through ten walls,
did my friend's gaze
recognize me;
But now, oh woe,
if I am with that cold boy,
no matter how close
I stand before his eyes,
neither his eyes
nor his heart notices.

8. Wenn so lind dein Aug emir....

When your eyes look at me
so gently and lovingly,
you chase away every last anxiety
that troubles my life.

The lovely glow of this love -
do not let it disappear!
No one else will ever love you
as faithfully as I.

9. Am Donaustrande....

On the banks of the Danube,
there stands a house,
and looking out of it
is a pink-cheeked maiden.

The maiden
is very well-protected:
ten iron bolts
have been placed on the door.

But ten iron bolts
are but a joke;
I will snap them
as if they were only glass.

10. O wie sanft die Quelle

O how gently the stream
winds through the meadow!
O how lovely it is when Love
finds Love!

11. Nein, es ist nicht auszukommen....

No, there's just no getting along
with people;
they always make such poisonous
interpretations of everything.

If I'm merry, they say I cherish
loose urges;
if I'm quiet, they say
I am crazed with love.

12. Schlösser auf...

Locksmith - get up and make your locks,
locks without number;
for I want to lock up
all the evil mouths.

13. Vögelein durchrauscht....

The little bird rushes through the air,
searching for a branch;
and my heart desires a heart, a heart
on which it can blessedly rest.

14. Sieh wie ist die Welle klar....

See how clear the waves are
when the moon gazes down!
You who are my love,
you love me back!

15. Nachtigall sie singt so schön....

The nightingale, it sings so beautifully,
when the stars are twinkling.
Love me, my beloved heart,
kiss me in the dark!

16. Ein dunkler Schacht ist Liebe....

Love is a dark shaft,
a very dangerous well;
and I, poor man, fell in.
I can neither hear nor see,
I can only think about my bliss,
I can only moan in my woe.

17. Nicht wandle mein Licht...

Do not wander, my light, out there
in the field!
Your feet, your tender feet, would get
too wet, too soft.
All flooded are the paths there,
and the bridges,
so amply there
did my eyes weep.

18. Es bebent das Gesträuche.....

The bushes are trembling;
they were brushed by a
little bird in flight.
In the same way,
my soul trembles,
overcome by love, pleasure and sorrow,
as it thinks of you.