

TRANSLATIONS

La Danza

Now the moon is over the ocean,
Mamma mia, it will jump!
The hour is beautiful for dancing,
Anyone in love will not miss it.

Soon we'll be dancing, round and round,
my ladies, come here,
A beautiful and playful lad
will have a turn with everyone.

As long as in heaven sparkles a star,
And the moonbeams will shine
The most beautiful boy and girl
will dance all night.

Mamma mia, Mamma mia,
Now the moon is over the ocean;
Mamma mia, mamma mia,
Mamma mia, it will jump.

Faster, faster, faster, faster, faster, faster,
Mamma mia, it will jump!
Faster, faster, faster, faster, faster, faster,
Mamma mia, it will jump.

Hopping, jumping, turning, spinning,
every couple have a turn,
now advancing, now receding,
and returns to the excitement.

Now advancing, now receding,
and returns to the excitement.

Keep close, keep close with the blonde,
with the brunette go here and there,
with the redhead follow along.
with the pale one, keep still.

Long live dancing, round and round!
I am a king, I am a lord,
It is the world's greatest pleasure
The most beautiful delight.

Alles hat seine Zeit (Everything in its Time)

Love, drink, shout
beware yourself along with me.
Swarm when I swarm,
I am as prudent as you.

Der Greis (The Old Man)

Gone is all my strength,
old and weak am I,
I have only a little pleasure
in merriment and the juice of grapes.
Gone is all my strength,
the red of my cheeks is flown away.
Death knocks at my door,
without alarm, I open to him.
Heaven, thanks!
A harmonious song
has been my way through life.

Die Harmonie in der Ehe (Harmony in Marriage)

O wonderful harmony,
what he wants, she wants too;
he wants to catch, he wants to play,
he likes to count ducats
and acts like a great man,
and that is also her way.
She likes to count ducats
and act like a great man,
and that is also her way.

Brahms' *Three Quartets, Op. 31* exemplify several aspects of his understanding of the medium. "Wechsellied zum Tanze" is a dialogue between groups of both genders. "Der Gang zum Liebchen" is the expression of a single person, and the setting combines characteristics of a sonority-enhanced solo song with those of a string quartet. "Neckereien" is a male-female exchange with implications of universality as the quartet divides into male-plus-female or male-versus-female pairs to become an expanded duet.

Wechsellied zum Tanze (Dialogue song at the dance)

The indifferent ones

Come along, O fair one, come with me to the dance;
To dance befits a festival day.
If you're not my sweetheart, you can become so;
If you never do, we can dance anyway.
Come along, O fair one, come with me to the dance;
To dance befits a festival day

The amorous ones

Without you, dearest, what would holidays be?
Without you, sweet one, what would dancing be?
If you were not my sweetheart, I would not want to dance;
If you always will be, life will be a holiday.
Without you, dearest, what would holidays be?
Without you, sweet one, what would dancing be?

The indifferent ones

Just leave them to their loving, and let's dance!
Languishing love shuns dancing.
While we merrily twirl in circling lines,
The others will sneak off to the dimly lit woods.
Just leave them to their loving, and let's dance!
Languishing love shuns dancing.

The amorous ones

Let them twirl, and let's go strolling!
The strolling of love is heavenly dance.
Cupid, nearby, hears them mocking;
He'll avenge himself once, and avenge himself soon.
Let them twirl, and let's go strolling!
The strolling of love is heavenly dance.

Der Gang zum Liebchen (Going to his sweetheart)

The moon is shining down;
I really should return to my sweetheart,
to see how she is doing.

Alas, she is despondent and laments,
and laments that she will never see me again in this life!

The moon set;
I hurried quite briskly,
and hurried so nobody might carry my sweetheart away.

Oh, coo, little doves;
Oh, hum, little breezes,
that no one might carry my sweetheart,
my sweetheart away!

Neckereien (Banter)

Truly, my darling, I want to go a-courting now, I'll set you up as my little wife;
mine you'll be, my pet, indeed you'll be mine,
even if you don't want to be.

“Then I'll become a little white-feathered dove,
indeed I'll escape, I'll fly into the woods;
I don't want to be yours, don't want to be yours,
not for a single hour.”

Indeed I have a little musket that fires right away,
I'll shoot myself the little dove down in the woods;
mine you'll be, my pet, indeed you'll be mine,
even if you don't want to be.

“Then I'll become a little fish, a golden fish,
indeed I'll escape into the fresh water.
I don't want to be yours, don't want to be yours,
not for a single hour.”

Indeed I have a little net that fishes very well,
I'll capture myself the golden fish in the stream;
mine you'll be, my pet, indeed you'll be mine, even if you don't want to be.

“Then I'll become a little hare, quick as a flash,
and run into the fields, the wide fields,
I don't want to be yours, don't want to be yours,
not even for a single hour.”

Indeed I have a little hound, very cunning and fine,
that will surely catch me the little hare in the field;
mine you'll be, my pet, indeed you'll be mine,
even if you don't want to be.

Les Contes d'Hoffman

Lovely night, oh, night of love
Smile upon our joys!
Night much sweeter than the day
Oh beautiful night of love!
Time flies by, and carries away
Our tender caresses for ever!
Time flies far from this happy oasis
And does not return
Burning zephyrs
Embrace us with your caresses!
Burning zephyrs
Give us your kisses!
Your kisses! Your kisses! Ah!

Don Giovanni

Upon meeting the young peasant Zerlina, the womanizing Don Giovanni decides that she will become his latest conquest. In order to soothe her betrothed Masetto, Don Giovanni offers to host their wedding celebration at his palace. After sending Masetto to the palace to begin the preparations, Don Giovanni immediately begins to use his seductive charms on the naïve Zerlina.

Giovanni: Give me your hand, oh fairest,
whisper a gentle 'Yes'.

Come, if for me you care,
bless my life with joy.

Zerlina: I would, and yet I would not,
I dare not give in,
Alas! I know I should not...
too late, I may repent.

Giovanni: Come, dearest, let me guide you.

Zerlina: Masetto sure will punish me!

Giovanni: Danger shall never come near you!

Zerlina: Ah ... that I could deny you!

Both: With you, my treasure, this life is nothing but pleasure. My heart is fondly your

Kismet

Loosely based on several stories from *The Thousand and One Nights*, including “Aladdin and His Magic Lamp,” *Kismet* recounts the story of a young woman from the common class who is magically transported for one night to the presence of a handsome young prince before being transported away. In this number, both the prince and the young woman separately try to describe the experience to their advisors.

Les pêcheurs de perles

The two friends, Nadir and Zurga, parted angrily in the past because of rivalry over the priestess, Leila. Several years have passed, and the two are together for the first time since they parted. In this duet, both recall that moment when they first saw Liela. As they relive the memory, it seems that the past rivalry will again come between them. The emotion passes, and both declare that, this time, their friendship will endure.

Nadir: From the golden flower bedecked temple a woman appears, I can see her still! The crowd kneels in astonishment and murmurs, “Look! It is the Goddess who rises from the shadows and reaches for us!”

Zurga: She raises her veil! O! A vision! A dream! The crowd kneels!

Both: Yes, it is she! It is the Goddess, so superb, so enchanting, who descends among us! She raises her veil, and the crowd kneels!

Nadir: The crowd parts as she passes.

Zurga: Her long veil again she lowers.

Nadir: My eyes seek her in vain.

Both: She is gone.

Nadir: A savage ardor burns in my breast; I scorn the hand of a friend!

Zurga: A new fire consumes me; I scorn the hand of a friend!

Nadir: We are changed into enemies!

Zurga: No! Nothing now must part us!

Both: I swear to remain your friend! Yes, it is she, the Goddess who comes to unite us! And faithful to my promise, I will cherish our friendship! We will share our fates until death!

Candide

Based on the novella by Voltaire, *Candide* opens in Westphalia, at Schloss Thunder-ten-Tronck. The Baron's son Maximillian, who is in love with the maid Paquette, scorns Candide, the Baron's illegitimate nephew. Candide is in love with the Baron's beautiful daughter, Cunegonde. The young people are happy because their professor, Doctor Pangloss, has instilled in them an undiluted optimism - the best of all possible worlds. In the Schloss park, Candide and Cunegonde declare their love.