

O Schöne Nacht

Opus 92, Number 1

A partsong for SATB quartet (or chorus) with piano accompaniment.

Music by
Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Poem by
Georg Friederich Daumer
(1800-1875)

About the Piece

The amount of vocal ensemble music composed by Johannes Brahms is often underestimated. In fact, vocal compositions comprise more than half of Brahms's compositional output. In addition to his *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, two sets of *Liebeslieder Waltzes* and motets, Brahms wrote several pieces for accompanied quartet of mixed voices. Written in 1877, *O Schöne Nacht* is among the best known.

In addition to featuring each voice part, this gorgeous part song contains many of Brahms's compositional trademarks: luxurious piano scoring, superb vocal writing, variation, text painting, hemiola, duple vs. triple rhythms, sensitive marriage of text and music, development of small germ motives, even a double inverted canon! I hope you enjoy exploring and interpreting this masterpiece of the choral repertory.

-Drew Collins

Ranges



The Text

O schöne Nacht!
Am Himmel märchenhaft
Erglänzt der Mond in seiner ganzen Pracht;
Um ihn der kleinen Sterne liebliche Genossenschaft.

Es schimmert hell der Tau am grü-nen Halm;
mit Macht in Fliederbusche schlägt die Nachtigall;
Der Knabe schleicht zu seiner Lieb-sten sacht-
O schöne Nacht!

O Lovely Night!
In the sky, magically,
the moon shines in all its splendor;
around it, the pleasant company of little stars.

The dew glistens brightly on the green stem;
in the lilac bush, the nightingale sings lustily;
The youth steals away quietly to his love -
O lovely night!

-translation by Paine/Jeffers (adapt. DC)

O Schöne Nacht

from Vier Quartette, Op. 92, No. 1

For mixed chorus (SATB) with piano accompaniment

Georg Friederich Daumer

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Performance edition by Drew Collins

Andante con moto (♩ = 72) *p*

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

p dolce

Andante con moto

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S
schö - - - - - ne Nacht!

A
schö - - - - - ne Nacht!

T
schö - - - - - ne Nacht!

B
schö - - - - - ne Nacht!

5

8

p

S

A

T

B
mp
Am Him - mel mär - chen - haft er - glänzt der Mond in

11

8

mp

dolce

S
A
T
B

18

mp dolce

um ihn der klei-nen Ster - ne lieb-li -
sei - ner gan - zen Pracht;

18

3

3

3

S
A
T
B

23

p

che Ge-nos - sen - schaft, lieb - li-che Ge - nos - - - sen -

23

dim.

S *mp*
O schö - - - - - ne

A *mp*
O schö - - - - - ne

T
8 schaft. O - - - - - schö - ne, schö - - - - - ne

B
O schö - ne Nacht!

27

S
Nacht!

A
Nacht! Es schim - mert hell - - - - - der Tau, es schim - mert hell der

T
8
Nacht!

B

32

38

S *f* mit Macht, mit

A *cresc.* Tau am grünen Halm;

T

B

38

tr

f

42

S Macht in Flie - der - bu - - - sche schlägt die Nach - ti - gall, die Nach - ti -

A

T

B

42

tr

45

S

A

T

B

gall;

p *mezza voce*

der Kna - - - be

p *mezza voce*

der Kna - - - be

45

f *decresc.*

p

dolce sotto voce sempre

48

S

A

T

B

schleicht zu sei - - - ner Lieb - - - sten sacht, sacht,

schleicht zu sei - - - ner Lieb - - - sten sacht, sacht,

48

3

3

3

52 *p mezza voce*
S der Kna - - - be
A der Kna - - - be
T sacht, sacht, der Kna - - - be schleicht zu
B sacht, sacht, der Kna - - - be schleicht zu

56 *p dolce*
S schleicht zu sei - - - ner Lieb - - - sten sacht, sacht,
A schleicht zu sei - - - ner Lieb - - - sten sacht, sacht,
T sei - - - ner, sei - - - ner Lieb - - - sten sacht, sacht,
B sei - - - ner, sei - - - ner Lieb - - - sten sacht, sacht,

S
sacht, sacht. O — — — — — *f* — — — — — *p*
schö - - - - -

A
sacht, sacht. O — — — — — *f* — — — — — *p*
schö - - - - -

T
sacht, sacht. O — — — — — *f* — — — — — *p*
schö - - - - -

B
sacht, sacht. O — — — — — *f* — — — — — *p*
schö - - - - - ne,

Piano accompaniment for measures 60-63. The right hand features a melodic line with grace notes and slurs, while the left hand provides a rhythmic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

S
ne, schö - - - - - ne Nacht, *pp*
schö - - - - -

A
ne, schö - - - - - ne Nacht, *pp*
schö - - - - -

T
ne, schö - - - - - ne Nacht, *pp*
schö - - - - -

B
schö - - - - - ne Nacht, o schö - ne

Piano accompaniment for measures 64-67. The right hand plays a series of chords with grace notes, and the left hand continues with a rhythmic accompaniment.

S
ne Nacht, o schö - ne, *f* *dim.*

A
ne, schö - - - ne Nacht, schö - ne, *f* *dim.*

T
ne, schö - - - ne Nacht, schö - ne, *f* *dim.*

B
Nacht, - - - schö - - - ne Nacht, - - - schö - ne, *f* *dim.*

69 *f* *dim.*

S
o schö - ne Nacht! *f* *dim.*

A
o schö - - - ne Nacht! *f* *dim.*

T
o schö - - - ne Nacht! *f* *dim.*

B
o schö - - - ne Nacht! *f* *dim.*

73 *pp*