

Sacred Music for a Sacred Space 2021: Text and Translations

Schubert: *Stabat Mater in G minor*

Stabat mater dolorosa
juxta Crucem lacrimosa,
dum pendebat Filius.

Cujus animam gementem,
contristatam et dolentem
pertransivit gladius.

O quam tristis et afflita
fuit illa benedicta,
Mater Unigeniti!

Quae maerebat et dolebat,
pia Mater, dum videbat
nati pœnas inclyti.

At the Cross her station keeping,
stood the mournful Mother weeping,
close to her Son to the last.

Through her heart, His sorrow sharing,
all His bitter anguish bearing,
now at length the sword has passed.

O how sad and sore distressed
was that Mother, highly blest,
of the sole-begotten One.

Christ above in torment hangs,
she beneath beholds the pangs
of her dying glorious Son.

Translation by Edward Caswall is not literal. It maintains the rhyme scheme and sense of the original text. From: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stabat_Mater

Bach: *Christ lag in Todesbanden*

1. Christ lag in Todesbanden
Für unser Sünd gegeben,
Er ist wieder erstanden
Und hat uns bracht das Leben;
Des wir sollen fröhlich sein,,
Gott loben und ihm dankbar sein
Und singen halleluja,,
Halleluja!

Christ lay in death's bonds
handed over for our sins,
he is risen again
and has brought us life
For this we should be joyful,
praise God and be thankful to him
and sing alleluia,
Alleluia

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2. Den Tod niemand zwingen kunnt
Bei allen Menschenkindern.
Das macht' alles unser Sünd,
Kein Unschuld war zu finden.
Davon kam der Tod so bald
Und nahm über uns Gewalt,
Hielt uns in seinem Reich gefangen.
Halleluja!

Nobody could overcome death
among all the children of mankind.
Our sin was the cause of all this,
no innocence was to be found.
Therefore death came so quickly
and seized power over us,
held us captive in his kingdom.
Alleluia !

- 3.** Jesus Christus, Gottes Sohn,,
An unser Statt ist kommen
Und hat die Sünde weggetan,
Damit dem Tod genommen
All sein Recht und sein Gewalt,
Da bleibt nichts denn Tods Gestalt,
Den Stach'l hat er verloren.
Halleluja!
- Jesus Christ, God's son,
has come to our place
and has put aside our sins,
and in this way from death has taken
all his rights and his power,
here remains nothing but death's outward form,
it has lost its sting.
Alleluia!
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- 4.** Es war ein wunderlicher Krieg,
Da Tod und Leben rungen,
Das Leben behielt den Sieg,
Es hat den Tod verschlungen.
Die Schrift hat verkündigt das,
Wie ein Tod den andern fraß,
Ein Spott aus dem Tod ist worden.
Halleluja!
- It was a strange battle
where death and life struggled.
Life won the victory,
it has swallowed up death
Scripture has proclaimed
how one death ate the other,
death has become a mockery.
Alleluia
-
- 5.** Hier ist das rechte Osterlamm,
Davon Gott hat geboten,
Das ist hoch an des Kreuzes Stamm
In heißer Lieb gebraten,
Das Blut zeichnet unser Tür,
Das hält der Glaub dem Tode für,
Der Würger kann uns nicht mehr schaden.
Halleluja!
- Here is the true Easter lamb
that God has offered
which high on the trunk of the cross
is roasted in burning love,
whose blood marks our doors,
which faith holds in front of death,
the strangler can harm us no more
Alleluia
-
- 6.** So feiern wir das hohe Fest
Mit Herzensfreud und Wonne,
Das uns der Herre scheinen läßt,
Er ist selber die Sonne,
Der durch seiner Gnade Glanz
Erleuchtet unser Herzen ganz,
Der Sünden Nacht ist verschwunden.
Halleluja!
- Thus we celebrate the high feast
with joy in our hearts and delight
that the Lord lets shine for us,
He is himself the sun
who through the brilliance of his grace
enlightens our hearts completely,
the night of sin has disappeared.
Alleluia !
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- 7.** Wir essen und leben wohl
In rechten Osterfladen,
Der alte Sauerteig nicht soll
Sein bei dem Wort Gnaden,
Christus will die Koste sein
Und speisen die Seel allein,
Der Glaub will keins andern leben.
Halleluja!
- We eat and live well
on the right Easter cakes,
the old sour-dough should not
be with the word grace,
Christ will be our food
and alone feed the soul,
faith will live in no other way.
Alleluia

Brahms: *How lovely is thy dwelling place*

How lovely is Thy dwelling place, O Lord of Hosts!
For my soul, It longeth, yea, fainteth for the courts of the Lord;
my soul and body crieth out, yea, for the living God.
How lovely is Thy dwelling place, O Lord of Hosts!
O blest are they that dwell within Thy house;
they praise Thy name evermore!
How lovely is Thy dwelling place.

Psalm 84