

OXFORD INTERNATIONAL SONG FESTIVAL



THE WANDERER

Saturday 28 October 2023 | 7.30pm
Holywell Music Room

Generously supported by the
Friends of Oxford International Song Festival

Presented as part of the Humanities
Cultural Programme *Everything is Connected* season

Toby Spence tenor
Isabelle Peters soprano
Sholto Kynoch piano

PROGRAMME

Franz Schubert (1797 - 1828)

Gretchen am Spinnrade D118

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
(1749 - 1832)

Im Walde „Waldesnacht“ D708

Friedrich von Schlegel
(1772 - 1829)

Der Lindenbaum

Wilhelm Müller
(1794 - 1827)

Das Wirtshaus

Wilhelm Müller

Einsamkeit Op. 90 no.5

Wilhelm Müller

Totengräbers Heimweh D842

Jacob Nicolaus Craigher
de Jachelutta (1797 - 1855)

Über Wildemann D884

Ernst Schulze
(1789 - 1817)

An den Mond in einer Herbstnacht D614

Aloys Schreiber
(1761 - 1841)

Licht und Liebe D352

Matthäus Casimir
von Collin (1779 - 1824)

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

GRETCHEN AM SPINNRADE

Schubert / Goethe

Meine Ruh' ist hin,
Mein Herz ist schwer,
Ich finde sie nimmer
Und nimmermehr.

Wo ich ihn nicht hab'
Ist mir das Grab,
Die ganze Welt
Ist mir vergällt.

Mein armer Kopf
Ist mir verrückt
Mein armer Sinn
Ist mir zerstückt.

Meine Ruh' ist hin,
Mein Herz ist schwer,
Ich finde sie nimmer
Und nimmermehr.

Nach ihm nur schau' ich
Zum Fenster hinaus,
Nach ihm nur geh' ich
Aus dem Haus.

Sein hoher Gang,
Sein' edle Gestalt,
Seines Mundes Lächeln,
Seiner Augen Gewalt.

Und seiner Rede
Zauberfluss.
Sein Händedruck,
Und ach, sein Kuss!

Meine Ruh' ist hin,
Mein Herz ist schwer,
Ich finde sie nimmer
Und nimmermehr.

Mein Busen drängt sich
Nach ihm hin.
Ach dürft' ich fassen
Und halten ihn.

Und küssen ihn
So wie ich wollt'
An seinen Küssem
Vergehen sollt'

GRETCHEN AT THE SPINNING-WHEEL

English Translation © Richard Stokes

My peace is gone
My heart is heavy,
I shall never
Ever find peace again.

When he's not with me,
Life's like the grave;
The whole world
Is turned to gall.

My poor head
Is crazed,
My poor mind
Shattered.

My peace is gone
My heart is heavy,
I shall never
Ever find peace again.

It's only for him
I gaze from the window,
It's only for him
I leave the house.

His proud bearing
His noble form,
The smile on his lips,
The power of his eyes,

And the magic flow
Of his words,
The touch of his hand,
And ah, his kiss!

My peace is gone
My heart is heavy,
I shall never
Ever find peace again.

My bosom
Yearns for him.
Ah! If I could clasp
And hold him,

And kiss him
To my heart's content,
And in his kisses
Perish!

IM WALDE, „WALDESNACHT“

Schubert / Schlegel

Windes Rauschen, Gottes Flügel,
 Tief in kühler Waldesnacht;
 Wie der Held in Rosses Bügel,
 Schwingt sich des Gedankens Macht.
 Wie die alten Tannen sausen,
 Hört man Geistes Wogen brausen.

Herrlich ist der Flamme Leuchten
 In des Morgenglanzes Rot,
 Oder die das Feld beleuchten,
 Blitze, schwanger oft von Tod.
 Rasch die Flamme zuckt und lodert,
 Wie zu Gott hinauf gefordert.

Ewig's Rauschen sanfter Quellen,
 Zauber Blumen aus dem Schmerz;
 Trauer doch in linden Wellen
 Schlägt uns lockend an das Herz;
 Fernab hin der Geist gezogen,
 Die uns locken, durch die Wogen.

Drang des Lebens aus der Hülle,
 Kampf der starken Triebe wild;
 Wird zur schönsten Liebesfülle,
 Durch des Geistes Hauch gestillt.
 Schöpferischer Lüfte Wehen
 Fühlt man durch die Seele gehen.

Windes Rauschen, Gottes Flügel,
 Tief in kühler Waldesnacht!
 Frei gegeben alle Zügel,
 Schwingt sich des Gedankens Macht,
 Hört in Lüften ohne Grausen
 Den Gesang der Geister brausen.

IN THE FOREST, 'NIGHT IN THE FOREST'

English Translation © Richard Wigmore

The rushing of the wind, God's own wings,
 deep in the cool night of the forest,
 as the hero leaps on to his horse,
 so does the power of thought soar.
 As the old pine-trees rustle,
 so we hear the surging waves of the spirit.

Glorious is the flame's glow
 in the red light of morning,
 or the flashes that light up the fields,
 often pregnant with death.
 Swiftly the flame flickers and blazes,
 as if summoned upward to God.

The eternal murmuring of gentle springs
 conjures flowers from sorrow;
 yet sadness beats alluringly
 against our hearts in gentle waves.
 The spirit is borne far away
 by those waves that allure us.

Life's urge to be free of its fetters,
 the struggle of strong, wild impulses,
 is turned to love's fair fulfilment,
 stilled by the breath of the spirit.
 We feel the creative breath
 pervade our souls.

The rushing of the wind, God's own wings,
 deep in the cool night of the forest;
 free from all restraints
 the power of thought soars;
 without fear we hear the song
 of the spirits echoing in the breezes.

DER LINDENBAUM

Schubert / Müller

Am Brunnen vor dem Tore,
Da steht ein Lindenbaum,
Ich träumt' in seinem Schatten
So manchen süßen Traum;
Ich schnitt in seine Rinde
So manches liebe Wort,
Es zog in Freud' und Leide
Zu ihm mich immer fort.

Ich musst' auch heute wandern
Vorbei in tiefer Nacht,
Da hab' ich noch im Dunkeln
Die Augen zugemacht.
Und seine Zweige rauschten,
Als riefen sie mir zu:
Komm her zu mir, Geselle,
Hier find'st du deine Ruh'.

Die kalten Winde bliesen
Mir grad' in's Angesicht,
Der Hut flog mir vom Kopfe,
Ich wendete mich nicht.
Nun bin ich manche Stunde
Entfernt von jenem Ort,
Und immer hör' ich's rauschen:
Du fändest Ruhe dort.

DAS WIRTSCHAUS

Schubert / Müller

Auf einen Totenacker
Hat mich mein Weg gebracht.
Allhier will ich einkehren:
Hab' ich bei mir gedacht.

Ihr grünen Totenkränze
Könnt wohl die Zeichen sein,
Die müde Wanderer laden
In's kühle Wirtshaus ein.

Sind denn in diesem Hause
Die Kammern all' besetzt?
Bin matt zum Niedersinken
Bin tödlich schwer verletzt.

O unbarmherz'ge Schenke,
Doch weisest du mich ab?
Nun weiter denn, nur weiter,
Mein treuer Wanderstab!

THE LINDEN TREE

English Translation © Richard Wigmore

By the well, before the gate,
stands a linden tree;
in its shade I dreamt
many a sweet dream.
In its bark I carved
many a word of love;
in joy and sorrow
I was ever drawn to it.

Today, too, I had to walk
past it at dead of night;
even in the darkness
I closed my eyes.
And its branches rustled
as if they were calling to me:
'Come to me, friend,
here you will find rest.'

The cold wind blew
straight into my face,
my hat flew from my head;
I did not turn back.
Now I am many hours' journey
from that place;
yet I still hear the rustling:
'There you would find rest.'

THE INN

English Translation © Richard Wigmore

My journey has brought me
to a graveyard.
Here, I thought to myself,
I will rest for the night.

Green funeral wreaths,
you must be the signs
inviting tired travellers
into the cool inn.

Are all the rooms
in this house taken, then?
I am weary to the point of collapse,
I am fatally wounded.

Pitiless tavern,
do you nonetheless turn me away?
On, then, press onwards,
my trusty staff!

EINSAMKEIT

Schubert / Müller

Wie eine trübe Wolke
Durch heit're Lüfte geht,
Wenn in der Tanne Wipfel
Ein mattes Lüftchen weht:

So zieh' ich meine Strasse
Dahin mit trägem Fuss,
Durch helles, frohes Leben,
Einsam und ohne Gruss.

Ach, dass die Luft so ruhig!
Ach, dass die Welt so licht!
Als noch die Stürme tobten,
War ich so elend nicht.

LONELINESS

English Translation © Richard Wigmore

As a dark cloud
drifts through clear skies,
when a faint breeze blows
in the fir-tops;

Thus I go on my way
with weary steps, through
bright, joyful life,
alone, greeted by no one.

Alas, that the air is so calm!
Alas, that the world is so bright!
When storms were still raging
I was not so wretched.

TOTENGRÄBERS HEIMWEH

Schubert / Jachelutta

O Menschheit, - O Leben! -
Was soll's? - O was soll's?!
Grabe aus - scharre zu!
Tag und Nacht keine Ruh! -
Das Treiben, das Drängen -
Wohin? - O wohin?! -
"Ins Grab - tief hinab!"

O Schicksal - O traurige Pflicht
Ich trag's länger nicht! -
Wann wirst du mir schlagen,
O Stunde der Ruh?!
O Tod! komm und drücke
Die Augen mir zu! -
Im Leben, da ist's ach! so schwül!
Im Grabe so friedlich, so kühl!
Doch ach, wer legt mich hinein? -
Ich stehe allein! - so ganz allein!! -

Von allen verlassen
Dem Tod nur verwandt,
Verweil' ich am Rande -
Das Kreuz in der Hand,
Und starre mit sehnendem Blick,
Hinab - ins tiefe Grab! -

O Heimat des Friedens,
Der Seligen Land!
An dich knüpft die Seele
Ein magisches Band. -
Du winkst mir von Ferne,
Du ewiges Licht:
Es schwinden die Sterne -
Das Auge schon bricht! -
Ich sinke - ich sinke! - Ihr Lieben, -
Ich komm!

GRAVEDIGGER'S LONGING

English Translation © Richard Stokes

O mankind – O life! –
To what end – Oh what end?!
Digging out – filling in!
Day and night no rest! –
The urgency, the haste –
Where does it lead! – Ah where?! –
'Deep down – into the grave!' –

O fate – O sad duty –
I can bear it no more! –
When will you toll for me,
O hour of peace?! –
O death! Come
And close my eyes! –
Life, alas, is so oppressive! –
The grave so peaceful, so cool!
But ah! Who will lay me there? –
I stand alone! – so utterly alone!! –

Abandoned by all,
With death my only kin,
I linger on the edge -
Cross in hand,
And stare longingly
Down - into the deep grave! –

O homeland of peace,
Land of the blessed!
A magic bond
Binds my soul to you. –
Eternal light,
You beckon me from afar: -
The stars vanish –
My eyes close in death! -
I am sinking - I am sinking! - Loved ones -
I come!

ÜBER WILDEMANN

Schubert / Schulze

Die Winde sausen am Tannenhang,
Die Quellen brausen das Tal entlang;
Ich wand're in Eile
durch Wald und Schnee,
Wohl manche Meile von Höh zu Höh.

Und will das Leben im freien Tal
Sich auch schon heben
zum Sonnenstrahl;
Ich muss vorüber mit wildem Sinn
Und blicke lieber zum Winter hin.

Auf grünen Heiden, auf bunten Aun,
Müsst' ich mein Leiden
nur immer schaun,
Dass selbst am Steine
das Leben spriesst,
Und ach, nur eine ihr Herz verschliesst.

O Liebe, Liebe, O Maienhauch!
Du drängst die Triebe
aus Baum und Strauch!
Die Vögel singen auf grünen Höhn,
Die Quellen springen bei deinem Wehn!

Mich lässt du schweifen
im dunklen Wahn
Durch Windespfeifen auf rauher Bahn.
O Frühlingsschimmer, O Blütenschein,
Soll ich denn nimmer
mich dein erfreun?

ABOVE WILDEMAN

English Translation © Richard Wigmore

The winds whistle over the pine-slopes,
the streams rush along the valley;
I hasten for many a mile
through forest and snow,
from peak to peak.

And though life in the open valley
already rises
to meet the sun's rays,
I must pass on, troubled in spirit,
preferring to look towards winter.

In green fields, in many-coloured meadows
I would only contemplate
my suffering ceaselessly,
knowing that life burgeons
from the very stones,
and, alas, that only one creature closes her heart.

O love, O love, O breath of May!
You force the shoots
from tree and bush.
The birds sing on green treetops;
the springs gush forth when you stir.

You leave me to roam
with my dark imaginings,
along the rough path, in whistling winds.
O gleam of spring, O sheen of blossom,
shall I never again
delight in you?

AN DEN MOND IN EINER HERBSTMÄRTH

Schubert / Schreiber

Freundlich ist dein Antlitz,
Söhn des Himmels!
Leis sind deine Tritte
Durch des Äthers Wüste,
Holder Nachtgefährte!

Dein Schimmer
ist sanft und erquickend,
Wie das Wort des Trostes
Von des Freundes Lippe,
Wenn ein schrecklicher Geier
An der Seele nagt.

Manche Träne siehst du,
Siehst so manches Lächeln,
Hörst der Liebe trauliches Geflüster,
Leuchtest ihr auf stillem Pfad;
Hoffnung schwiebt auf deinem Strahle,
Herab zum stillen Dulder,
Der verlassen gebt auf bedorntem Weg.

Du siehst auch meine Freunde,
Zerstreut in fernen Landen;
Du giessest deinen Schimmer
Auch auf die frohen Hügel,
Wo ich oft als Knabe hüpfte,
Wo oft bei deinem Lächeln
Ein unbekanntes Sehnen
Mein junges Herz ergriff.

Du blickst auch auf die Stätte,
Wo meine Lieben ruhn,
Wo der Tau fällt auf ihr Grab,
Und die Gräser drüber weh'n
In dem Abendhaute.

Doch dein Schimmer dringt nicht
In die dunkle Kammer,
Wo sie ruhen von des Lebens Müh'n,
Wo auch ich bald ruhen werde!
Du wirst geh'n und Wiederkehren,
Du wirst seh'n noch manches Lächeln,
Dann werd' ich nicht mehr lächeln,
Dann werd' ich nicht mehr weinen,
Mein wird man nicht mehr gedenken
Auf dieser schönen Erde.

TO THE MOON ON AN AUTUMN NIGHT

English Translation © Richard Wigmore

Your face is kind,
son of heaven.
Softly you move
through the airy waste,
fair companion of the night.

Your shimmering light
is gentle and refreshing,
like a word of comfort
from the lips of a friend
when a terrifying vulture
gnaws at the soul.

You see many a tear
and many a smile ;
you hear lovers' intimate whispers
as you shine for them on their quiet way;
on your beams hope streams down
to the silent sufferer,
wandering all alone on the thorny path.

You see my friends, too,
scattered in distant lands ;
you shed your light
upon the happy hills
where I often played as a boy,
and where, as you smiled down,
an unknown longing
often seized my youthful heart.

You gaze also upon the place
where my loved ones rest,
where the dew falls on their graves
and the grass above them
blows in the evening breeze.

But your light does not penetrate
the dark chamber
where they rest from life's toil,
and where I, too, shall soon rest.
You will go and return again,
you will see many more smiles.
Then I shall smile
and weep no more;
I will no longer be remembered
on this fair earth.

LICHT UND LIEBE

Schubert / Collin

Liebe ist ein süßes Licht.
Wie die Erde strebt zur Sonne,
Und zu jenen hellen Sternen
In den weiten blauen Fernen,
Strebt das Herz nach Liebesonne:
Denn sie ist ein süßes Licht.

Sieh ! Wie hoch in stiller Feier
Droben helle Sterne funkeln:
von der Erde fliehn die dunkeln
Schwermutsvollen trüben Schleier.
Wehe mir, wie so trübe
Fühl ich tief mich im Gemüte,
Das in Freuden sonst erblühte,
Nun vereinsamt, ohne Liebe.

LIGHT AND LOVE

English Translation © Richard Wigmore

Love is a sweet light.
Just as the earth aches for the sun
and those bright stars
in the distant blue expanses,
so the heart aches for love's bliss,
for love is a sweet light.

See, high in the silent solemnity,
bright stars glitter up above:
from the earth flee the dark
heavy baleful mists.
Alas ! Yet how sad I feel
deep in my soul;
once I brimmed with joy;
now I am abandoned, unloved.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES



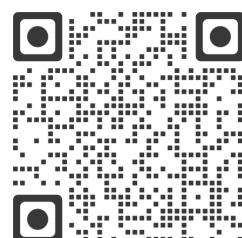
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OXFORD INTERNATIONAL SONG FESTIVAL



AU NATUREL

Inspired by 'The Seasons' of Pieter Breughel the Younger

Saturday 28 October 2023 | 7.30pm
University Church of St Mary the Virgin

I Fagiolini ensemble
Robert Hollingworth director

Generously supported by the
Friends of Oxford International Song Festival
and the **I Fagiolini Charitable Trust**

Presented as part of the Humanities
Cultural Programme *Everything is Connected* season

PROGRAMME

Autumn

Johannes Brahms
(1833 - 1897) Im Herbst

Klaus Groth
(1819 - 1899)

Kenneth Leighton
(1929 - 1988) God's grandeur

Gerard Manley Hopkins
(1844 - 1889)

Winter

Adriano Banchieri
(1568 – 1634) from 'Il Festino sul Giovedì Grasso'
- Nobili spettatori / Contrapunto bestialemente

Adriano Banchieri

Francis Poulenc
(1899 - 1963) Un soir de neige
Le feu
Un loup
Derniers instants
Du dehors

Paul Éluard
(1895 - 1952)

Spring

Herbert Howells
(1892 - 1983)

Summer is coming

Bryan Walter Guinness
(1905 - 1992)

Summer

Clément Janequin
(1485 - 1558)

La chasse

Prima pars

Secunda pars

Anon.

Autumn

Léo Ferré
(1916 - 1993)

Chanson d'automne

Paul Verlaine
(1844 - 1896)

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

IM HERBST

Brahms / Groth

Ernst ist der Herbst.
Und wenn die Blätter fallen,
sinkt auch das Herz zu trübem Weh herab.
Still ist die Flur,
und nach dem Süden wallen
die Sänger stumm, wie nach dem Grab.

Bleich ist der Tag,
und blasse Nebel schleieren
die Sonne wie die Herzen ein.
Früh kommt die Nacht:
denn alle Kräfte feiern,
und tief verschlossen ruht das Sein.

Sanft wird der Mensch.
Er sieht die Sonne sinken,
er ahnt des Lebens wie des Jahres Schluß.
Feucht wird das Aug',
doch in der Träne Blinken
entströmt des Herzens seligster Erguß.

IN AUTUMN

English Translation © Anon.

Autumn is serious,
And when the leaves are falling,
the heart also sinks in troubled grief.
Still is the field,
and fluttering in the Southwinds,
the singers silent, as at the grave.

Drear is the day,
and pallid fog veils
the sunlight as well as hearts.
Soon comes the night:
then all powers celebrate,
And deeply locked reposes existence.

Man grows tender.
He sees the sun declining,
Sensing that life too must close, as the year.
Eyes become moist,
but through the shining teardrops,
flows the heart's most blessed outpouring.

GOD'S GRANDEUR

Leighton / Hopkins

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not reck his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;
And bears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.
And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights from the black west went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs -
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! Bright wings.

NOBILI SPETTATORI...

Banchieri / Banchieri

Nobili spettatori, udrete or ora
quattro belli umori:
un cane, un gatto, un cucco, un chiù,
per spasso, far contrappunto
a mente sopra un basso.

Nulla fides gobbis;
similiter est zoppis.
Si squerzus bonus est,
super annalia scribe.

NOBLE SPECTATORS...

English Translation © Robert Hollingworth

Noble spectators, you will now hear
four fine types:
a dog, a cat, a cuckoo and an owl
who for fun improvise counterpoint
over a bassline.

You can't trust hunchbacks,
it's the same with people who limp;
if the outside looks good,
write it on the annals.

Un soir de neige

Poulenc / Éluard

English Translations © Robert Hollingworth

LE FEU

De grandes cuillers de neige
Ramassent nos pieds glacés
Et d'une dure parole
Nous heurtons l'hiver tête
Chaque arbre a sa place en l'air
Chaque roc son poids sur terre
Chaque ruisseau son eau vive
Nous nous n'avons pas de feu

THE FIRE

As great drifts of snow
gather round our frozen feet,
and with strained words
we run into stubborn winter.
Each tree has its place in the air,
each rock its weight on the earth,
each stream its living water,
we have no fire.

UN LOUP

La bonne neige le ciel noir
Les branches mortes la détresse
De la forêt pleine de pièges
Honte à la bête pourchassée
La fuite en flèche dans le cœur
Les traces d'une proie atroce
Hardi au loup et c'est toujours
Le plus beau loup et c'est toujours
Le dernier vivant que menace
La masse absolue de la mort

A WOLF

The good snow, the black sky,
the dead branches, the distress
of the forest full of traps;
shame on the hunted animal
The escape like an arrow in the heart
The shocking remains of a dreadful prey
'bold as the wolf', they say, and it's always
the most handsome wolf, and it's always
the last one to live which is threatened by
the absolute mass of death.

DERNIERS INSTANTS

Bois meurtri bois perdu
d'un voyage en hiver
Navire où la neige prend pied
Bois d'asile bois mort où
sans espoir je rêve
De la mer aux miroirs crevés
Un grand moment d'eau froide
a saisi les noyés
La foule de mon corps en souffre
Je m'affaiblis
Je me disperse
J'avoue ma vie
J'avoue ma mort
J'avoue autrui
Bois meurtri bois perdu
Bois d'asile bois mort

LAST MOMENTS

Wounded woods, woods lost
in a winter journey,
a ship where the snow settles,
woods of shelter, dead woods where
I dream without hope
of the sea with its broken mirrors
A great moment of cold water
seized the drowned
The crowd of my body suffers for it
I become weak
I am falling apart
I avow my life
I avow my death
I avow the other
Wounded woods, lost woods,
Woods of shelter, dead woods.

DU DEHORS

La nuit le froid la solitude
On m'enferma soigneusement
Mais les branches cherchaient
leur voie dans la prison
Autour de moi l'herbe trouva le ciel
On verrouilla le ciel
Ma prison s'écroula
Le froid vivant le froid brûlant
m'eut bien en main

FROM OUTSIDE

The night, the cold, the solitude,
I have been carefully imprisoned
but branches were seeking
their way into the prison,
around me the grass found the sky.
They locked the sky,
but my prison fell apart:
the living cold, the burning cold
took hold of me.

SUMMER IS COMING

Howells / Guinness

The summer is coming over the hills.
The milk of the blackthorn is bursting and spills;
all day the cuckoo in County Mayo
breathes like a flute as he flits high and low.

Dark is the turf, and grey is the stone,
and sad is the sky for the wild geese gone.
But the gleaming coat of the grass begins
under the golden brooch of the whins.

The black boats walk on the silver strand,
like beetles that go on the edge of the land;
the black boats tilt on the western waves;
black heifers stand over the old green graves.

The summer is coming over the sea,
and lights with soft kisses on you and on me.
All day the cuckoo in County Mayo
breathes like a flute as he flits high and low.

La Chasse

Janequin / Anon.

English Translations © Robert Hollingworth

PRIMA PARS

« Gentilz veneurs allez
en queste au buysson,
Et soyez seurs s'il y
a grant cerf ou non.
Le Petit Perot et le Verdier,
Vous prendrez chascun vostre limier,
La Roche, Plexis aurez pour compaignon.
Vous yrez destourner au rocher d'Avon.
Oudart et Britonniere,
ferez la croix du Vaucerville.
L'enseigne aussy, Bruniere,
Qui avez tres bonne cervelle.
Vous yrez a la croix du Grant Veneur,
Car il y a un grant cerf, j'en suis seur.
Et faictes tost du revenir.
Puis liron lancer et courir.
Il faict bon prendre
son deduict et son plaisir,,
Avec son chien tirer, uester et assentir.
Real/Souillart/Bontemps/Friet,
mon amy, va avant,
va par cy, Ha, mon amy, la, va oultre.
C'est grant cerf. Tout quoy.
Vez en cy les vois. »

« Je ne rencontre,
onc si malheureux ne fuz. »
« Vez en cy, c'est beste noire
qui s'en va la sus. »
« Je suis malheureux,
je ne trouve rien sus ne jus. »
« Vien ça, c'est grant cerf,
Par les portées
elles sont haultes eslevées. »
« Que malgré en ait bieu
de ce gris caffart,
Il m'a porté malheur :
le dyable y ait part. »
« C'est trop questé sans rien trouver.
Maugré bien du cordelier
D'huy ne puis rien rencontrer. »
« Verdier »
« plaistil ? »
« Est-ce de rien veu ? »

FIRST PART

“Good huntsmen, go searching
in the scrub,
and find out whether there's
a great stag or not.
Little Perot and Mr Finch,
both of you take your tracker dogs;
La Roche, you will have Plexis as companion.
You will place yourself at Avon's rock.
Oudart and Britonniere,
go to Braintree Cross:
and Bruniere, the standard bearer too -
you've got a good brain.
You will go to Great Huntsman's Cross,
for there's a big stag there, I'm sure of it.
And make haste to return.
Then we will launch at it and run.
It's good
to enjoy yourself,
leading your dog, searching and smelling.
Real/Souillart/Bontemps/Friet, my friend,
forwards,
this way, Ha! my friend, go ahead.
It's a big stag. Quiet there.
See the traces here.”

Whippers-in start talking. “I'm can't find anything, I've never been so unhappy.”
“Look there -
it's a boar running off.”
“I'm unhappy,
I find nothing here nor there.
“Come here, it's a great stag,
the broken branches show
that the antlers are really high.”
“Though we've seen
the boar's grey fur
he's brought me bad luck:
this is the devil's work.”
“It's too bad, searching and finding nothing.
In spite of hard work,
today we haven't come across anything.”
“Mr Finch!”
“Yes sir?”
“Have you seen anything?”

- « De veoir rien je n'ay peu, »
 « Il me semble que j'ay veu du cerf que demandons. « Je n'ai de rien aperceu si est mon chien fort bon. »
 « Mettez pied a terre, tenez court vostre chien. »
 « Malheur trop me serre, je ne feray huy bien J'ay eu malle matinée, C'est rencontre d'estoulé C'est mon, Voyci ma brisée, vela pas du cerf bon pied. »
 « Bons doz, bon talon, fort bras joincte. »
 « Quelles fumées il a geté »
 « Bien viandées, pressées, esmoulées, bien formées »
 « Elles ne sont point esguilonées. »
 « Non, et si sont tres bien colorées. »
 « Croy que le roy bonnes les trouvera. »
 « Faictes le devant de ce chemin la, Et je feray cestuy cy. »
 « Je n'ay rien aperceu, »
 « Ma foy ne moy aussi »
 « J'en suys fort esbahy »
 « J'ay veu au matin une vielle acroupie. »
 « Elle porte malheur, J'ay veu une pye Que ne me cessoit d'agacer, »
 « C'estoit assez pour enrager. Sembloit que me voulsist menger. »
 « Il est temps de s'en retourner Je pensoye que deust arrager. »
 « C'est follye de plus quester. Il est ja trop hault heure. »
 « A vous point veu nostre cerf passer ? »
 « Non, ce me semble, il demeure, Car j'en suys bien asseuré Que mon chien ne l'a point surallé. »
 « Scavez vous bien, belle demeure. »
- “I haven't seen a thing.”
 “I think I've seen the stag we're searching for.”
 “I've seen nothing even though my dog is great.”
 “Get off your horse, hold your dog tight.”
 “I'm dogged by bad luck.
 I'll do nothing good today.”
 “I've had a bad morning,
 But I'll come across it some day.”
 “That's my opinion, here are the traces I found.
 Aren't they good footprints?”
 “Good back, good heel,
 attached to strong limbs,”
 “What droppings it has thrown!”
 “Good and meaty”, “dense,”
 “moulded”, “well formed.”
 “They aren't tapered”
 “No, and they're nicely coloured.”
 “I think that the king will like them.”
 “You go down that path,
 and I'll take this one.”
 “I've seen nothing.”
 “In truth, me neither.”
 “I'm astonished.”
 “This morning I saw an old woman crouching.”
 “They bring bad luck.
 I saw a magpie
 which didn't stop annoying me.”
 “It was enough to make me mad.”
 “It looked as if it wanted to eat me.”
 “It's time to go back.”
 “I think it's time to break ranks.”
 “It's crazy to keep searching.”
 “It's already too late.”
 “Have you seen our stag?”
 “No, I think, it's still there,
 because I'm sure
 my dog hasn't missed it.”
 “I ask you, what a fine wait...”
- « Et puis Perot,
 a vous rien veu? »
 « Ouy, Sire, me semble
 qu'ay veu du cerf que demandons. »
 « Est-ce grant cerf monstrez ? »
 « Sire, voicy les fumées,
 Elles sont bien viandées. »
 « Elles ne sont point esguilonées. »
 « Qu'en dictes vous, grant seneschal ? »
 « Bien pressez il est cerf pour courir. »
 « Sire, poinct n'en est de meilleures. »
 « Meziere sur tost a cheval.
 Le voy mort ains qu'il soit cinq heures. »
- The King speaks:* “And so, Perot,
 have you seen anything?”
 “Yes, Sire, I think we've seen
 the stag we're chasing.”
 “Has this great stag shown himself?”
 “Sire, here are the droppings.
 They are good and meaty.”
 “Not tapered.”
 “What do you think, seneschal?”
 “It's in a hurry: a real runner.”
 “Sire, there's no better stag.”
 “Meziere, hurry on to your horse.
 I'll see it dead before five o'clock.”

SECUNDA PARTS

Sur tous soulas, plaisir et lyesse,
Sur tous souhaitz qu'amour pourchasse,
Sur tous esbatz qui sont en noblesse,
Sur tous deduitz
n'est que la chasse.
« Perot mettez vous le premier. »
« C'est par cy, Sire, descendez.
Vez cy de son viandis,
Il n'a pas fait grant pais. »
« Voyci du pied du grant cerf. »
Va avant la frere la
La la Friet, la la parcy, va par cy,
Il dit vray. Voy le cy aller,
Gardez bien de le suraller.
Voy le cy fuyant la,
Guare, Tyaglau
A bas chiens,
C'est grant cerf,
Je le congois bien,
Sire, c'est le mien.
Escoute a Clerant, escoute a Fricant.
Gnof gnof plif plof
Voy le cy fuyant la voye, compaignon,
Oultre a luy chiens.
Tout beau, Arriere chiens, arriere.
Ralliez chiens, ralliez.
Il se faira relancer.
Ho arry, arry arriere chiens.
Voy le cy aller jusques icy.
Tout beau, Soulas,
Batez ce chien.
Arriere, arriere villain.
Escoute, ha ! Mirande le voit.
Ho, il revient sur luy, arriere,
Ho, il demeure, mes chiens.
Si si fuyra chiens, sus a luy.
Vau le fouyr.
Voy le cy, va le cerf fuyant.
La teste luy poise.
Teo... Il ce faict abayer.
Aux aboys ! Tyaulau.
Ne le tuez pas, Attendez le roy.
Attendez, nul n'y touche,
Attendez, je le veuil tuer.
Sire, tués le de peur
qu'il ne blesse les chiens.
Arriere chiens ! Tronc !

SECOND PART

In all happiness, pleasure and jollity,
in all wishes that love is looking for,
in all the revelling to be found at court;
amongst all those amusements
the hunt stands out.
“Perot, you go first.”
“It's this way, Sire, dismount.
See its recent pasture here,
it hasn't eaten very much.”
“Here is the footprint of the great stag.”
Forwards there, brother,
There, Friet, over there, this way.
He's right. See him go!
Make sure you don't overtake it.
See it fleeing there,
Watch out, tally-ho.
Go, dogs.
It's a big stag.
I know him well.
Sire, it's mine.
Listen to Clerant, listen to Fricants.
woof woof plif plof
See it there, running off the path, friend.
Follow it, dogs.
Easy my lovelies; back, dogs, back.
Rally dogs, rally.
It'll be chased out again.
Ho, ba- ba- back, dogs.
See it go by right here.
Easy, Soulas,
Hit this dog.
Back villain, back.
Listen - ha! Mirande sees it.
Ho, it's turning back on itself,
Ho, it's stopped, my dogs.
It'll run from the dogs - everyone to him!
Look at it rooting about.
See it, see the stag flee.
Its head seems heavy.
Tara... It's standing stock-still.
At bay! Tally-Ho.
Don't kill it, wait for the king.
Wait, no-one touches it,
Wait, I want to kill it.
Sire, kill it
before it hurts the dogs.
Back dogs! Toot!

CHANSON D'AUTOMNE

Ferré / Verlaine

Les sanglots longs
 Des violons
 De l'automne
 Blessent mon cœur
 D'une langueur
 Monotone.

Tout suffocant
 Et blême, quand
 Sonne l'heure,
 Je me souviens
 Des jours anciens
 Et je pleure ;

Et je m'en vais
 Au vent mauvais
 Qui m'emporte
 Deçà, delà,
 Pareil à la
 Feuille morte.

AUTUMN SONG

English Translation © Richard Stokes

With long sobs
 The violins
 Of autumn
 Wound my heart
 With languorous
 Monotony.

All choking
 And pale, when
 The hour sounds,
 I remember
 Departed days
 And I weep;

And I go
 Where ill winds blow,
 Buffeted
 To and fro,
 Like a
 Dead leaf.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

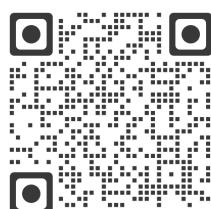


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