

Appendix
Versified Translation
Second Version

Anhang
Versifizierte Übertragung
II. Fassung

Seven airs on texts by Grete Körber
for one singing voice and for piano by Sergei Bortkiewicz, Op. 62

Nr. 1 Alone

I hear the call of every stone and every wall.
All that I see round me is sorrowful, heartrending!!
My ears submerged by mournful sounds forever fleeting.
I only hear the storm in its wild rage unbending
and see but pointed thorns where now my way I' am wending.
Nowhere a little house that smiles a tender greeting,
no distant scrap of heaven's blue, the clouds retreating.
As if the world had turned to ashes on this day
the landscape lies before me sadly, grey in grey.
I wander tired, wander listless on my dreary way.
Alone! Alone!

Nr. 2 Solitary Wandering

Lonely in this world so wide
I have never found a waymate,
I have never found a playmate,
starving, freezing, without guide.

Just once calmly I would rest,
feeding on a flame so tender,
filling voids cold and surrender,
and so doing, do my best.

Just once wanted feeling bright,
gladly laugh with all the playmates,
wander on with kindly waymates.
Fate however threw a blight.

Blew the flicker out again,
ere my sadness had retreated.
And a dreary dawn had fled.
I must wander on in vain . . .

Nr. 3 A song across the sea

I hold your portrait in feverish hands,
beloved beyond the sea!
What ails you, my heart, why beat you so wild?
He will not return to me.

I feel, he loves me in secret still
and knows but of one desire.
Retained by men he will not return
though love burns like glowing fire.

Poor heart you, that flutters and wildly beats
always in this restless pain,
it is but my love that overflows,
but he will not come again!

Nr. 4 The stone

Life guided me close to a mighty gate
and spoke: "Enter alone!"
There lay before it threatening and great
a heavy, cold hard stone.

I seized it trembling, bitter fate!
Oh God, too heavy is this stone!
And I shall never lift its magic weight.
It spoke: "Then stay alone!"

And soon I knew: beyond that portal lay
my luck, my life, my heart.
Deep longing helped me lift the stone away
quite slowly, part by part . . .

It took a long long time. Then I went in
and was no more alone.
Now, far away of life's enthralling din,
I bless this holy stone.

Nr. 5 Vision

The day will come when I shall lean
against you, while my glance is sweeping
far, far across the distant land
where valleys lie safe in the keeping
of darkest forests framed in green,
over which old legends still are fleeting.

A fresh young wind, the scent of pines
will lift us up to heavens's voices
and sweetest marvels will unfold
giving the gift that words entices.
And time will halt and then stand still
while our love in bliss rejoices . . .

Nr. 6 Meeting again

O my beloved, will you understand it
if I now after all these years of waiting
walk silent by your side in pure contentment
and listen happily anticipating.
And all will be but blessed earth uprooted,
vast tremors shaking it profoundly
and over the earth God's footsteps gently passing . . .

O my beloved, will you understand it,
why oft my glance will shrink from your sweet glances,
not to be blinded by luck's golden shimmer,
why joy the palor of my face enhances,
life's limits all but far and faintly glimmer,
which ever you encompassed, you, my dearest,
my world, where marvels thousandfold are thronging!
Oh my beloved, do you know my longing?

Nr. 7 We two

Oh feel with me the bliss that says: we now are two!
Oh murmur softly these enchanting words
as I now do, in happiness now do!
And hearken to your heart: like gentle birds
it brightly sings of life and all its joy.

The deepest strength has now inspired the words.
No thing that is can happiness destroy,
for love shields us from all that we might rue,
removed we are from all that could annoy,
our hearts proclaim in joy: now we are two!