THE SOUL BIRD
DIE SIEL VOËL

In many cultures, from the Ancient Egyptian to the present, the Soul is considered to take the shape of a bird.

It is also believed that, after death, the Soul is turned into a song bird.

The four Tableaux depict the initial invocation of the waiting soul bird and the eventual unification of body and soul. Tableau 3 recalls dream songs at midnight and Tableau 4 a flight of ecstasy from the sleeping body.

Tableau 1
The invocation

Tableau 2
Embodiment of body and soul

Tableau 3
Dream songs at midnight

Tableau 4
Flight of Ecstasy

In Tableau 1, the flautist commences playing off-stage and comes on-stage at about bar 13, in order to be seated by the beginning of the Doppio movimento at bar 19.