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JOSEPH

"Das Verklärte Jahr" is a group of 5 Orchestral songs, also arranged for Piano, by the well known Austrian Composer, Joseph Marx. In these songs the composer portrays his own life, as represented by the four Seasons. The 5th, song, represents a philosophy and calm Spiritual happiness which he finds in Rome.

(1) "A Farewell" words by Fofanow, symbolises the Autumn and the passing of his Youth, the leafless trees and the blossomless flower-stems, the pale Moon, and in the loneliness of Nature he feels regret and sorrow comparable only to the unknown pain, that Adam must have felt as the Gates of Eden were closed to him.

(2) "Dezember" the words by Kernstock. The composer is sitting in his room late on Christmas Eve. He is cold and hungry. He hears a tapping on his window and sees the sweet face of his mother gazing at him with loving eyes. He hears her voice calling him, as when a child, to see the laden Christmas tree, telling him "The Christ-child is here..". His joy over-flows, - when suddenly he realizes it is only a twig tapping on the pane and the night wind rising. In his bitterness he cries out, "Go to sleep, you fool! No Christ-child will visit ~~to~~ you: and the dead, do not return."

(3) "Songs" Christian Morgenstern, wrote the words. This song represents the Spring....everywhere is Song..the Voices of children calling to each other as they play Hide-and-Seek, the Song of the broad, blue river, an Eagle soaring over-head, Songs in the Sunshine, in the green grass, in the Valley and in the Forest...

(4) "In the Country of my dreams", the words are by Carl Hauptmann. The composer likens the Summer to his return to "the country of his Dreams", his Native land, among the fields and meadows and to his beloved. He tells her in this "land", she forever dwells, her song will ever sound, for in this "land" no flower can fade, no song can die, - for there is everlasting Summer.

in Rome

(5) "In the Campagna" Here Joseph Marx writes his own poem to express his philosophy of life. He finds in the beauties of Nature a balm for his Soul, the contemplation of Flowers, old Marble, so full of history, blue Sky, white clouds, the happiness of life - human joys, to know that tomorrow will be as yesterday and yet also fade, but still return, with the Spring, the great works done by man, never lost, if faithfully dedicated to the Gods, always blossoming into new life. So he greets Campagna, the holy and everlasting enigma, the native land of his Soul and the Infinite. For in Nature echoes the Song of Eternity, of suffering and of Love....He is grateful for the joy of Longing, never-ending Desire, to humbly approach the Feast of the Gods, to say Farewell and then perish, while the nymphs are softly dancing their roundelay and the stars are shining in the dew of the night.

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