Three Hesse Songs for chorus and band

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Three Hesse Songs

Über die felder...
(Across the Fields…)

Über den Himmel Wolken ziehn
Across the sky, clouds move,
Über die Felder geht der Wind,
Across the fields, goes the wind,
Über die Felder wandert
Across the fields the lost child
Meiner Mutter verlorenes Kind.
Of my mother wanders.

Über die Strasse Blätter wehn,
Across the street, leaves blow,
Über den Bäumen Vögel schrein-
Across the trees, birds cry-
Irgendwo über den Bergen
Across the mountains, far away,
Muss meine ferne Heimat sein.
My home must be.

Berge in der Nacht
(Mountains at Night)

Der See ist erloschen,
The lake has died down,
Schwarz schläft das Ried,
The reed, black in its sleep,
Im Traume flüsternd.
Whispers in a dream.
Ungeheuer ins Land gedeihnt
The mountains loom, outspread.
Drohen die hingestreckten Berge.
They are not resting.
Sie ruhen nicht.
They breathe deeply, and hold themselves,
Sie atmen tief, und sie halten.
Deeply breathing,
Einer den andern an sich gedrückt.
Pressed tightly, to one another.
Tief atmend,
Deeply breathing,
Mit dumpfen Kräften beladen,
Laden with mute forces,
Unerlöst in verzehrender Leidenschaft.
Caught in a wasting passion.

Nachts im April Notiert
(Written on an April Night)

O dass es Farben gibt:
O that there are colors:
Blau, Gelb, Weiss, Rot und Grün!
Blue, Yellow, White, Red and Green!

O dass es Töne gibt:
O that there are sounds:
Sopran, Bass, Horn, Oboe!
Soprano, Bass, Horn, Oboe!

O dass es Sprache gibt:
O that there is language:
Vokabeln, Verse, Reime,
Words, Poetry, Rhyme,
Zärtlichkeiten des Anklangs,
Suggestions of Tenderness
Marsch und Tänze der Syntax!
March and Dances of Syntax!

Wer ihre Spiele spielte,
Who played their games
Wer ihre Zauber schmeckte,
Who melts her magic,
Ihm blüht die Welt,
He blossoms the world
Ihm lacht sie und weist ihm
He laughs and points to him
Ihr herz, ihren Sinn.
Her heart, her mind.

Was du liebtest und erstrebtest
What you have loved and strive for
Was du träumtest und erlebtest,
What you dreamed and lived through,
Ist dir noch gewiss,
Do you know
Ob es Wonne oder Leid war?
If it was joy or suffering?
Gis und As, Es oder Dis-
G sharp and A flat, E flat or D sharp –
Sind dem Ohr sie unterscheidbar?
Are they distinguishable to the ear?

translated by James Wright
Three Hesse Songs

poems: Hermann Hesse (1877-1962)

Über die felder

Randall Snyder
2011
what you loved and knew to what you dreamed and lived through do you know if it was joy or.

Was träum dir und lebtest und wusstest was you knew to what you dreamed and lived through do you know if it was joy or.

if you know do you know if it was joy or.

Was träum dir und lebtest und wusstest if you know do you know if it was joy or.

To what you loved and knew to what you dreamed and lived through do you know if it was joy or.

Ist dir und lebtest dir und wusstest to what you loved and knew to what you dreamed and lived through do you know if it was joy or.

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