

The Italian Songbook By Hugo Wolf

1. Auch kleine Dinge

Even little things can delight us, even little things can be precious.
Think how we gladly adorn ourselves with pearls; they are heavily paid for, and yet are small.
Think how small is the olive's fruit, and is nevertheless sought for its virtue.
Think only on the rose, how small she is, and yet, smells so sweet, as you know.

2. Ihr seid die Allerschönste

You are the fairest far and wide, much fairer than flowers in May.
Orvieto's cathedral does not rise so glorious, nor Viterbo's grandest fountain.
Such lofty charm and magic are your own, Siena cathedral must bow before you.
Oh, you are so rich in charm and grace, even Siena cathedral is not your peer.

3. Mein Liebster singt

My beloved sings by the house in moonlight, and I must lie here in the bed, listening.
I turn myself away from my mother, and weep; my tears are blood, and never run dry.
I have wept the broad stream by the bed; through my tears I know not if the morning shines.
For longing have I wept the broad stream by the bed; the bloody tears have made me blind.

4. Ein Ständchen Euch zu bringen

I have come to serenade you, if the master of the house does not object.
You have a beautiful daughter. It might be good if you did not keep her too strictly indoors.
And if she's already in bed, I beg you, let her know, for my sake,
That her true love came by, who keeps her in his thoughts day and night,
And that in a day of twenty-four hours, I miss her twenty-five..