

ER, DER HERRLICHSTE VON ALLEN

No. 2 from *Frauenliebe und -leben*, Op. 42 (1840)

Text: Adalbert von Chamisso (1781-1838)

Robert Schumann (1810–1856)

This selection from the song cycle *Woman's Life and Love* features expressive dissonance of a different sort from that on page 319. How does the dissonance arise in bars 4 and 5, and how should it be performed? At bar 54, the voice leading has strayed far afield; how does it get back on track? Why do all the beams cover four eighth notes? What is the musical form?

The complete cycle tells a familiar story in the voice of a young woman. By Song No. 2 he has not yet taken notice of her.

*He, the most wonderful of all,
how tender, how kind!
Gentle lips, clear eyes,
high mind, and strong spirit.*

*As yonder, in the deep blue,
that star bright and glorious,
so is he in my heaven—
bright and glorious, high, remote.*

*Follow your course,
I will merely gaze on your brightness,
gaze on it humbly,
and be blessed and sad!*

*Hear not the silent prayer
I offer for your happiness.
You must not know me, lowly maid,
O high and glorious star.*

*Only the worthiest of all
may your choice make happy;
And I will bless that exalted one,
bless her a thousand times.*

*Then will I rejoice and weep,
blessed, blessed shall I be.
Even should my heart break—
break, heart—what matters it?*

Innig, lebhaft.

Er, der Herrlichste von Al - leu, wie so mil - de, wie so

p *f*

5 gut! Hol - de Lip - pen, kla - res Au - ge, hel - ler Sinn und fe - ster Muth.

p *f*

10 So wie dort in blauer Tie - fe, hell und herr - lich, je - ner Stern, al - so Er - an meinem

p *f*

15 Him - mel, hell und herr - lich, hehr - und fern.

p *f*

19 Wand - le, wandle deine Bahnen; nur be - trach - tende i - nen

mf *f*

24

Schein, nur in De - muth ihn be - trach - ten, se - lig nur und trau - rig sein!

ritard.

29

Hö - re nicht mein stil - les Be - ten, dei - nem Glü - cke nur ge - weihst; darfst mich

33

nie - dre Magd nicht ken - nen, ho - her Stern der Herr - lich - keit, ho - her

37

Stern der Herr - lich - keit! Nur die Wür - digste von Al - len darf be - glü - ckende i - ne

42

Wahl, und ich will die Ho - he seg - nen vie - le tau - send Mal. Will mich

47

freu - endann und wei - nen, se - lig, se. lig bin ich dann; soll - te mir das Herz auch

52

bre - chen, brich, o Herz, was liegt - da - ran?

ritard.

ritard.

Ad. * *Ad.* *

56

Er, der Herrlichste von Al - len, wie so mil - de, wie - so gut! Holde

Ad. * *Ad.* *

61

Lip - pen, kla - res Au - ge, hel - ler Sinn und fe - ster Muth, wie so mil - de, wie so

ritard.

ritard.

66

gut!

ritard.

Ad. * *Ad.* *