

Liebeslieder Waltzes

Johannes Brahms (1833 - 1897)

The importance of Brahms' four symphonies, four concertos, the *Requiem* and other large-scale pieces sometimes overshadows his more intimate compositions. It is worth remembering that he made a major contribution to the vocal repertoire, with over two hundred solo songs and a great many pieces, both sacred and secular, for choir.

The *Liebeslieder Waltzes*, completed in 1869, were originally intended for four solo voices with piano duet, but are more frequently performed by a choir. Within the framework of the waltz form Brahms manages to create a surprisingly wide variety of mood, texture and metre whilst still retaining the feeling of natural simplicity and spontaneity called for by the poems.

programme notes by John Bawden

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