



MONDNACHT
for soprano and piano

Kurt Erickson

2015

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Mondnacht

Mondnacht begins with a dialogue of soft chords that bounce between separate registers, personifying the poetic imagery of the Earth and Sky sending amorous intentions to each other. The second stanza accompaniment responds with slightly faster, flowing 16th notes that mimic the image of the breeze passing through the fields with the ears of grain waving gently. The third stanza returns to a kind of static calm as mysterious chords reflect the lines in the poem describing the soul spreading its wings out wide, flying through the silent regions with an extra, extra, extra strong pull to the final chord, as the poem ends the scene with the soul at last flying home.

Es war, als hätt' der Himmel
Die Erde still geküsst
Dass sie im Blütenschimmer
Von ihm nun träumen müsst

It was as if the Sky
Had silently kissed the Earth,
So that she, in the glimmer of blossoms, Now had to
dream of him.

Die Luft ging durch die Felder
Die Ähren wogten sacht
Es rauschten leis die Wälder
So sternklar war die Nacht

the breeze passed through the fields, The ears of grain
waved gently,
The forests rustled softly,
So starry-clear was the night.

Und meine Seele spannte
Weit ihre Flügel aus
Flog durch die stillen Lande
Als flöge sie nach Haus

And my soul spread
Its wings out wide,
And flew through the silent regions
As if it were flying home.

—Joseph von Eichendorff

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Mondnacht

Joseph von Eichendorff

Kurt Erickson

Slow, spacious, floating, & magical ♩ = 40

Soprano

Chords should ring out like bells Es war, als hätt der Him-mel Die Er-de stil ge-küßt, Daß

Piano

pp

p

p

Use lots of pedal to create a warm and gentle soundscape

S

sie im Blü-ten schim-mer Von ihm nun träu-men müßt. Die

Pno.

mp

S

Luft ging durch die Fel-der, Die Äh-ren wog-ten sacht, Es

Pno.

mp

10 *Still pp*

S
rausch - ten leis die Wäl - der, So

Pno. *mf*

11 *p*

S
stern - klar war die Nacht. Und mei - ne See - le Spann - te

Pno. *pp* *8va*

Majestic & moving forward

13

S
Weit ih-re Flü-gel aus, Flog durch die stil-len Lan - de, Flog durch die stil-len Lan - de,

Pno. *mf*

16 Still *mp*

S

Als flö - ge sie nach Haus. nach

Pno. *mp* *8va* *8va*

18

S

Haus

Pno. *pp*

