

Georg Schumann (1866-1952) was a prolific composer of music for chorus, orchestra, piano, organ, chamber ensembles and solo voice with piano. In addition, his tenure as conductor of the famous Berlin *Sing-Akademie* from 1900 to 1950 would by itself have established him as one of the most significant figures in the choral life of twentieth-century Germany. Although Schumann's music was much better known in his own day, interest in his choral works has enjoyed a revival in recent years through new research, republications and new recordings.

Drei geistliche Gesange, Op. 31 (1902) are Georg Schumann's first a cappella motets, falling midway between his two early successful efforts for chorus and orchestra, *Amor und Psyche* (1888) and *Ruth* (1908). He was later to publish several other collections of motets, with Ops. 51, 52, 60, 71 and 75. The music of all the motets is in a lyrical, late Romantic style, with frequent modulations, expressive chromaticism, and subtle text painting. At the same time, Schumann, like Brahms, frequently draws on polyphonic techniques from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. This edition was prepared from original 1902 partbooks in the choral library at the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music.

The three Op. 31 motets are all based on Psalm texts. This third and last of the set, *Herr, wie lange* (Psalm 13: 2-4; verses 1-3 in the King James Version) portrays the anguished words of the psalmist with an almost unrelieved chromatic tension, progressing from B flat minor to the harmonically distant goal of E major through extended chains of seventh chords. The work presents challenges in tuning, but is exceptionally rewarding and expressive.

All three movements of Op. 31 are published under separate cover by Roger Dean Publishing Company:

- No. 1 *Und ob ich schon wanderte im finstren Tal* (Psalm 23:4) catalogue number 15/1816R
- No. 2 *Siehe, wie fein und lieblich ist es* (Psalm 133:1 and 3) catalogue number 15/1817R
- No. 3 *Herr, wie lang* (Psalm 13:1-3) catalogue number 15/1858R

These motets are suitable for church use, although they were more likely intended for concert performance. They are effective either as a set or when performed individually. Their lyrical melodies and rich harmonic palette have made them particularly attractive to many high school, collegiate, and community choruses.

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The following translation is based on the King James Version, modified to provide a more direct translation of the German. Schumann occasionally repeats and re-orders phrases of text in his musical setting.

Herr, wie lange (Psalm 13:2-4; verses 1-3 in the King James Version)

(Verse 2) Herr, wie lange willst Du meiner so gar vergessen?
Lord, how long wilt Thou so completely forget me?

Wie lange verbirgst Du Dein Antlitz vor mir?
How long wilt Thou hide Thy face from me?

(Verse 3) Wie lange soll ich sorgen in meiner Seele und mich ängstigen
How long shall I be worried in my soul, and be anxious

in meinem Herzen täglich? Wie lange soll mein Feind sich über mich erheben?
in my heart daily? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

(Verse 4) Schaue doch und erhöre mich, Herr, mein Gott!
Behold and hear me, Lord, my God!

Erleuchte meine Augen daß ich nicht im Tod entschlafe.
Lighten my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death.

Herr, wie lange

SATB divisi, a cappella

Psalm 13:1-3

Georg Schumann, Op. 31 No. 3

Edited by William Weinert

Un poco Largo con molto passione

f < > < *f* < >

Herr, wie lang - e, wie lang - e,

Herr, wie lang - e, wie lang - e,

Herr, wie lang - e, wie lang - e,

Herr, wie lang - e, wie lang - e

Un poco Largo con molto passione

f (for rehearsal only) < > < *f* < >

4 *mf* dim. *pp* *f* <

willst Du mei - ner so gar ver - ges - sen? Herr, wie

mf dim. *pp* < >

willst Du mei - ner so gar ver - ges - sen? Herr, wie

mf dim. *pp* < >

willst Du mei - ner so gar ver - ges - sen? Herr, wie

mf dim. *pp* < >

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8

lang - e, wie lang - e, willst Du mei - ner so gar - ver -
lang - e, wie lang - e, willst Du mei - ner so gar - ver -
lang - e, wie lang - e, willst Du mei - ner so gar - ver -
lang - e, wie lang - e, willst Du mei - ner so gar - ver -

11

ges - sen? Wie lang - e ver - birgst Du Dein Ant - litz vor -
ges - sen? Ver - birgst Dein Ant - litz vor -
ges - sen? Ver - birgst Dein Ant - litz vor -
ges - sen? Ver - birgst Dein Ant - litz vor -

14

pp *mf* *con moto*

mir? Wie lang' soll ich sor - gen

pp *mf* *con moto*

mir? Wie lang - e soll ich sor - gen, — ich cresc.

pp *mf* *con moto*

mir? Wie lang - e soll ich sor - gen, soll ich cresc.

pp *mf* *con moto*

mir? Wie lang - e soll ich sor - gen, ich

pp *mf* *con moto*

16

piu cresc. *piu con moto*

in mei - ner See - le und mich äng - sti - gen in

piu con moto
piu cresc.

sor - gen in mei - ner See - le und mich

piu cresc.

sor - gen in mei - ner See - le und mich äng - sti - gen in

piu cresc. *con moto*

con moto

18

mei - nem Her - zen täg - lich, und wie
äng - sti - gen, und mich äng - sti - gen in_ meinem Her - zen täg - lich, wie
äng - sti - gen in_ meinem Her - zen täg - lich, wie
meinem, in meinem Her - zen täg - lich, wie

20

piu cresc.

rit.

ff

lang - e soll mein Feind sich ü - ber mich er - he - ben?
lang - e soll mein Feind sich ü - ber mich er - he - ben?
lang - e soll mein Feind sich ü - ber mich er - he - ben?
lang - e soll mein Feind sich mein Feind er - he - ben?

piu cresc.

rit.

ff

piu cresc.

rit.

ff

22

pesante f > < *mf* < = *p*

Wie lang - e, wie lang - e ver -

pesante f > < *mf* < = *p*

Wie lang - e, wie lang - e ver -

pesante f > < *mf* < = *p*

Wie lang - e, wie lang - e ver -

pesante f > < *mf* < = *p*

Wie lang - e, wie lang - e ver -

pesante f > < *mf* < = *p*

Wie lang - e, wie lang - e ver -

25

dim. *pp rit.*

birgst Du Dein Ant - litz vor mir, Herr, mein Gott! —

dim. *pp rit.*

birgst Du Dein Ant - litz vor mir, Herr, mein Gott! —

dim. *pp rit.*

birgst Du Dein Ant - litz vor mir, Herr, mein Gott! —

dim. *pp rit.*

birgst Du Dein Ant - litz vor mir, Herr, mein Gott! —

28 SI **Adagio**
molto espressivo

SII *p*
Schau - e doch und er - hö - re mich,

A *mf cresc. molto espressivo*
Schau - e doch und er - hö - re mich,

T *p*
Schau - e doch und er - hö - re mich, schau - e

BI *p*
Schau - e doch und er - hö - re mich, schau - e

BII *p*
Schau - e doch er - hö - re mich, schau - e

Adagio

p molto espressivo

32

cresc.

Schau - e

Schau - e doch und er - hö - re mich, schau - e

cresc.

Schau - e doch und er - hö - re mich, schau - e

doch, schau - e doch und er - hö - re mich, schau - e

doch, schau - e doch, er - hö - re mich, schau - e

doch,— und — er - hö - re mich, schau - e

poco a poco cresc.

mf

36

piu cresc.

f

doch und er - hö - re mich, er - hö - re mich,

piu cresc.

f marc.

doch und er - hö - re mich, Herr, mein Gott,

piu cresc.

f

doch und er - hö - re mich, Herr, mein Gott, mein

piu cresc.

doch und er - hö - re mich, Herr, mein

piu cresc.

doch, er - hö - re mich, Herr, mein Gott, mein

piu cresc.

doch, und er - hö - re mich, hö - re

f

40

marc.

Herr, mein Gott! Er - leuch - te

cresc.

Herr, mein Gott! Er - leuch - te mei - ne

cresc.

Gott! — Er - leuch - te mei - ne Au - gen —

f piu expres.

Gott! — Er - leuch - te mei - ne Au - gen,

cresc.

Gott! — Er - leuch - te mei - ne Au -

cresc.

mich, mein Gott! Er - leuch - te mei - ne

f

44

mei - ne Au - gen daß ich nicht im Tod ent -

Au - gen daß ich nicht im Tod ent -

daß ich nicht im Tod ent -

mei - ne Au - gen.

gen daß ich nicht im Tod ent -

Au - gen daß ich nicht im Tod ent -

48

schla - fe. *pp*

schla - fe. *p* Schau'

schla - fe. *p* Schau'

p espres. Schau - e

— schla - fe. *p* Schau - e

pp schla - fe.

pp *p*

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52

Schau - e und hö - re, hö - re mich,
doch
doch und hö - re, hö - re mich,
doch— und hö - re, hö - re mich,
doch und hö - re, hö - re mich,
Schau - e und hö - re, hö - re mich,