

Women's Chamber Choir Texts and Translations

The Butterfly

Pavel Friedmann (1921-1944)

The last, the very last,
So richly, brightly, dazzlingly yellow.
Perhaps if the sun's tears would sing
against a white stone...

Such, such a yellow
Is carried lightly 'way up high.
It went away I'm sure because it wished
to kiss the world goodbye.

For seven weeks I've lived in here,
Penned up inside this ghetto
But I have found my people here.
The dandelions call to me
And the white chestnut candles in the court.
Only I never saw another butterfly.

That butterfly was the last one.
Butterflies don't live in here,
In the ghetto.

Stations of Angels (At the Heart of our Stillness)

Joy Kagawa (b. 1935)

Within the universe of flame
In the time between watching and waiting
Are the fire creatures
Holy and unholy
Hungry for those many coloured parts of us
Which have no name.

Blow out the candle, friends quickly
And let us close our eyes
While the devouring is at hand.

At the heart of our stillness,
In peaceable flames we shall hear
Shall we not hear our mothers singing.

The Dawn is Not Distant

*Genesis 15:5; Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
(1807-1882)*

Suspice caelum et numera stellas
(Look at the heavens and count the stars)
The dawn is not distant,
Nor is the night starless.

Quviasulipunga

Iqilaarjuk, Inuit Shaman

Quviasulipunga
(I am happy)
Inuunialirama
(that I will be alive)
Ulluq sulitauva
(There will be daylight outside)
I-ja-ja-ja-ja
A-ja, i-ja-ja..

Akuktujuuk
(The Inuit name for the shoulder stars of Orion)
Anngutivuuk.
(Have caught up; risen above the horizon)
Ulluq sulitauva.
(There will be daylight outside)
I-ja-ja-ja-ja
A-ja, i-ja-ja.

Alianaittuqaqpuq
(I celebrate)
Inuunialirama
(That I will be alive)
Ulluq sulitauva.
(There will be daylight outside.)
I-ja-ja-ja-ja
A-ja, i-ja-ja.

Da Pacem

(6th or 7th century)

Da Pacem Domine in diebus nostris, Amen.
(Give peace in our time, Oh Lord, Amen.)

MacMillan Singers Texts and Translations

How They so Softly Rest

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882)

How they so softly rest,
All, all the holy dead,
Unto whose dwelling place
Now doth my soul draw near!
How they so softly rest,
All in their silent graves,
Deep to corruption
Slowly down sinking!

And they no longer weep,
Here, where complaint is still!
And they no longer feel,
Here, where all gladness flies!
And, by the cypresses
Softly o'ershadowed,
Until the Angel calls them,
They slumber.

De tous les printemps du monde

Paul Éluard (1895-1952)

De tous les printemps du monde
Celui-ci est le plus laid
Entre toutes mes façons d'être
La confiante est la meilleure

L'herbe soulève la neige
Comme la pierre d'un tombeau
Moi je dors dans la tempête
Et je m'éveille les yeux clairs

Le lent le petit temps s'achève
Par mes plus intimes retraites
Où toute rue devait passer
Pour que je rencontre quelqu'un

Je n'entends pas parler les monstres
Je les connais ils ont tout dit
Je ne vois que les beaux visages
Les bons visages sûrs d'eux-mêmes

Sûrs de ruiner leurs maîtres

*Of all the spring times of the world
This is the most vile
Of all my ways of being
Trusting is the best*

*The grass lifts the snow
As if it were a tombstone
I sleep through the storm
And awake with clear eyes*

*Slow moving time comes to an end
Crossing all my most secret places
Where all streets had to pass
So that I could meet someone*

*I do not hear the monsters talking
I know them well and what they say
I see only beautiful faces
Good faces sure of themselves*

Sure to ruin their masters

Aussi bas que le silence

Paul Éluard (1895-1952)

Aussi bas que le silence
D'un mort planté dans la terre
Rien que ténèbres en tête

Aussi monotone et sourd
Que l'automne dans la mare
Couverte de hante mate

Le poison veuf de sa fleur
Et de ses bêtes dorées
Crache sa nuit sur les hommes

*As low as the silence
Of a corpse in the earth
Its head full of darkness*

*As monotonous and deaf
As autumn in the pond
Covered with dull shame*

*Poison bereft of its flower
And of its golden beasts
Spits out its night over mankind*

Toi ma patiente

Paul Éluard (1895-1952)

Toi ma patiente ma patience ma parente
Gorge haut suspendue orgue de la nuit lente
Révérence cachant tous les ciels dans sa grâce
Prépare à la vengeance un lit d'où je naîtrai

*You patient one, my patience, my parent
Throat held high - slow night's great organ
Curtsey, hiding all heaven in its grace
Prepare for vengeance a bed where I will be born*

Le jour m'étonne

Paul Éluard (1895-1952)

Le jour m'étonne et la nuit me fait peur
L'été me hante et l'hiver me poursuit
Un animal sur la neige a posé
Ses pattes sur le sable ou dans la boue
Ses pattes venues de plus loin que mes pas
Sur une piste où la mort
A les empreintes de la vie
Le jour...

*Day surprises me and night frightens me
Summer haunts me and winter pursues me
An animal on the snow has placed
Its paws upon the sand or in the mud
Paws that came further than my steps
On a track whereon death
Is printed with the marks of life
Day surprises me.*

Chichester Psalms: 1st Movement

Book of Psalms

Urah, hanevel, v'chinor!
A-irah shachar.

Hari'u l'Adonai kol ha'arets.
Iv'du et Adonai b'simcha
Bo'u l'fanav bir'nanah.
D'u ki Adonai Hu Elohim.

*Awake, psaltery and harp:
I will rouse the dawn!*

*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all ye lands.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before his presence with singing.
Know that the Lord, he is God.*

Hu asanu v'lo anachnu.
Amo v'tson mar'ito.
Bo'u sh'arav b'todah,
atseirotav bit'hilah,
Hodu lo, bar'chu sh'mo.
Ki tov Adonai, l'olam chas'do,
V'ad dor vador emunato.

*He made us, and we are his.
We are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
Come unto his gates with thanksgiving,
And into his court with praise.
Be thankful unto him and bless his name.
The Lord is good, his mercy everlasting
And his truth endureth to all generations.*

Chichester Psalms: 2nd Movement

Book of Psalms

Adonai ro-i, lo echsar.
Bin'ot deshe yarbitseini,
Al mei m'nuchot y'nachaleini,
Naf'shi y'shovev,
Yan'cheini b'ma'aglei tsedek,
L'ma'an sh'mo.
Gam ki eilech
B'gei tsalmavet,
Lo ira ra,
Ki Atah imadi.
Shiv't'cha umishan'techa
Hemah y'nachamuni.

Lamah rag'shu goyim
Ul'umim yeh'gu rik?
Yit'yats'vu malchei erets,
V'roznim nos'du yachad
Al Adonai v'al m'shicho.
N'natkah et mos'roteimo,
V'nashlichah mimenu avoteimo.
Yoshev bashamayim
Yis'chak, Adonai
Yil'ag lamo!

Ta'aroach l'fanai shulchan
Neged tsor'rai
Dishanta vashemen roshi
Cosi r'vayah.
Ach tov vachased
Yird'funi kol y'mei chayai
V'shav'ti b'veit Adonai
L'orech yamim.

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures,
He leadeth me beside the still waters,
He restoreth my soul,
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness,
For his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk
Through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
For thou art with me.
Thy rod and thy staff
They comfort me.*

*Why do the nations rage,
And the people imagine a vain thing?
The kings of the earth rise up,
And the rulers take counsel together
Against the Lord and against his anointed,
Saying, let us break their bands asunder,
And cast away their cords from us.
He that sitteth in the heavens
Shall laugh, and the Lord
Shall have them in derision!*

*Thou preparest a table before me
In the presence of my enemies,
Thou anointest my head with oil,
My cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy
Shall follow me all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord
Forever.*

Chichester Psalms: 3rd Movement

Book of Psalms

Adonai, Adonai,
Lo gavah libi,
V'lo ramu einai,
V'lo hilachti
Big'dolot uv'niflaot
Mimeni.
Im lo shiviti
V'domam'ti,
Naf'shi k'gamul alei imo,
Kagamul alai naf'shi.
Yachel Yis'rael el Adonai
Me'atah v'ad olam.

Hineh mah tov,
Umah na'im,
Shevet achim
Gam yachad.

*Lord, Lord,
My heart is not haughty,
Nor mine eyes lofty,
Neither do I exercise myself
In great matters or in things
Too wonderful for me to understand.
Surely I have calmed
And quieted myself,
As a child that is weaned of its mother,
My soul is even as a weaned child.
Let Israel hope in the Lord
From henceforth and forever.*

*Behold how good,
And how pleasant it is,
For people to dwell
Together in unity.*