



"Dearest sight of my heart" | "Hertz liebstes pyld"

Text Information

Author | Erhard Oeglin

Language | Early New High German

Period | 16th Century

Genre | Lyric Verse/Song

Source | Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München 00082229 Rar.27 Stimme T f.41r

Collection | Love Songs of the Medieval World: Lyrics from Europe and Asia

URL | sourcebook.stanford.edu/text/oeglin_dearest_sight_of_my_heart/

Translation by Christopher Hutchinson.

Introduction to the Text

The first printed songbook with songs primarily in German was printed in July 1512 by the Augsburg printer Erhard Oeglin (ca.1470-1520). The songbook consists of four partbooks – it is also the first German song collection with four voices throughout - and contains 49 songs with a mixture of spiritual and secular content; 43 of which are in German and 6 in Latin. Oeglin was an innovative printer, credited as one of the first printers to print musical notation with movable type and as one of the first printers of "Zeitungen" – news-sheets. Oeglin does not attribute any of the songs to particular composers but some of these songs do appear in other songbooks of this period where they are attributed to various composers active at the Imperial court, including Ludwig Senfl, Paul Hofhaimer and Heinrich Isaac. These songs are collectively known as tenor lieder, as the melody is usually carried by the tenor line. This was the prototypical song type in Germany at the turn of the sixteenth century and enjoyed particular prominence at the court of the Emperor Maximilian.

Introduction to the Source

Digitized copies of these partbooks, from the Bayerische StaatsBibliothek in Munich, are available online here.

Further Reading

Saunders, Steven. "Music in Early Modern Germany." *Early Modern German Literature 1350-1700*, edited by Max Reinhart, Rochester: Camden House, 2007.

Keyl, Stephen. "Tenorlied, Discantlied, Polyphonic lied: Voices and instruments in German secular polyphony of the Renaissance." *Early Music*, vol. 20, no. 3, 1992, pp. 434–445.



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Hertz liebstes pyld

Hertz liebstes pyld / beweyt dich mild / mit deiner
lieb unnd gunst gen mir / der gleich will ich / wann
ich han dich / nach lust und wunsch meins herten
gier / er welt für all / in disem tall / mit reichem
schall / frey ich mich dein in erenn.

F Du solt hann / auff aller pann / von mir für ander
all den preyß / in disem reich / lebt nit dein gleich
mit allem thun zucht perd und weyß / da für dich
acht / mein hertz das lacht / und stätz betracht /
mein freud mit dyr zů meren.

Zů dyr ich mich freüntlich versich / dein hertz mir
gantz mir trewen sey / die weyl dir gar an alles gfar
/ mich findest auch gerecht unnd frey / on all umb
stendt von dir nit wendt / is in mein enndt / des thů
ich dich geweren.

Dearest sight of my heart

Dearest sight of my heart, show your gentleness through
your love and favor for me; and I will do the same, for
I have chosen you, following the want and wish of my
heartfelt desire, above all others in this valley I delight in
you with honor, and greatly rejoice.

F., wherever you go, you deserve my praise above all
others; you have no equals in this realm. no matter their
conduct, cultivation, bearing or air. So, take care, my
heart rejoices and always aims to increase its joy with
you.

I am graciously disposed to you, may your heart be faith-
fully mine, as you find me to be just and charitable, with
no ill intentions, and straightforward. I will not leave you
until my end: This I guarantee you.