

8 **The stars**, published 1912

Montague Phillips (1885-1969) was an English composer who studied and later taught for many years at the Royal Academy of Music. He initially made his name writing popular ballads for his wife, soprano Clara Butterworth.

Sung in English; translator unknown, possibly the composer.

Other settings of this poem: 10

Es stehen unbeweglich
Die Sterne in der Höh'
Viel tausend Jahr', und schauen
Sich an mit Liebesweh.

Sie sprechen eine Sprache,
Die ist so reich, so schön;
Doch keiner der Philologen
Kann diese Sprache verstehn.

Ich aber hab sie gelernet,
Und ich vergesse sie nicht;
Mir diente als Grammatik
Der Herzallerliebsten Gesicht.

For a thousand years the stars
Stay quiet in the skies,
And ever at each other gaze
With wistful loving eyes.

The words they speak together
Are beautiful and grand,
Yet not the wisest scholar
Their speech may understand.

But I have read and learnt it,
And know it evermore,
The face of my beloved
Reveal'd to me their lore.