

**28 Die Erde war so lange geizig**, no. 5 of *Heine Lieder*, 3. Abt. "Die alte Geschichte", 1995.

**Wilhelm Killmayer** (b. 1927) was born in Munich and studied with Carl Orff, among others. His extended song cycles in particular display an abiding confrontation with the musical styles of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Sung in German; English translation by John Todhunter, *Heine's Book of songs* (Oxford, 1907).

Other settings of this poem: 0

Die Erde war so lange geizig,  
Da kam der Mai, und sie ward spendabel,  
Und alles lacht, und jauchzt, und freut sich,  
Ich aber bin nicht zu lachen kapabel.

Die Blumen sprießen, die Glöcklein schallen,  
Die Vögel sprechen wie in der Fabel;  
Mir aber will das Gespräch nicht gefallen,  
Ich finde alles miserabel.

Das Menschevolk mich ennuyieret,  
Sogar der Freund, der sonst passabel; -  
Das kömmt, weil man Madame titulieret  
Mein süßes Liebchen, so süß und aimabel.

Till May came Earth was quite penurious,  
And then grew lavishly charitable,  
Now all things laugh in a joy delirious,  
I too would laugh, were I only able.

The flowers blossom, the bells are pealing,  
The birds all speak as they do in fable;  
To me their speech brings no pleasant feeling,  
I still find all things miserable.

They bore me, all the race of Adam,  
Ay, even my friend, once quite tolerable;--  
And all because they address as 'Madam'  
My sweetheart, so sweet and so amiable.