

**42 Meerfahrt** [Sea journey], no. 4 of *Vier Lieder*, op. 96, published 1886.

**Johannes Brahms** (1833-1897) was the successor to Schubert and Schumann as master of the German lied. He is known to have written many Heine settings in his youth, but typically he destroyed all but six of them.

Sung in German; English translation by James Thomson, *The poetical works* (London, 1895).

Other settings of this poem: 60

Mein Liebchen, wir saßen beisammen,  
Traulich im leichten Kahn.  
Die Nacht war still, und wir schwammen  
Auf weiter Wasserbahn.

Die Geisterinsel, die schöne,  
Lag dämmrig im Mondenglanz;  
Dort klangen liebe Töne,  
Und wogte der Nebeltanz.

Dort klang es lieb und lieber  
Und wogt' es hin und her;  
Wir aber schwammen vorüber,  
Trostlos auf weitem Meer.

My darling, we sat together,  
We two in our frail boat;  
The night was calm o'er the wide sea  
Whereon we were afloat.

The Spectre-Island, the lovely,  
Lay dim in the moon's mild glance;  
There sounded sweetest music,  
There waved the shadowy dance.

It sounded sweet and sweeter,  
It waved there to and fro;  
But we slid past forlornly  
Upon the great sea-flow.