

O Heiland, reiß die Himmel auf

for SATB Voices

Kölner Gesangbuch (1623)

free rhyming, prosodic adaptation by

William J. Bullock

*Harmonization by Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

of the tune from *Rheinfelsisches Gesangbuch* (1666)

edited by William J. Bullock

2018

Tempo giusto [$\text{♩} = 80$]

Tempo giusto [♩ = 80] *f* 2018

Soprano
 0 Sav - ior,
 0 Hei - land,

Alto
 0 Sav - ior
 0 Hei - land,

Tenor
f
 0 Sav - ior land, burst
 0 Hei - land, reiß die heav'n on
 me

Bass
f
 0 Sav - ior burst from
 0 Hei - land, reiß die

Reduction

4

burst from heav'n on high;
reiß die Him mel auf; *f*

burst from heav'n on high; Set
reiß die Him mel auf; Her -

high; Set - tle like
auf; Her - ab, her -

heav'n on high; Set - tle like
Him mel auf; Her - ab, her -

*the chorale from No. 2 (1860) of Op. 74: *Zwei Motetten*

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f

Set - tle like dew from cloud and
Her - ab, her - ab vom Him - mel

tle like dew from cloud and
ab, her - ab vom Him - mel

dew from cloud and sky.
ab vom Him - mel lauf.

dew from cloud and sky.
ab vom Him - mel lauf.

f

sky. Nur ture the world; let
lauf. Reiß ab vom Him - mel

sky. Nur ture the world; let jus
lauf. Reiß ab vom Him - mel Tor tice und

Nur ture, nur ture the world; let
Reiß ab, Reiß ab vom Him - mel

Nur ture, nur ture the world; let
Reiß ab, Reiß ab vom Him - mel

13 *ff* *rit. f*

jus - tice und grow; Spread your sal
Tor - tice und Tür; Reiß ab, wo -

grow; Spread your, spread your sal
Tür. Reiß ab, reiß ab, wo

jus - tice und grow; Spread your, spread your s -
Tor tice und Tür; Reiß ab, reiß ab, wo

jus - tice und grow; Spread your, sal
Tor tice und Tür; Reiß ab, wo

16

va - tion here be low.
Schloß und Rie - gel für.

va - tion here be low.
Schloß und Rie - gel für.

va - tion here be low.
Schloß und Rie - gel für.

va - tion und here be low.
Schloß und Rie - gel für.

ABOUT:

Lyrical romanticism and Renaissance influences unite in this short and accessible polyphonic carol, harmonized by Johannes Brahms – a fresh, yet familiar-feeling addition to any Christmas program! William J. Bullock's prosodic English translation illuminates the imagery of the original German song.

FROM THE COMPOSER:

In 1860, Brahms set a German versification of an Advent text from Isaiah as an a cappella, contrapuntal motet - O Heiland, reiß die Himmel auf, Op 74, No. 2. Laid out in five brief movements, the motet sets its text to the seventeenth-century melody with which it had become associated. This, the first of the motet's movements, is a straightforward chorale with the melody in the soprano.

DURATION: 0'47"



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Scan to learn more about this composer!

First printing, May 2023

Additional octavos are available for purchase from the publisher online.



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