

BARCAROLE

Natten er saa stille,
Luften er saa klar,
Duggens Perler trille,
Maanens Straaler spille
Hen ad Søens Glar.

Bølgens Melodier
Vugge Hjertet ind;
Suk og Klage tier,
Vindens Pust befrier
Det betyngte Sind.

J.L. Heiberg (1829)/Musik: C.E.F. Weyse (1840)

*[The night is so still/The air is so clear/The dew's pearls
roll(trickle)/The moon's rays play/Across the lake's glaze//The waves'
melodies/Rock the heart to sleep/Sigh and complaint fall silent/The
wind's breath releases/The oppressed mind]*

BARCAROLE

Calm the night, unstirring,
And the air so clear
Pearls of dew uncurling,
Moonlight rays unfurling
'Cross the glassy mere.

Dulcet waves appeasing
Heart that yearns for rest,
Sighs and sorrows ceasing,
Breath of wind releasing
Mind so long oppressed.

DE PROFUNDIS

Hadden wij nimmer nog zwanen gezien,
zóuden wij hen op het water ontwaren,
o, wij zouden van vreugde vervaren –
lachen en schreien misschien.

Hadden wij nimmer nog zwanen gezien,
vlogen zij over met ruisende slagen,
o, wij zouden dit duister verjagen –
eindelijk bevrijd zijn misschien.

Ida Gerhardt (1979)

[Even if we had never as yet seen swans/were we to descry (become aware of) them on the water/oh, we would be frightened with joy – / (would) laugh and cry perhaps// Even if we had never as yet seen swans/were they to fly over (us) with swishing (wing)beats/oh, we would chase off this darkness/at last be released perhaps]

DE PROFUNDIS

Even if swans we had never yet seen,
should on the water we chance to descry them,
oh, we would find ourselves joy-stricken by them –
laughing and crying maybe.

Even if swans we had never yet seen,
wings thrashing loudly, were they to fly over,
oh, we would see off this darkness for ever –
finally break free maybe.