

Heidenröslein

Heinrich Werner (1800-1833)

Musical score for Heidenröslein, Heinrich Werner (1800-1833). The score is in G major, 3/4 time, and consists of four staves of music. The chords are: G, C, D, G, C, Am (measures 1-7); D, Bm, Em, B open, Em, C, G (measures 8-14); C, D, G, C, D, G (measures 15-21); C, D, Em, C, G, D, G (measures 22-28).

The poem **Heidenröslein** was written by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, published in 1789.

The text was set by various composers, including Franz Schubert in 1815, and Heinrich Werner's setting from 1829 became a well-known folk song, which in the next century was used for an English Country Dance created in 1971 by Pat Shaw, published in Book 2 of The Pat Shaw Collection 1986 - a true collaboration between the centuries. The poem speaks of a young man's rejected love.

Sah ein Knab' ein Röslein stehen,
Röslein auf der Heiden,
War so jung und morgenschön,
Lief er schnell, es nah zu sehn,
Sah's mit vielen Freuden.
Röslein, Röslein, Röslein rot,
Röslein auf der Heiden.

Knabe sprach: Ich breche dich,
Röslein auf der Heiden!
Röslein sprach: Ich steche dich,
Dass du ewig denkst an mich,
Und ich will's nicht leiden.
Röslein, Röslein, Röslein rot,
Röslein auf der Heiden.

Und der wilde Knabe brach
'S Röslein auf der Heiden;
Röslein wehrte sich und stach,
Half ihm doch kein Weh und Ach,
Musst es eben leiden.
Röslein, Röslein, Röslein rot,
Röslein auf der Heiden.

Once a boy a Rosebud spied,
Heathrose fair and tender,
All array'd in youthful pride,—
Quickly to the spot he hied,
Ravished by her splendour.
Rosebud, rosebud, rosebud red,
Heathrose fair and tender!

Said the boy, "I'll now pick thee,
Heathrose fair and tender!"
Said the rosebud, "I'll prick thee,
So that thou'lt remember me,
Ne'er will I surrender!"
Rosebud, rosebud, rosebud red,

Heathrose fair and tender!
Now the cruel boy must pick
Heathrose fair and tender;
Rosebud did her best to prick,—
Vain 'twas 'gainst her fate to kick—
She must needs surrender.
Rosebud, rosebud, rosebud red,
Heathrose fair and tender!

1779, translation by Edgar A. Bowring,