

How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place” (*Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen*)

movement 4 of

***Deutches (German) Requiem*, Op. 45**

When Brahms was 31 years old, his mother died. After rushing from Vienna to Hamburg, he had just missed seeing her before she passed. This affected him greatly. (Also, when Brahms was 23 his friend/mentor the composer Robert Schumann had died.)

A **Requiem** is a mass for the dead (often containing a movement about the Day of Reckoning (*Dies Irae*), etc. However Brahms in his *German Requiem* used a unique text—compiled from Martin Luther’s German translation of the Bible—and his intention was to comfort the living.

“How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place” (*Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen*) is the central / 4th and best-known movement of 7.

After completing his largest work and most prominent choral work, Brahms wrote, “Now I am consoled. I have surmounted obstacles that I thought I could never overcome and I feel like an eagle, soaring ever higher and higher.

by Johannes **Brahms** (1833-1897)

- German, but spent most of his professional life in Vienna
- Composer, pianist, conductor
- Highly-regarded as one of “the three Bs” of composing (along with Bach & Beethoven)



- His compositions contain both structured Classical (he loved Mozart & Haydn) and expressive Romantic elements
 - A perfectionist, he worked arduously and left many works unpublished
 - Orchestral works include: 2 Serenades, 4 symphonies, 2 piano concertos, a Violin Concerto, a Double Concerto for violin and cello, and two companion orchestral overtures—the Academic Festival Overture (check it out!) and the Tragic Overture.
 - Chamber works include 3 string quartets, 2 string quintets, 2 string sextets, a clarinet quintet, clarinet trio, a horn trio, a piano quintet, 3 piano quartets, and 4 piano trios.
 - Several instrumental sonatas with piano, including 3 for violin, 2 for cello, and 2 for clarinet (which he subsequently arranged for viola. His solo piano works range from early piano sonatas & ballades to his late sets of character pieces.
 - Over 200 Lieder (art songs).
 - No operas or symphonic poems; Brahms was committed to absolute music (without scene/story)
- Baptized Lutheran, but more of a humanist. (Notice his Requiem doesn’t include any reference to 3:16)