

English version by
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Kukuk, wie alt? Cuckoo Song

Franz Abt

Allegretto

p scherz. e molto legg. cresc.

The piano introduction consists of two staves. The right hand features a series of triplet eighth notes in a descending scale, while the left hand provides a simple harmonic accompaniment of eighth notes.

mf Sa - ge mir, Vo - gel im grü - nen Wald,
Bird - ie, O tell me what I may be - lieve,

p

p grazioso Kukuk, Kukuk, Kukuk!
Cuckoo! cuckoo! cuckoo!

The first vocal entry is on a single staff with lyrics in German and English. The piano accompaniment is on two staves, starting with a piano (*p*) dynamic and moving to mezzo-forte (*mf*) during the vocal phrase.

mf sa - ge mir, Vö - ge-lein, werd'ich wohl alt?
Tell me, O tell me, how long shall I live?

p

p Kukuk, Kukuk, Kukuk!
Cuckoo! cuckoo! cuckoo!

dim.

The second vocal entry follows a similar pattern to the first, with German and English lyrics. The piano accompaniment includes a *dim.* (diminuendo) marking towards the end of the section.

mf piangendo Ach, nur noch zwei, drei Jahr?!
Three years, or on - ly two?

accel. Vo - gel, das ist nicht wahr, das ist nicht wahr!
Bird - ie, that is not true, that is not true!

poco rit.

The final vocal entry begins with a *mf piangendo* (mezzo-forte, lamenting) marking. It includes *accel.* (accelerando) and *poco rit.* (ritardando) markings. The piano accompaniment features a series of chords in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand.

a tempo

Län - ger noch möcht' ich auf Er - dengern sein, Län - ger noch möcht'ich auf
Long - er, far long - er I mean to live still, Long - er, far long - er I

a tempo

poco accel.

Er - dengern sein, war - te nur, Ku - kuk, ich hel - fe dir ein, ———
mean to live still, Wait, and I'll teach you to count as I will! ———

poco accel.

poco ritard.
p molto grazioso

war - te nur, war - te, ich hel - fe dir ein! La!
Wait a while, wait, till you count as I will! La!

poco ritard.
pp *dim.* *mf* *poco riten.*

ad lib. *a tempo*

Kukuk, Kukuk, Kukuk, Kukuk, Kukuk!
Cuckoo! cuckoo! cuckoo! cuckoo! cuckoo!

a tempo

*riten.**ten.**a tempo*

La!

La!

Kukuk, Kukuk, Kukuk, Kukuk!

Cuckoo! cuckoo! cuckoo! cuckoo!

riten.

Echo

*a tempo**poco più accel.**poco rit.*

mf

Ru - fe, mein Vög - lein, ich gönn' dir nicht Ruh',
 Sing a-way, bird - ie, I'll give you no rest!

p

Kukuk, Kukuk,
 Cuckoo! cuckoo!

Kukuk,
cuckoo!

mf

ei, wie das prächtig klingt, im - mer nur zu!
 Ah, you sing splendid - ly, now you are press'd!

pp *mf piangendo*

Ku-kuk, Ku-kuk, Ku-kuk, Ku-kuk! Wenn ich's nicht lei - den will,
Cuckoo! cuckoo! cuckoo! cuckoo! Say, if it makes me cry,

calando

poco rit. *a tempo*

schweigst du wie - der schon still, wie - der schon still? Drei - ssig, auch vier - zig Mal
Will you tell me good-bye, tell me good-bye? Thir - ty or for - ty more,

poco rit. *a tempo*

musst du noch schrei'n, Drei - ssig, auch vier - zig Mal musst du noch schrei'n!
sing a - way still! Thir - ty or for - ty more, sing a - way still!

molto legato accel

war - te nur, Ku-kuk, ich hel - fe dir ein!
Wait, and I'll teach you to count as I will!

accel. *accel*

grazioso poco rit. *mf* *riten.*

war - te nur, war - te, ich hel - fe dir ein! La!
 Wait a while, wait, till you count as I will! La!

pp colla parte *mf* *riten.*

p *ad lib.* *a tempo*

Ku-kuk, Ku-kuk, Ku-kuk, Ku-kuk, Ku-kuk!
 Cuckoo! cuckoo! cuckoo! cuckoo! cuckoo!

p *a tempo*

f *ten.* *pp*

La! La! Ku-kuk, Ku-kuk, Ku-kuk,
 La! Cuckoo! cuckoo! cuckoo!

mf *Echo*

ad lib. *sf* *brillante*

Ku-kuk, Ku-kuk, _____ Ku-kuk!
 cuckoo! cuckoo! _____ cuckoo!

sf