

KIKKEHIHI

by

Johann Hermann Schein

English Translation by

Mary Goetze



This short piece was written early in Schein's life and is typical of the Italian madrigal. The sustained popularity of similar madrigals, such as the Scandello "Ein Hennlein Weiss" is evidence of their appeal to choirs of all ages. *Kikkehihi*, with the meaning of the text portrayed in the sounds of the music, is appealing to young singers. They enjoy hearing the way in which Schein wove the sounds of the chicken-yard into the texture, and learning the German equivalent for "cock-a-doodle-doo" and "cluck-cluck." While the initial motivation to learn the piece may spring from the topic of the text, the learners' interest will be sustained by the beauty of the music. Upon first hearing, it may sound complex, but a close examination reveals its simplicity. The polyphonic writing offers each voice a melodic line to shape, and imitation to listen for in the other voices. The stepwise motion and melodic sequences in the second section contribute to security on each part. As a concert piece, *Kikkehihi* is a rousing way to begin a program and to introduce the choir and audience to the charm of madrigals.

KIKKEHIHI

for Three-Part Treble Voices, a cappella

JOHANN HERMANN SCHEIN
(1586-1630)English Translation by
MARY GOETZE

Spirited

I
Ka - ka - ka - nei,
Ka - ka - ka - nie,*

II
Ka - ka - ka - nei,
Ka - ka - ka - nie,*

III
Kik - ke - hi - hi,
Kik - ke - hi - hi,

Ka - ka - ka -
ka - ka - ka -

Kik - ki - hi -
kik - ki - hi -

nei, da da da da da, ist
nie, da da da da da, the

ka - ka - ka - nei, da da da da da,
ka - ka - ka - nie, da da da da da,

hi ha ha ha ha, ha ha ha ha, ist
hi ha ha ha ha, ha ha ha ha, the

1. 2.

Hahn und Hen - nen Mor - gen - schrei. schrei.
hen and roos - ter's morn - ing cry. cry.

ist Hahn und Hen - nen Mor - gen - schrei. schrei. Wenn
the hen and roos - ter's morn - ing cry. cry. They

Hahn und Hen - nen Mor - gen - schrei. schrei. Wenn
hen and roos - ter's morn - ing cry. cry. They

*Pronounced Kah-kah-kah-ni

Wenn bricht her-vor der Mor -
 They greet at dawn the morn -

bricht her - vor der Mor - gen -
 greet at dawn the morn - ing

bricht her - vor der Mor - gen -
 greet at dawn the morn - ing

- gen - stern,
 - ing star, da las - sen sie sich
 We hear their sing - ing

stern, wenn bricht her - vor der Mor - gen -
 star, they greet at dawn the morn - ing

stern, wenn bricht her - vor der Mor - gen -
 star, they greet at dawn the morn - ing

hör - en gern, da las - sen sie
 from a - far, we hear their sing -

stern, da las - sen sie sich hör - en gern, da las - sen
 star, we hear their sing - ing from a - far, we hear their

stern, da las - sen sie sich hör - en gern, da las - sen
 star, we hear their sing - ing from a - far, we hear their

sich hör - en gern. gern.
 - ing from a - far. far.

sie sich hör - en gern. Wenn gern.
 sing - ing from a - far. They far.

sie sich hör - en gern. Wenn gern.
 sing - ing from a - far. They far.