CARL NIELSEN

MUSIK TIL FEM DIGTE
AF J.P. JACOBSEN
OPUS 4 NR 4

Lyrics by Jens Peter Jakobsen

IRMELIN ROSE

Se, der var en Gang en Konge,
mangen Skat[1] han kaldte sin,
Navnet paa den allerbedste
vidste hver var Irmelin,
Irmelin Rose, Irmelin Sol,
Irmelin Alt, hvad der er[1] dejligt.

Alle Ridderhjelme spejled
hendes Farvers muntre Pragt,
og med alle Rim og Rythmer
havde Navnet sluttet Pagt:
Irmelin Rose, Irmelin Sol,
Irmelin Alt, hvad der er[2] dejligt.

Hele store Bejlerflokke
der til Kongens Gaarde foer,
nejlede med ømme Lader
og med blomsterfagre Ord:
Irmelin Rose, Irmelin Sol,
Irmelin Alt, hvad der er dejligt.

[1] *"skat"* har tre betydninger på dansk i dag:
   a) rigdom, b) afgift, c) kæreste

[2] J.P. Jacobsen: *"var"*

MUSIC TO FIVE POEMS
BY J.P. JACOBSEN
OPUS 4 NO 4

English translation by Eva Hess Thaysen

IRMELIN ROSE

Once upon a time there was a King
who called many a treasure[1] his own
the name of the one he prized the highest
everyone knew was Irmelin.
Irmelin the rose, Irmelin the sun,
Irmelin, the most lovely of all.

All the knights' helmets reflected
her colors' gay splendor
and with every rhyme and rhythm
the name had made a pact:
Irmelin the rose, Irmelin the sun,
Irmelin, the most lovely of all.

Large flocks of suitors
rushed to the King's manors
courting her with awkward gestures
and flowery speech:
Irmelin the rose, Irmelin the sun,
Irmelin, the most lovely of all.

[1] *"skat"* has three meanings in Danish of today:
   a) treasure, b) tax, c) sweetheart

[2] J.P. Jacobsen: *"was"*

Men Prindsessen jog dem fra sig
(Hjertet var saa koldt som Staal),
lastede den Enes Holdning,
vrænged ad den Andens Maal[3]
Irmelin Rose, Irmelin Sol,
Irmelin Alt, hvad der er dejligt.

But the Princess drove them away
(her heart was cold as steel)
criticizing the posture of one
and mocking the other's language.[3]
Irmelin the rose, Irmelin the sun,
Irmelin, the most lovely of all.

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[3] *"maal"* har tre betydninger på dansk i dag:
a) sprog, b) hensigt, c) størrelse

[3] *"maal"* has three meanings in Danish of today:
a) language, b) intention, c) size

Men Prindsessen jog dem fra sig
(Hjertet var saa koldt som Staal),

But the Princess drove them away
(her heart was cold as steel)