

MI VATER ISCH Ä CHÄÄSER GSII | ARR. TEMPLETON | SATB, A CAPPELLA



MI VATER ISCH Ä CHÄÄSER GSII

MY FATHER WAS A CHEESEMAKER

for SATB chorus, a cappella

SWISS AMISH YODEL SONG
AS SUNG BY THE COMMUNITIES IN ADAMS COUNTY, INDIANA

Arranged by

MARK D. TEMPLETON



Mark Templeton
choral music

About the Song

Mi Vater isch ä Chääser Gsii is a yodeling love song from the Amish communities in Adams County, Indiana. The Pennsylvania Dutch speaking Amish of Ohio and Pennsylvania generally do not yodel and do not speak the same language as their Indiana brethren. The Amish from Indiana migrated from Switzerland during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and aptly speak a Bernese dialect of Swiss German. These Swiss Amish have retained many yodel songs from the “old world” through an oral tradition. *Mi Vater isch ä Chääser Gsii* is unique to the Swiss Amish and cannot be found in any collection of Swiss folk songs or in the Swiss Folk Song Archive in Basel.

How to Yodel

This song incorporates the singing technique called yodeling. This is when a singer abruptly and rapidly changes between the head register (or falsetto voice) and the chest register (or speaking voice). The *passaggio* is the Italian term for the break area between these two registers. Trained choral singers are usually taught to sing through the *passaggio* without any noticeable glitch in the voice, but yodeling encourages the singer to manipulate the *passaggio* by abruptly and noticeably switching back and forth from the different registers. Yodeling is a great way to teach the difference between the two registers, and it will also give the singers an opportunity to sing in a different and fun way.

Each verse of the song should be sung using proper choral technique (singing smoothly through the *passaggio*). The yodeling will be indicated by arrows pointing down (↓) or arrows pointing up (↑). The arrows pointing down indicate to abruptly switch to the chest register while the arrows pointing up indicate to switch abruptly to the head register. The arrows point to the precise note where the change should occur. This abrupt switching of registers creates the yodel effect.

Example:

Jo-de - le o-le-di - e - i Jo-de - le o-le-di - o, Jo-de - le o-le-di -

mf Jo-de - le o-le-di - e - i Jo-de - le o-le-di - o Jo-de -

The dotted quarter note rhythms on the left should be performed like the rhythms on the right.

Jo-de - le - he - i o - = Jo-de - le - he - i o -

Ranges

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Swiss German Pronunciation

Swiss German is the spoken language of the Swiss Amish from Adams County, and they are understood by other Swiss speakers. While Swiss German looks similar to Standard German, the pronunciation is a little different. The IPA guide below is by no means exhaustive and refers only to the text of this score. For best results refer to a native speaker. The yodeling sections of the song should not be pronounced as the Swiss German. An IPA spelling guide for the yodeling is given as well. There is an English translation written in the score underneath the Swiss German. The English version may also be performed if preferable.

Text with IPA spelling of each word

- Mi Vater isch ä Chääser gsii und ä Chääsers suun bin ii.*
[mi] [fatʁ] [iʃ] [æ] [χæsɜr] [ksi] [ʊnt] [æ] [χæsɜrs] [suɐ] [pi] [i].

Mi Vater drickt die Chääseli, und die Meitscheli drikka mi.
[mi] [fatʁ] [trikxt] [ti] [χæsɜli], [ʊnt] [ti] [maɪtʃli] [trikxa] [mi].
- Es het scho mengisch grägänet, und di Böim si weede nass.*
[ɜs] [çɜt] [ʃɔ] [mɜnkiʃ] [krækənɜt], [ʊnt] [ti] [pøim] [si] [vetə] [nas].

I ha emal es Meitscheli gha, und i wett, i hätt es no.
[i] [çɑ] [ɜmal] [ɜs] [maɪtʃli] [kçɑ], [ʊnt] [i] [wɜt], [i] [çæt] [ɜs] [nɔ].
- Es het scho mengisch geschneilet und di Böim si weede wiis.*
[ɜs] [çɜt] [ʃɔ] [mɜnkiʃ] [kɜʃnaɪlɜt] [ʊnt] [ti] [pøim] [si] [vetə] [vis].

I ha emal es Meitscheli gha, und i wett, es war no miis.
[i] [çɑ] [ɜmal] [ɜs] [maɪtʃli] [kçɑ], [ʊnt] [i] [wɜt] [ɜs] [var] [nɔ] [mis].

Yodeling words with IPA spelling

Jo-de-le o-le-di-e-i o-le-di-o o-le-di-e Jo-de-le-he-i Jo-de-le-he-o
[jo-də-le] [o-le-di-e-i] [o-le-di-o] [o-le-di-e] [jo-də-le-he-i] [jo-də-le-he-o]

Swiss German Consonants		
Swiss	IPA	Equivalent Sound
b	[p]	German: lob (always de-voiced; b & p are the same)
ch	[χ]	German: dach
ck	[kx]	German: Bach (with a harder [k] & aspirated; ck & k are the same)
d	[t]	German: lied (always de-voiced; d & t are the same)
g	[k]	German: klug (always de-voiced; g & c are the same)
h	[ç]	German: nicht
k	[kx]	German: Bach (with a harder [k] & aspirated)
l	[l]	English: let
m	[m]	English: man
n	[n]	English: nice
r	[r]	Latin: regina (rolled or trilled)
s	[s]	English: sand (always de-voiced)
sch	[ʃ]	English: shell
t	[t]	German: tag (de-voiced & un-aspirated; t & d are the same)
w	[v]	English: valve

Swiss German Vowels		
Swiss	IPA	Equivalent Sound
a	[a]	English: calm
ä	[æ]	English: cat
e	[ɜ]	English: bet
	[e]	English: play
	[ə]	English: about
i	[i]	English: silly
o	[ɔ]	English: thought
u	[ʊ]	English: hook
ö	[ø]	English: bird German: schön
ei	[ai]	English: dine
ie	[i]	English: free

Mi Vater isch ä Chääser gsii

Text & Tune:

from the Swiss Amish in Adams County, Indiana

(My Father was a Cheesemaker)

Arranged by Mark D. Templeton (b. 1974)

for SATB chorus, a cappella

Playfully Brisk ♩ = 150 (♩. = 50)

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

mf

1. Mi Va - ter isch ä Chää - ser gsii und ä Chää - sers suun bin ii.

1. My fa - ther was a cheese ma - ker and a cheese - ma-ker's son am I.

1. Mi Va - ter isch ä Chää - ser gsii und ä Chää - sers suun bin ii.

1. My fa - ther was a cheese - ma - ker and a cheese - ma-ker's son am I.

9

S

A

T

B

mf

mp

mp

mp

Va - ter drickt die Chää - se - li, und die Mei - tsche-li drik - ka mi. Jo-de-

fa - ther pressed the sweet young chees-es and the sweet young girls press me.

Va - ter drickt die Chää - se - li, und die Mei - tsche - li drik - ka mi, drik - ka mi. Jo-de-

fa - ther pressed the sweet young chees-es and the sweet, sweet young girls press me, girls press me.

Va - ter drickt die Chää - se - li, und die Mei - tsche-li drik - ka mi, drik - ka mi. Jo-de-

fa - ther pressed the sweet young chees-es and the sweet young girls press me, girls press me.

17

S

A

T

B

mf

mf

mf

mf

le o-le-di - e - i Jo-de - le o-le-di - o, Jo-de - le o-le-di - e, o-le-di - o, o-le-di - o Jo-de-

le - he - i Jo-de - le - he - o Jo-de - le - he - i o - le - di - o Jo-de-

le - he - i Jo-de - le - he - o Jo-de - le - he - i o - le - di - o Jo-de-

le - he - i Jo-de - le - he - o Jo-de - le - he - i o - le - di - o Jo-de-

No breath except for sopranos.

25

S le o-le-di - e - i Jo-de - le o-le-di - o, Jo-de - le o-le-di - e, o-le-di - o,

A le - he - i Jo-de - le - he - o Jo-de - le - he - i o - le - di - o

T le - he - i Jo-de - le - he - o Jo-de - le - he - i o - le - di - o 2. Es 2. It *mf*

B le - he - i Jo-de - le - he - o Jo-de - le - he - i o - le - di - o 2. Es 2. It *mf*

33

S

A

T het scho men - gisch grä - Gä - net, und di Böim si wee - de - nass. I
has so of - ten rained a bit, and the trees they do get wet. I

B het scho men - gisch grä - Gä - net, und di Böim si wee - de - nass. I
has so of - ten rained a bit, and the trees they do get wet. I

41

S *mf* ha e - mal es Mei - tsche-li gha, und i wett, wett i hätt es no! O - le - di - o! Jo-de-
I once had a sweet young girl, and I wish, wish I had her yet. O - le - di - o!

A *mf* ha e - mal es Mei - tsche-li gha, und i wett, i hätt es no, hätt es no! Jo-de-
I once had a sweet young girl, and I wish I had her yet, had her yet! *mp*

T ha e - mal es Mei - tsche-li gha, und i wett, i hätt es no, hätt es no! Jo-de-
once had a sweet young girl, and I wish I had her yet, had her yet! *mp*

B ha e - mal es Mei - tsche-li gha, und i wett, i hätt es no, hätt es no! Jo-de-
once had a sweet young girl, and I wish I had her yet, had her yet! *mp*

49

S le o-le-di - e - i Jo-de - le o-le-di - o, Jo-de - le o-le-di - e, o-le-di - o, o-le-di - o Jo-de-

A le - he - i Jo-de - le - he - o Jo-de - le - he - i o - le - di - o Jo-de- *mf*

T le - he - i Jo-de - le - he - o Jo-de - le - he - i o - le - di - o Jo-de- *mf*

B le - he - i Jo-de - le - he - o Jo-de - le - he - i o - le - di - o Jo-de- *mf*

57

S le o-le-di - e - i Jo-de - le o-le-di - o, Jo-de - le o-le-di - e, o-le-di - o, Jo-de-

A le - he - i Jo-de - le - he - o Jo-de - le - he - i o - le - di - o Jo-de- *mf*

T le - he - i Jo-de - le - he - o Jo-de - le - he - i o - le - di - o 3. Es 3. It *mf*

B le - he - i Jo-de - le - he - o Jo-de - le - he - i o - le - di - o

65

S *mp* Jo-de - le - he - i Jo-de - le - he - o Jo-de - le - he - i he - o I *mf*

A *mp* Jo-de - le - he - i Jo-de - le - he - o Jo-de - le - he - i he - o he -

T 8 het scho men - gisch ge - schnei - let und di Böim si wee - de wiis. *mf*

B has so of - ten snowed a bit and the white snow the trees do rime; *mf*

3. Es het scho men - gisch ge - schnei - let und di Böim si
3. It has so of - ten snowed a bit and the white snow the

73

S ha e - mal es Mei - tsche-li gha und i wett, es war no miis. Jo-de-
once had a sweet young girl, and I wish she were still mine

A Jo-de - le - he - i I ha e - mal es Mei - tsche-li gha und i wett, es
I once had a sweet young girl, and I wish she

T *mp* Jo-de - le - he - i Jo - de - le - he - o Jo-de - le - he - i he - o! Jo-de-
8

B *mp* wee - de wiis. Jo - de - le - he - o Jo-de - le - he - i he - o! Jo-de-
trees do rime;

81

S le - he - i O-le-di - o! Jo-de - le o-le-di - e - i Jo-de - le o-le-di - o, Jo-de - le o-le-di -
mf

A war no miis. O-le-di - o! Jo-de - le - he - i Jo-de - le - he - o Jo-de - le - he -
were still mine. O-le-di - o! *mp*

T le - he - i O-le-di - o! Jo-de - le - he - i Jo-de - le - he - o Jo-de - le - he -
8 *mp*

B le - he - i O-le-di - o! Jo-de - le - he - i Jo-de - le - he - o Jo-de - le - he -
mp

89

S e, o-le-di - o, o-le-di - o Jo-de - le o-le-di - e - i Jo-de - le o-le-di - o, Jo-de - le o-le-di -
mf

A i o - le - di - o Jo-de - le o-le-di - e - i Jo-de - le o-le-di - o Jo-de-
mf

T i o - le - di - o Jo-de - le - he - i Jo-de - le - he - o Jo-de - le - he -
8 *mf*

B i o le - di - o Jo-de - le - he - i Jo-de - le - he - o Jo-de - le - he -
mf

97

S *f*
e, o-le-di - o, Jo-de - le o-le-di - e - i Jo-de - le o-le-di - o, Jo-de - le o-le-di -

A *f*
le o-le-di - e o-le-di - o o-le-di - o, Jo-de - le o-le-di - e - i Jo-de - le o-le-di - o Jo-de -

T *f*
i o - le - di - o Jo-de - le - he - i Jo-de - le - he - o Jo-de - le - he -

B *f*
i o le - di - o Jo-de - le - he - i Jo-de - le - he - o Jo-de - le - he -

105 *molto rit.*

S *ff*
e, o-le-di - o, Jo-de - le o-le-di - e, o-le-di - o, O-le-di - o!

A *ff* *no yodel*
le o-le-di - o Jo-de - le - he - i he - o o-le-di - e - i - o!

T *ff*
i he - o Jo-de - le - he - i o - le - di - o!

B *ff*
i he - o Jo-de - le - he - i o - le - di - o!