

## Anlage 01

o. V.: Mendelssohn in England: A centenary tribute, in: The Musical Times, February 1, 1909, S. 87 f. - Ausschnitt aus dem englischen Originaltext

One of the pleasantest visits was the seventh, in the spring of 1842, when he brought his wife, who made her first acquaintance with this country. They stayed for six weeks with Frau Mendelssohn's relatives, the Beneckes, at Denmark Hill, Camberwell. The house has since been demolished, but its site and charming grounds have happily been absorbed in Ruskin Park. From a series of excellent photographs of the house and its sylvan surroundings, taken by Miss Hilda Benecke, we are enabled through her kind permission to reproduce one of her pictures, showing the place where Mendelssohn passed some of the happiest days of his life. Devoted to children, nothing gave him greater pleasure than to romp with the Benecke boys and girls, who, in the years of their maturity still retain the most delightful recollections of that happy period of their childhood. At Denmark Hill, Mendelssohn composed the well-known 'Spring-song', No. 30 of the 'Songs without words', the autograph being dated 'June 1, 1842'. The peculiar form of the piece - the staccato notes in the bass and treble - is due to the Benecke children, who, while their composer-friend was playing the piece, persistently withdrew his hands from the pianoforte, because the elder members of the house had gone to Windsor for the day, and they regarded him as their particular property. Consequently the children wanted him to play, not the pianoforte, but games with them in the garden. It was for the Benecke children that he composed the 'Kinderstücke' (Op. 72). Although they are known as 'Christmas pieces' in England, they were written, in the children's albums, during the summer days of 1842 and at Denmark Hill. As an instance of his irrepressible spirits and love of the children, we reproduce, as one of our special supplements, a facsimile of 'Bärentanz' which he wrote in the album of Miss Benecke, by whose very kind permission we are enabled to give our readers this extremely humorous and hitherto unknown composition of Mendelssohn's. 'Peter Meffert' was a nickname he gave himself, and he, like the children, was also a 'gooseberry-eater' in the Beneckes' garden.