

## Summer Holidays.

The last column before the summer break. Some of us are busy preparing for a trip, some are already on the road and others are staying home all summer. Yet everyone is talking about summer holidays. Summer holidays is coming again, at least if all the advertisements are to be believed. There is also a lot of advertising about what books you should take with you on that summer holidays. A well-known publisher's slogan this year is: *A summer full of reading* and the CPNB (Stichting Collectieve Propaganda van het Nederlandse Boek) together with a travel organization has the slogan: *Holidays start with books!* All nice ideas, but thinking it through, one wonders how it really is. Do you go on holidays to take in new stories or do you go on holidays to bring home new stories? The latter has become a challenge for us due to smartphones and social media, but that aside.

Singing is also storytelling. Sometimes we are so preoccupied with finding the right notes, the rhythm whether we must sing louder or softer that we would almost forget we are telling a story. Sometimes we want to convince the listener that you have a “better life” if you bring music into your life: *Wer sich die Musik erkiest*. Other times we bring an ode to summer, *Sumer is icumen in* or we bring an ode to farewell. Sings Paul Simon that there fifty ways to leave your lover, we keep it simple: *Ik seg adiu*. Sometimes a song has lyrics about togetherness, something that is reinforced when it is also sung in a soccer stadium: *You'll never walk alone*. So every song has something to say, its own story, even if the lyrics are nonsense lyrics or a narrative in a language you neither speak nor understand. Fortunately, Janneke always tells us what the song is about and we can still try to convey the idea behind the song.

In this column, we put a love text under the magnifying glass. What feeling do we want to convey is always the key question? We have chosen a hopeful text in these, we can safely say, troubled times: *I wish you love*. This song opens our hearts and lets us recite a beautiful love story. It is like reading, uh, singing a love letter. Who doesn't melt when you are sung to:

*Ik wens je in het voorjaar lijsters die je hart met liedjes vullen. Daarna wens ik je een zoen toe en bovenal liefde. Ik wens je in de zomer veel schaduw van bladeren waarin je heerlijk koele limonade kunt drinken. Daarnaast wens ik je, nog meer dan rijkdom, gezondheid toe. Ondanks mijn gebroken hart geef ik toe dat wij nooit bij elkaar kunnen zijn, dus laat ik je los.*

*Ik wens je een plek om te schuilen voor de storm met een gezellig haardvuur dat je warm houdt. Maar vooral, als het sneeuwt, wens ik je liefde.*

How beautiful love can be and how wonderful to be able to sing this. Singers are storytellers just as much as people who tell stories. We as a choir also want to touch our listeners, virtual listeners, not only with beautiful sounds, but also with a story, don't we?

We as column writers wish you all a happy “summer holidays” with the promise to continue writing happily afterwards! What story about our choir will you take with you on holidays?