

A Kalmus Classic Edition

Johann Sebastian

BACH

CANTATA No. 212

MER HAHN EN NEUE OBERKEET
(THE PEASANT CANTATA)

for Soli and Two-Part
Chorus of Mixed Voices
with Piano Accompaniment

K 06063



NOTE

In 1742, Karl Heinrich von Dieskau, Chamberlain (Kammerherr) of the Saxon Court, became, on his mother's death, Lord of the Manor (Gutsherr) of Klein-Zschocher and Knauthain, villages near Leipzig. On August 30, 1742, the villagers of Klein-Zschocher held a festival, at which they pledged allegiance to the new Gutsherr. It was for this celebration that this Cantata was written and first performed.

As Prefect of the District (Kreishauptmann), Dieskau was Inspector of the land, liquor, and income taxes, and of the quarterly tax. Picander (Christian Friedrich Henrich, 1700-1764), who wrote the libretto, had obtained the position of Receiver of the land and liquor taxes several months earlier. Hence the frequent humorous allusions to the Tax Collector. Probably Picander, who was an intimate friend of Bach and had written a number of his Cantata libretti, induced Bach to write the music.

Tempo and dynamic indications are the editor's.

The Peasant Cantata

The Chamberlain is now our Squire
Mer hahn en neue Oberkeet

Johann Sebastian Bach

1. Overture

Presto ♩ = 72

Piano

Scherzando ♩ = 88

Andante ♩ = 54

Allegro ♩ = 92