

Contents

Acknowledgements	vii
Figures	ix
Introduction	1
The Neidhart Songs and their Manuscript Transmission	2
Manuscript R	3
Textual Criticism and Neidhart Editions	6
Who Was Neidhart?	10
Subgenres, Motifs, and Poetic Language	12
Seasonal Openings: Summer and Winter Songs	14
Peasants and Neidhart's Rustic World	15
Friderun, Engelmar, and the Theft of the Mirror	16
Conversations between Girlfriends	16
Mother-Daughter Dialogues	17
Dancing	18
Neidhart Reception in the Literature of the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries	18
Neidhart Reception in Images from the Fourteenth to the Sixteenth Centuries	20
Notes on this Edition, Translation, and Commentary	25
Selected Songs from the Riedegg Manuscript	
R1 Alas, summer time (<i>Owe sumerzit</i>)	34
R3 How do I overcome both (<i>Wie uberwinde ich beide</i>)	44
R4 Summer, I must renounce your bright appearance (<i>Sumer, diner lihten ougenweide</i>)	52
R9 Summer, I welcome you (<i>Sumer, wis enphangen</i>)	58
R10 This change in seasons brings great joy (<i>Disiu wandelunge mange vroude bringet</i>)	64
R12 The heath is turning green (<i>Ez grunet wol diu haide</i>)	72
R15 I never saw the meadow (<i>Ine gesah die heide</i>)	82

R17	Now the singing of the little birds (<i>Nu ist der kleinen voglin singen</i>)	88
R18	Alas, beloved summer, for your sweetness-bearing joy (<i>Owe, lieber sumer, diner suzze bernden wunne</i>)	94
R23	The hedge grows green and is as beautiful as gold (<i>Schon als ein golt grunet der hagen</i>)	102
R24	Now I mourn the flowers and the bright summertime (<i>Nu chlach ich die blumen und die liechten sumerzit</i>)	108
R26	Alas, beloved summer, your bright long days (<i>Owe, lieber sumer, diner liechten tage lange</i>)	120
R27	Young people, prepare your sleds for the ice! (<i>Chint, bereittet iuch der sliten uf daz eis</i>)	126
R29	The little birds have silenced their song (<i>Sanges sint diu vogelein geswaiget</i>)	136
R31	How can I get over the flowers (<i>Wie sol ich die blumen uberwinden</i>)	144
R33	“Sing, golden chicken, I’ll give you wheat!” (<i>“Singe, ein guldin hun, ich gibe dir waicze”</i>)	152
R40	No one is able to resolve the hostility at this time of year (<i>Des sumers und des winders beider vintschaft</i>)	162
R43	Now the song of the little birds (<i>Nu ist der kleinen voglin singen</i>)	172
R45	It is winter, you can see it in (<i>Ez ist ein winder, nemt des war</i>)	176
R46	Alas, winter, what dark days (<i>Owe winder, waz du bringest</i>)	182
R51	“Now the frosty winter is finally over” (<i>“Nu ist der chule winder gar zergangen”</i>)	188
R52	The linden trees strive to adorn their crowns with new foliage (<i>Der linden wellent ir tolden von niwem loube reichen</i>)	196
R53	“Listen, how the birds all sing” (<i>“Losa, wie di vogel alle donent”</i>)	206
R55	For the sake of the country’s honor (<i>Durch des landes ere</i>)	214
R56	“Summer is coming” (<i>“Uns wil ein sumer chomen”</i>)	220
R58	Joy and happiness are appearing everywhere (<i>Vreud unde wunne hebt sich weiten</i>)	226
	Appendix: Concordance	231
	Abbreviations	233
	Selected Bibliography	234