

Preface

In a constant study of collections available for voice I noticed few which attempt a comprehensive sweep of repertoire in different languages. There are admittedly some cornerstone publications addressing diverse pre-standard or teaching literature, incidentally touching on music by major vocal composers, but these are for student singers at a remedial level. *Standard Vocal Literature* addresses the needs of a typical college singer who has moved beyond teaching literature, but is perhaps not yet ready for a deeper look into a particular genre of song or the work of a single composer. Of course, the singer for whom this collection is a perfect fit need not be a college student. He or she also might be an advanced high school student, or an adult studying classical voice.

The principal aim of the collection is to introduce art song in five languages. The compilation plan is as follows:

- ten songs in English, representing Renaissance and Baroque music by Dowland, Purcell and others, as well as romantic song of the late 19th and early 20th centuries by Quilter, Vaughan Williams and others
- four songs in French, with special emphasis on the songs of Fauré
- six songs in German, with a sampling of music by the greatest lieder composers: Schubert, Schumann, Brahms, Strauss
- four songs in Italian that branch out beyond the standard early Italian songs students are likely to already be studying, with the deliberate inclusion of music by Bellini to get a taste of bel canto, and Stephano Donaudy, for a broader Italian romanticism
- two songs in Spanish by principal composers

Songs have been chosen with particular voice types in mind, presented in appropriate keys. Beyond art song, the collection includes:

- two opera arias, chosen from the first pieces that most singers study
- one operetta aria by Gilbert & Sullivan
- one oratorio aria as an introduction to the field

In addition to those specific parameters, we made certain that music by Mozart appears in each volume, which many would agree is the very best instruction in beautiful singing.

Because it is so important for students to learn an artistic context for music and poetry, we have provided introductory articles for all songs, including biographical and historical information that could be a springboard for more detailed research. To complete the package, we have recorded carefully prepared piano accompaniments to aid practice, and pronunciation lessons to assist in learning songs.

Each of the 30 selections in this volume is a gem in its own right. May they be the beginning of a lifelong discovery of our great heritage of vocal art music.

Richard Walters
Editor
October, 2004

Contents

SONGS IN ENGLISH

Thomas Campion

- 6 Fair, if you expect admiring

John Dowland

- 8 What if I never speed?

Edward MacDowell

- 11 The Sea

Henry Purcell

- 18 If music be the food of love
15 We sing to Him

Roger Quilter

- 21 Come away, death
30 Now sleeps the crimson petal
26 Weep you no more

Ralph Vaughan Williams

- 40 Linden Lea
34 The Vagabond

SONGS IN FRENCH

Gabriel Fauré

- 48 Le secret
44 Seule!

Jean-Baptiste Lully

- 51 Bois épais

Johann-Paul Martini

- 56 Plaisir d'amour

SONGS IN GERMAN

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

- 63 Abendempfindung

Franz Schubert

- 71 Der Doppelgänger
74 Meeres Stille

Robert Schumann

- 76 Die beiden Grenadiere
82 Du bist wie eine Blume

Richard Strauss

- 86 Zueignung

SONGS IN ITALIAN

Vincenzo Bellini

- 89 Vaga luna, che inargenti

Stefano Donaudy

- 97 Perchè dolce, caro bene

Raffaello Rontani

- 94 Caldi sospiri

Salvator Rosa

- 100 Vado ben spesso cangiando loco

SONGS IN SPANISH

Manuel de Falla

- 106 Asturiana

Fernando Obradors

- 110 La mi sola, Laureola

OPERA ARIAS

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

- 117 In diesen heil'gen Hallen
Die Zauberflöte

Giacomo Puccini

- 114 Vecchia zimarra, senti
La bohème

OPERETTA ARIA

Arthur Sullivan

- 122 The Policeman's Song
The Pirates of Penzance

ORATORIO ARIA

Giacomo Puccini

- 125 Crucifixus
Messa di Gloria

Composer Index

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Vincenzo Bellini | Giacomo Puccini |
| 89 Vaga luna, che inargenti | 125 Crucifixus |
| | <i>Messa di Gloria</i> |
| Thomas Campion | 114 Vecchia zimarra, senti |
| 6 Fair, if you expect admiring | <i>La bohème</i> |
| Stefano Donaudy | Henry Purcell |
| 97 Perchè dolce, caro bene | 18 If music be the food of love |
| | 15 We sing to Him |
| John Dowland | Roger Quilter |
| 8 What if I never speed? | 21 Come away, death |
| | 30 Now sleeps the crimson petal |
| Manuel de Falla | 26 Weep you no more |
| 106 Asturiana | |
| Gabriel Fauré | Raffaello Rontani |
| 48 Le secret | 94 Caldi sospiri |
| 44 Seule! | |
| Jean-Baptiste Lully | Salvator Rosa |
| 51 Bois épais | 100 Vado ben spesso cangiando loco |
| Edward MacDowell | Franz Schubert |
| 11 The Sea | 71 Der Doppelgänger |
| | 74 Meeres Stille |
| Johann-Paul Martini | Robert Schumann |
| 56 Plaisir d'amour | 76 Die beiden Grenadiere |
| | 82 Du bist wie eine Blume |
| Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart | Richard Strauss |
| 63 Abendempfindung | 86 Zueignung |
| 117 In diesen heil'gen Hallen | |
| <i>Die Zauberflöte</i> | Arthur Sullivan |
| Fernando Obradors | 122 The Policeman's Song |
| 110 La mi sola, Laureola | <i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> |
| | Ralph Vaughan Williams |
| | 40 Linden Lea |
| | 34 The Vagabond |

Online Companion Recordings

Laura Ward, pianist

Songs in English

Fair, if you expect admiring
What if I never speed?
The Sea
We sing to Him
If music be the food of love
Come away, death
Weep you no more
Now sleeps the crimson petal
The Vagabond
Linden Lea

Songs in French

Seule!
Recitation
Pronunciation Lesson
Accompaniment
Le secret
Recitation
Pronunciation Lesson
Accompaniment
Bols épais
Recitation
Pronunciation Lesson
Accompaniment
Plaisir d'amour
Recitation
Pronunciation Lesson
Accompaniment

Songs in German

Abendempfindung²
Recitation
Pronunciation Lesson
Accompaniment
Der Doppelgänger²
Recitation
Pronunciation Lesson
Accompaniment
Meeres Stille²
Recitation
Pronunciation Lesson
Accompaniment
Die beiden Grenadiere²
Recitation
Pronunciation Lesson
Accompaniment
Du bist wie eine Blume¹
Recitation
Pronunciation Lesson
Accompaniment
Zueignung²
Recitation
Pronunciation Lesson
Accompaniment

Songs in Italian

Vaga luna, che inargenti
Recitation
Pronunciation Lesson
Accompaniment
Caldi sospiri
Recitation
Pronunciation Lesson
Accompaniment
Perchè dolce, caro bene
Recitation
Pronunciation Lesson
Accompaniment
Vado ben spesso cangiando loco
Recitation
Pronunciation Lesson
Accompaniment

Songs in Spanish

Asturiana
Recitation
Pronunciation Lesson
Accompaniment
La mi sola, Laureola
Recitation
Pronunciation Lesson
Accompaniment

Opera arias

In diesen heil'gen Hallen²
Recitation
Pronunciation Lesson
Accompaniment
Vecchia zimarra, senti
Recitation
Pronunciation Lesson
Accompaniment

Operetta aria

The Policeman's Song

Oratorio aria

Crucifixus
Recitation
Pronunciation Lesson
Accompaniment

Language Coaches:

French Bernard Zinck
Italian and Latin Martha Gerhart

German ¹Martha Gerhart ²Johanna Moore ³Elisabeth Witte
Spanish Rose Rodriguez

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00740156 Low Voice

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00740293 Low Voice

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00740273 Mezzo-Soprano
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00740275 Baritone
00740276 Bass

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00740054 Low Voice

The Wedding Collection
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00000444 Low Voice

12 Wedding Solos
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00001187 Low Voice

Women Composers: A Heritage of Song
00740270 High Voice
00740271 Low Voice

Composer Editions

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00001142 Low Voice

Johannes Brahms: 75 Songs
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00740015 Low Voice

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00660283 Medium Voice

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00001146 Low Voice

Gabriel Fauré: 50 Songs
00747071 High Voice
00747070 Medium/Low Voice

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00740216 Tenor
00740217 Baritone/Bass

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Medium Voice

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00747029

Roger Quilter: 55 Songs
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00740226 Medium/Low Voice

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00740167 Low Voice

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with companion recordings
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00001144 Low Voice

Franz Schubert: 100 Songs
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00740028 Low Voice

Richard Strauss: 40 Songs
00747062 High Voice
00747063 Medium/Low Voice

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