THE NEW IMPERIAL EDITION

MEZZO-SOPRANO SONGS

Compiled, Edited and Arranged by SYDNEY NORTHCOTE

FOREWORD

THE NEW IMPERIAL EDITION OF SOLO SONGS has been designed as a chronological anthology of song from the Lutenists down to the present day. As other albums will be devoted exclusively to operatic and oratorio arias these are generally omitted from the present volumes.

Manifestly, the selection must be indicative rather than comprehensive or merely exclusive and is essentially practical, not personal. Each song is briefly annotated and, except where indicated, appears in the original key or is set for the voice with which it is normally associated.

Apart from obvious restrictions, the choice has been largely determined by certain positive needs. To provide the singing teacher and student alike with a working catalogue as a basis for more specialised research into the varied treasures of the literature of song; to give to festival committees and examination bodies a ready way of governing without unduly restricting the dangerous freedom of own choice classes; to present the would-be-accompanist with a convenient means of studying the many-sided aspects of his exacting technique; and, lastly, to offer to all singers, whether amateur or professional, a practical and logical conspectus of the diversities of lyrical song over a period of some three hundred years. If, in addition, these books will do something to combat the present-day weakness for vocal exhibitionism or narrow eclecticism the labour of their preparation will be doubly justified.

Croydon 1949

SYDNEY NORTHCOTE

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WHO EVER THINKS OR HOPES OF LOVE

Taken from Dowland's First Booke of Songs or Ayres (1597) where it appears a tone higher. The poem is by Fulke (Greville), Lord Brooke. For convenience sake, a purely arbitrary 2/2 time signature here replaces the irregular barring of the original; but the singer must remember that the bar-lines are meant for the eye and not the car. All expression marks are editorial suggestions.

JOHN DOWLAND

Original Lute accompaniment adapted for piano by SYDNEY NORTHCOTE



LET ME LINGER NEAR THEE

(Star Vicino)

English words by MAY BYRON

Salvator Rosa (1615-1673), poet, painter and musician, wrote several solo songs with basso continuo accompaniment, many of which were published in the 'Gemme d'antichita.' The following, edited by Callcott, is a charming example of his suave melodiousness.

Music by SALVATOR ROSA





B.& H. 17130

NYMPHS AND SHEPHERDS

Words by THOMAS SHADWELL

This delightful song—an excellent example of Purcell's pastoral music-comes from *The Libertine* (1692), where it appears a tone higher. It has carned an immortality which has been rightly denied to Shadwell's strange version of *Don Juan*.

Music by
HENRY PURCELL
Accompaniment by
MYLES B. FOSTER





B.& H. 17180

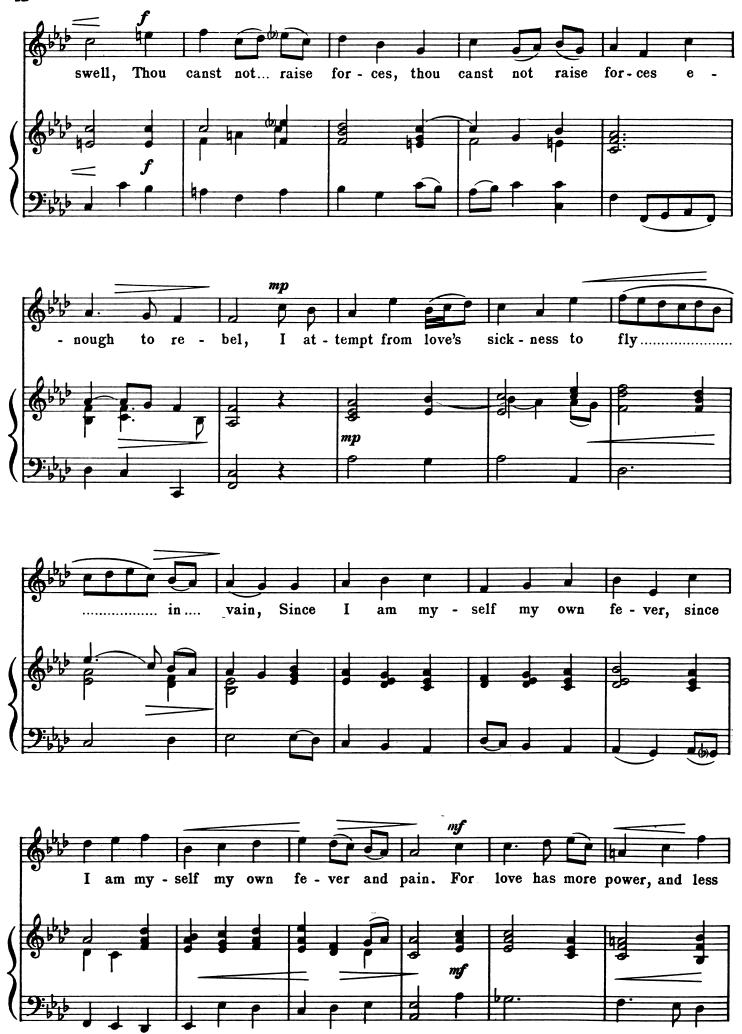


I ATTEMPT FROM LOVE'S SICKNESS TO FLY

Words by Sir ROBERT HOWARD This graceful rondo is one of Zempoalia's songs from The Indian Queen (1695), a play to which Dryden apparently contributed. A version was also printed in Orpheus Britannicus in the key of A but with two sharps only in the key signature.

Music by HENRY PURCELL





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^{*}This is given as D flat in Orpheus Britannicus

ANGELS, EVER BRIGHT AND FAIR

D! CHARLES MORELL

This famous aria is taken from *Theodora* (1749) which was one of Handel's favourite oratories. Except for the firs, impassioned phrase, the recitative calls for a quiet declamation as a fitting prelude to the serene faith so beautifully expressed in the aria.

Music by G. F. HANDEL





B.& H. 17130

















WHEN DAISIES PIED

Words by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

This was one of the delightful songs which Arne wrote for the revival of Shakespeare's As you like it in 1738. It has become almost inseparably associated with the verses.

Music by
THOMAS AUGUSTUS ARNE
Edited and arranged by
SYDNEY NORTHCOTE





MY MOTHER BIDS ME BIND MY HAIR

Words by ANNE HUNTER

This much-beloved song of Haydn is taken from his first set of Six Original Canzonettas written in England to English words and published by Corri, Dussek & Co in 1792-93. Mrs. Hunter was the wife of John Hunter, the famous surgeon and anatomist.

Music by JOSEPH HAYDN







NOW THE DANCING SUNBEAMS PLAY

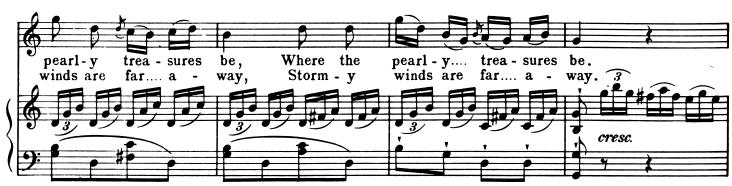
(The Mermaid's Song)

This is the second of Haydn's Six Original Canzonettas written in England to English words and first published in 1792-3. The accompaniment is more significant than in his earlier German songs although he obviously thinks orchestrally rather than in terms of the plano.

Music by JOSEPH HAYDN









THE VIOLET

(Das Veilchen)

JOH. WOLFGANG von GOETHE

English words by SYDNEY NORTHCOTE

Although the writing of solo songs was never a matter of great importance with Mozart, there is no doubt that in this charming version of Goethe's poem can be seen the source of the modern Lied, and it remains as one of the earliest masterpieces in that form.

Music by
W.A.MOZART
Edited and arranged by
SYDNEY NORTHCOTE





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KNOW'ST THOU THE LAND

(Kennst du das Land)

JOH. WOLFGANG von GOETHE

English words by JOHN OXENFORD

This beautiful poem stands at the head of the third book of *Withelm Meister* and has inspired several masterly settings although the strange spirit of *Mignon* is not easy to capture. Beethoven wrote this in 1810, the year of *Egmont*.

Music by L. van BEETHOVEN











DEEP IN MY HEART

Sir Henry Rowley Bishop (1786-1855) was the first musician to be knighted by Queen Victoria. At its best, his vocal music has a certain haunting quality as this expressive song reveals.

Music by
HENRY ROWLEY BISHOP
Arranged and Edited by
ALEC ROWLEY





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THE WILD ROSE

(Heiden Röslein)

JOH. WOLFGANG von GOETHE

English words by M.X. HAYES

Written in 1815, this beautifully articulated melody is so natural that it might have been born with the verses which Goethe wrote in 1771. It is here transposed a minor third lower.

Music by FRANZ SCHUBERT







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CRADLE SONG

(Wiegenlied)

MATTHAIS CLAUDIUS English words by M.X.HAYES Written in 1816, this charming lullaby has been aptly described by Capell as "the very paragon of cradle songs." Richard Strauss quotes the melody in his opera Ariudne auf Naxos.

Music by FRANZ SCHUBERT





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PEACE

(Du bist die Ruh')

FRIEDRICH RÜCKERT English words by M.X. HAYES In all, Schubert set five poems by Rückert (1788-1866) and this one, written in 1823 is a challenge to artistic integrity as well as vocal skill. It wants a perfect mezzq voce; and the long phrases are in themselves a delicate technical problem.

Music by FRANZ SCHUBERT













^{*} Friedländer gives both these notes as D flat. The Editor

THE BRIDE'S SONG

(Lied der Braut)

FRIEDRICH RÜCKERT
English words by
M.X. HAYES

One of the Myrthenlieder which Schumann wrote as a bridal gift for Clara in 1840, this song has a quiet intensity which must never be allowed to become sentimental.

Music by ROBERT SCHUMANN





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SOMEBODY

(Jemand)

W. GERHARD English words by ROBERT BURNS Another of the Myrthenlieder to which the original poem by Burns is easily adapted. Passionate, almost wilful, there is a graphic intensity in Schumann's declamation which calls for a studied judgement in the changes of tempo.

Music by
ROBERT SCHUMANN
Edited and arranged by
SYDNEY NORTHCOTE







IN A STRANGE LAND

(In der Fremde)

H.von FALLERSLEBEN
English words by
CONSTANCE BACHE

Wilhelm Taubert (1811-1891) was much praised by Mendelssohn but only a few graceful songs are now remembered of his large catalogue of compositions.

Music by WILHELM TAUBERT







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SPRING'S SECRET

(Der Frühling)

J.B. ROUSSEAU English words by PAUL ENGLAND

Written in April 1852, this is a typical Brahms-Hungarian song. The poet— in his youth an associate of Heine—was proud enough to acknowledge, in the 1866 edition of his poetry, settings by Reissiger and Weiss; apparently he did not know of this far greater setting by Brahms!

Music by JOHANNES BRAHMS











THE BLACKSMITH

(Der Schmied)

LUDWIG UHLAND English words by PAUL ENGLAND There are innumerable settings of this poem all of which have been utterly supplanted by this most popular of all Brahms' songs. It should be remembered that Allegro means lively rather than fast.

Music by JOHANNES BRAHMS





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PARTING

(Muss es eine Trennung)

LUDWIG TIECK English words by PAUL ENGLAND This is Nº 12 of the *Magelone* song cycle which Brahms published in two parts; Nos.1-6 in 1862 and the remainder in 1869. Variants in the German text are shewn in brackets.

Music by JOHANNES BRAHMS







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ORPHEUS WITH HIS LUTE

Words by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

There is a characteristic freshness in this, one of the most popular of Sullivan's Shakespearean songs. Some literary scholars consider the poem to be the work of John Fletcher.

Music by ARTHUR SULLIVAN







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THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY

(L'île inconnue)

THÉOPHILE GAUTIER English words by PAUL ENGLAND

There is nothing of the Berlioz eccentricities in his songs; but something of his influence on the subsequent development of French song will be discovered in this effective setting of Gautier's well-known poem.

Music by HECTOR BERLIOZ









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B.& H. 17130





B.& H. 17130

SLUMBER SONG

(Dors, mon enfant)

Anonymous English words by R.H.ELKIN This was the first of the *Trois Mélodies* which Wagner published in Paris in 1840. Blom has said that "the music has a captivating charm mixed with a certain monotony" while Minna Wagner thought it "a lovely thing to send one to sleep."

Music by RICHARD WAGNER





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TO THE CHILDREN

(Aux enfants)

M.D.CALVOCORESSI English words by ROSA NEWMARCH This is one of the most beautiful of Rachmaninoff's songs. It wants a smooth, fluent declamation and a restrained intensity in expression. The accompaniment, too, must have a perfect sostenuto and imaginative tone control.

Music by SERGEI RACHMANINOFF





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ALONE IN THE FOREST

(Waldseligkeit)

RICHARD DEHMEL English words by PAUL ENGLAND

The intense quiet of this song, written in 1901, is not easy to control, and if the molto lento of the concluding phrase is to have its due effect, the rest of the song must wave easily and not too slowly.

Music by RICHARD STRAUSS



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MELMILLO

Words by WALTER de la MARE All the songs of Clive Carey (b. 1883) show the insight of a fine singer as well as a real musicianship, as this, perhaps his finest song, so eloquently reveals.

Music by CLIVE CAREY



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DREAM VALLEY

Words by WILLIAM BLAKE

Among the many charming songs which Roger Quilter (b. 1877) has contributed to the literature of English song there will always be a special place for the delicate serenity of this little masterpiece, which wants a sensitive understanding between singer and accompanist.

Music by ROGER QUILTER





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