French Song Anthology: The Vocal Library, Low Voice

The book was found
Synopsis

(Vocal Collection). The largest, most comprehensive collection of French art songs ever published, with 60 songs by 24 composers. This wonderful anthology, with newly researched editions in clean new engravings, includes interesting notes about the composers, poets, facts about the composition and performance history for each song, and new line-by-line translations for study. Some songs are published in transpositions for the first time. This is the ideal collection for teachers to assign to voice students.

Book Information

Series: Vocal Library
Paperback: 320 pages
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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars | See all reviews (6 customer reviews)

Customer Reviews

Both the French Song Anthology and the German Lieder Anthology are excellent resources, a "must-have" to the library of any voice teacher or student of the French or German art song. The print is large and easy to read, and each piece contains brief but helpful research; useful for program notes. However, be aware that the pronunciation companion book Pronunciation Guide for the French Song Anthology Bk/3Cds (Vocal Library) is published separately. I recommend buying both (at the same time, to save on shipping costs). The pronunciation companion contains IPA as well as Western (American English) phonetic pronunciation, which is certainly helpful to students & singers like myself who are not otherwise fluent in the language.

This anthology is full of valuable repertoire for those new to French Mélodie. It encompasses a
broad range of styles and composers, includes poetic translations, and brief background information about each song. I use this in my teaching, and then my students choose further books based on the pieces they enjoy here. In other words, this anthology serves as a catalyst for further exploration. If I were to change one facet of this book, I would include more Fauré and Debussy, since they are so perfect for those new to French art song. I might also include some different repertoire between the high and low voice editions, since certain vocal lines suit higher and/or lower voices better. Otherwise, this is the best anthology I’ve found, and I use it on a daily basis in my vocal studio.

This is exactly what I needed for my French diction class. I can’t wait to start getting songs from this book and start learning them!

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