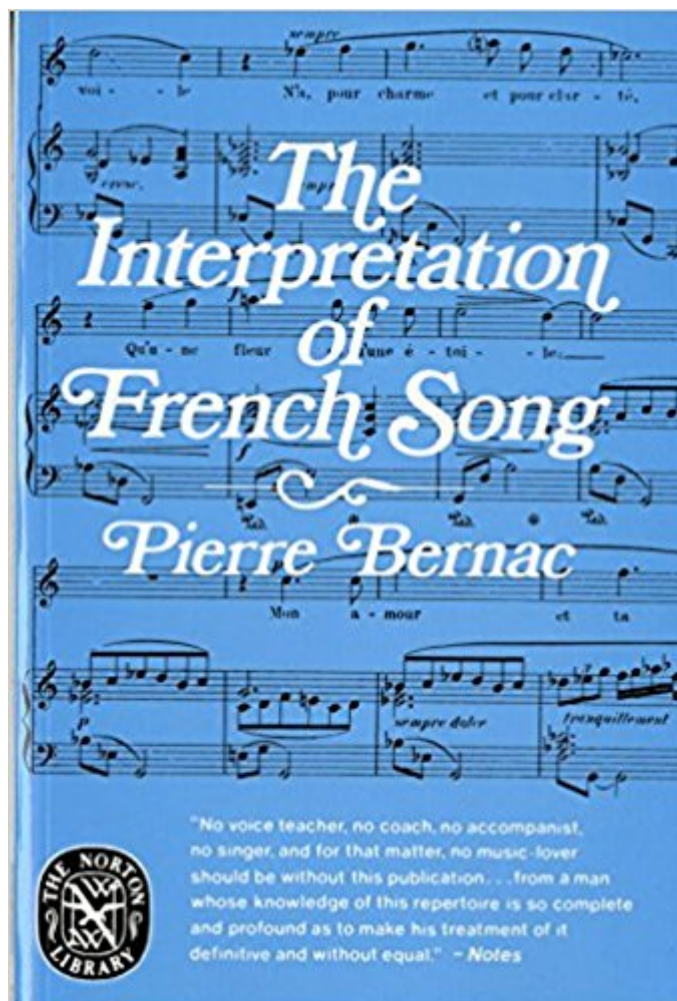


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The Interpretation Of French Song (Norton Library)



Synopsis

"No voice teacher, no coach, no accompanist, no singer, and for that matter, no music-lover should be without this publication . . . from a man whose knowledge of this repertoire is so complete and profound as to make his treatment of it definitive and without equal." —Notes This is the standard work on its subject, and its author the outstanding authority. Pierre Bernac had a long and distinguished career as a singer, specializing in the French song (or *mélodie*) repertoire. For many years he was incomparable partnered by Francis Poulenc, one of the composers discussed in this book. M. Bernac later taught and gave master classes in Europe and the United States. He died in 1979. Among eighteen composers whose vocal works are covered in the book are Berlioz, Gounod, Duparc, Chausson, Fauré, Debussy, Satie, Ravel —as well as Poulenc and others. The greater part of each composer's output in the genre is discussed: texts of nearly 200 songs are given in French, with line-for-line verse translations by Winifred Radford, notes on pronunciation, and simple but detailed suggestion for performance and interpretation. Preceding these sections on the songs themselves are three most important chapters on performance and interpretation in vocal music, on singing in French, and on the particular problems involved in the interpretation of French *mélodies*. This is the book every serious singer needs —and, more and more, singers are "discovering" French song. It is also an invaluable guide for the concert-goer and record collector.

Book Information

Series: Norton Library

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company (February 17, 1978)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0393008789

ISBN-13: 978-0393008784

Product Dimensions: 4.9 x 0.7 x 7.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #73,525 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #75 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Music > Reference #128 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical

Genres > Classical #309 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Performing Arts > Music

Customer Reviews

Text: English, French (translation)

The Interpretation of French Song is the standard work on its subject, and its author the outstanding authority. Among the eighteen composers whose vocal works are covered in the book are Berlioz, Gounod, Duparc, Chausson, Faure, Debussy, Satie, Ravel - as well as Poulenc and others. The greater part of each composer's output in the genre is discussed: texts of nearly 200 songs are given in French, with line-for-line verse translation by Winifred Radford, notes on pronunciation, and simple but detailed suggestions for performance and interpretation.

This book is the gold standard of *mélodie* interpretation and performance. Bernac gives a concise introduction to singing in French, including all of the linguistic aspects particular to the language, such as liaisons, elisions, acceptable breaths, and overall survey of French art song. If you are singing a French art song whose poetry is included in this book and have not consulted it for details on liaisons, breaths, and some issues of tempo, everyone who has been trained in this genre will know. (Really.)

This book was purchased for a college class. The description was exactly what I needed in order to make my decision.

This is an invaluable resource for French art songs. I make use of it regularly.

I love this little book and use it for most of my french song rep.

For any classical singer, you need to have this book. It has everything and anything about many different french artists and their song cycles.

A very interesting work for those who want to know about French *Mélodie*, in particular because the author was a wonderful singer in this field.

Served it's purpose

A must-have for any music library (personal or otherwise). Bernac shares his wisdom about singing in French. Especially helpful is the section of song texts for his inclusion of liaison/elision markings.

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