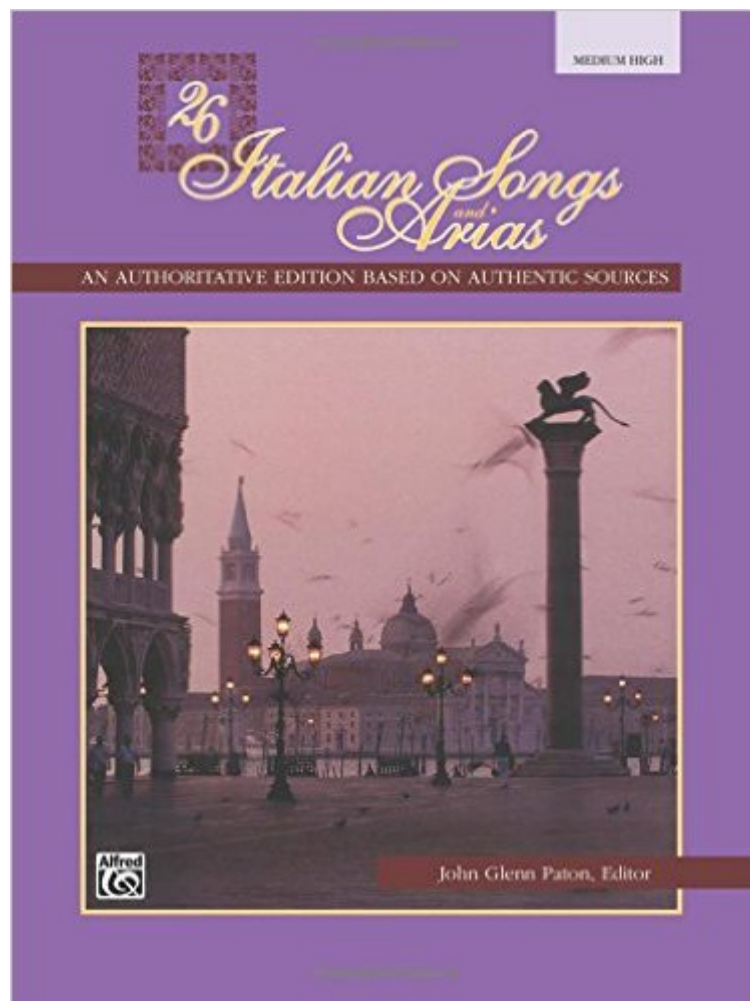


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26 Italian Songs And Arias: An Authoritive Edition Based On Authentic Sources [Medium / High] (Italian And English Edition)



Synopsis

This authoritative, new edition of the world's most loved songs and arias draws on original manuscripts, historical first editions and recent research by prominent musicologists to meet a high standard of accuracy and authenticity. Includes fascinating background information about the arias and their composers as well as a singable rhymed translation, a readable prose translation and a literal translation of each single Italian word.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (52 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This book updates the 100-year old Schirmer edition of 17th and 18th century Italian Songs and Arias, used for 4 generations by most serious students of singing in all English-speaking countries. Paton's edition is into in the Schirmer edition, adds optional (and appropriate) vocal ornaments, and simplifies the accompanying harmonies. Paton's edition is also more useful to singers, as it contains three different translations of each song (word-for-word, singable, and the underlying emotional idea), and it transcribes all text into the international phonetic alphabet. The page layout is attractive. I use my copy every day.

I own both this 26 song book/Cd as well as the 24 song book/CD from John Keene and Schirmer. I use the John Paton 26 song version in order to read the excellent one page introductions it provides for each song.. However my singing teacher feels that the piano accompaniments in the Paton book are pretentious, and he prefers the piano accompaniments in the Keene/Schirmer book. So, I use

the CD and music from the Schirmer book but I do my research via the Paton book. The Keen/Schirmer book has a lot less melody ornamentation than the John Paton book. In my opinion, which is the opinion of a beginner, the ornamentation added to the melody in the John Paton book is excessive and is also confusing in that he never explains how to reconcile all the little notes he added, to the larger font melody notes that often seem to be at odds with the tinier notes. What is deeply, desperately need, I strongly feel, is a recording of tenors, sopranos, and baritones actually singing all 24 (or 26) of these songs! Please, if anyone knows of the existence of such as recording, post it in a user review. It would be a tremendous help. Also, note that in both the Keene/Schirmer version and the John Paton version, the piano accompaniment often does not include the melody. So, it can be "dicey" when trying to learn one of the songs to figure out the melody if the only resource available is the accompanying CD. Personally, I record the melodies into a sequencer program on my PC via a midi attached digital keyboard, but the average singer is not likely to have the technical expertise to do that. It would have been very helpful if the accompanying CD's had recorded each song twice, the second time with the melody superimposed on top of the accompaniment. My singer teacher tells me that these 24 (or 26) songs are the "bible" among singing students. Thus, a singing student really has no choice but to buy at least one of these two editions.

I have to say, I'm partial to the Schirmer edition -- it looks better, it's been in use for many, many more decades, and the arias are much more straightforward, without all the silly editorial ornamentation of this edition. BUT, this edition provides invaluable background, pronunciation information, and additional information about each aria. And in a few cases (like "Sebben Crudele"), the whole aria is vastly better, undoing unfortunate editorial choices in the Schirmer (like essentially changing a 3/4 to a 6/8). My advice: get this one AND the Schirmer, along with appropriate recordings from Cecilia Bartoli (she generally follows the Schirmer), Pavarotti (he does his own thing at times), etc., then mix and match the bits you like from all three to come up with your own "ultimate" personalized versions of each aria.

I love this book because the translations are spot on, the accompaniment is easy to follow for any novice accompanist and the voice ranges aren't ridiculously low or high. I'm a soprano and even though this is just "Medium-High" (which would probably translate to mezzo-soprano) it works great for practicing simple arias.

This is an essential buy for any voice student or teacher. I prefer this book to the old yellow 24 book because it has better versions of the songs, word-by-word translation, and IPA pronunciations. The CD is great for practice sessions for students or would serve you well if you have to perform without an accompanist. If you're a teacher, buy the blue book of low keys too - it's great to have both.

This book carries amazing songs that are good for the beginner as well as someone brushing up on their Italian. The arrangements are beautifully rendered on the CD. The sound quality is good and I enjoy singing with the music as a practice. The quality is also good enough to perform. I gave this a 5 Star rating, because it was the best I have found for all-inclusive Italian singing/training.

I was unfamiliar with Italian love songs and poems before this book. I used it for class, and it provided a lot of options for beginning and intermediate singers. Some songs were easier than others but most of them were of equal skill level and difficulty.

This book is requisite for beginning singers. It has 26 valuable Italian songs and arias that are useful in learning the basics of singing. It also includes supporting information on Italian IPA and diction and articles on Baroque and Classical singing styles.

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