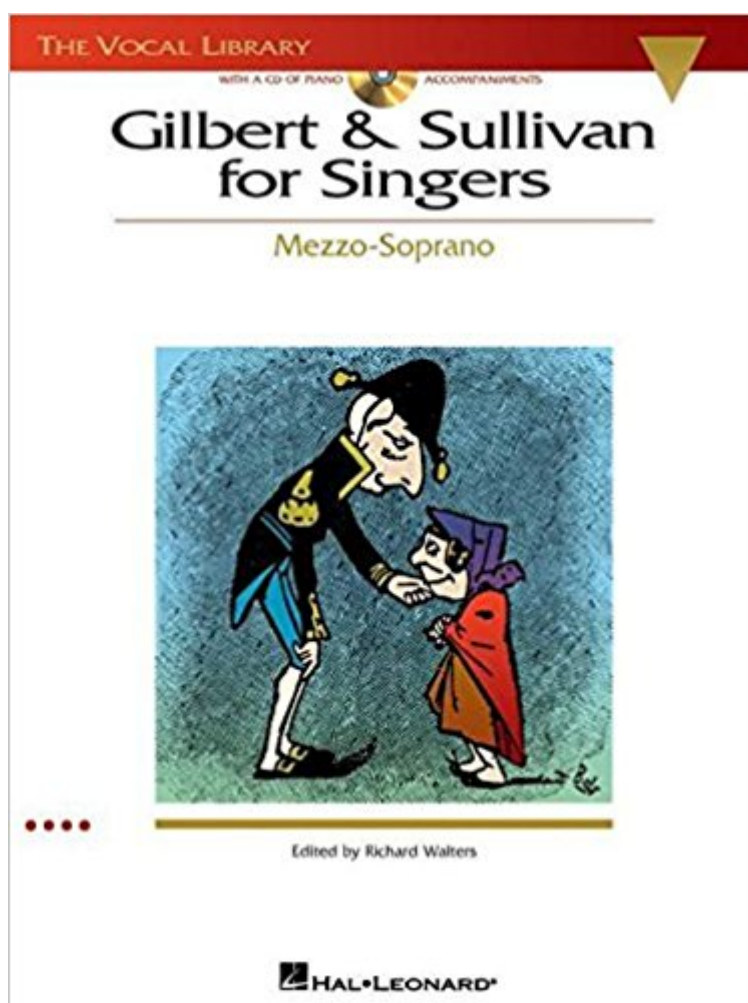


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GILBERT & SULLIVAN FOR SINGERS MEZZO-SOPRANO BK/CD THE VOCAL LIBRARY



Synopsis

(Vocal Collection). W.S. Gilbert wrote the words, Arthur Sullivan composed the music, and together they revolutionized theatre music in English. This new series presents songs and arias from their timeless operettas, collected by voice type. There are 15-17 songs per volume, with the most famous excerpts being peppered by beautiful, less known choices. The edition includes notes about the plot context of each selection. The piano accompaniments on the companion CDs were recorded by Laura Ward. Includes songs and arias from The Gondoliers, The Grand Duke, Iolanthe, HMS Pinafore, The Mikado, Patience, The Pirates of Penzance, Princess Ida, Ruddigore, The Sorcerer, Utopia Unlimited, The Yeomen of the Guard .

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As most who appreciate Gilbert & Sullivan know, the operas under D'Oyly Carte were essentially performed by a resident company - the characters in most of the G&S operas were created to play to the strengths of specific singers who in many cases stayed with the theatre for years. Thus, we have the patter-baritone roles created for George Grossmith, the imposing contraltos of Rosina Brandam, the pertly charming mezzos of Jessie Bond, and so on. I have adored Gilbert & Sullivan since I was a child, and have been performing their work for 20 years, so I had high hopes for this book. However, ten of the seventeen arias in this book are for contraltos, leaving only seven mezzo arias - and that's not even counting the fact that "A Lady Fair, Of Lineage High" is duplicated in the

soprano book, while "Cheerily Carols the Lark" includes the entirety of "To a Garden Full of Posies," which is then repeated a few pages later! (I was wondering why they'd been silly enough to wedge another piece in between the aria and its preceding recitative...) I suppose that Walters & co were stymied by the fact that there are fairly few uninterrupted arias for mezzos in the G&S canon, but there are selections that could have been included, such as Lisa's "Take care of him..." from "The Grand Duke." The formidable and sometimes slightly terrifying contralto roles - Katisha, The Fairy Queen, The Duchess of Plaza-Toro - are a world away from the pretty, mischievous mezzos, both vocally and in terms of characterisation. To collate them all into one volume is somewhat baffling. And ironically, the only other review I've seen of this collection was from a contralto, lamenting the fact that the book was full of useless-to-her mezzo arias! I doubt that I'll keep this book for the five useful arias it contains - it'd be nice not to have to tote 2-3 scores to every audition in order to have a variety of pieces, but I don't think this one's worth the money. Either way, it's less useful than it could be, unfortunately. I would like to see Hal Leonard split any subsequent editions into a Mezzo book and a Contralto book (it looks like the same could be done with the Baritone/Bass book); even though both volumes would be fairly slim, they would be vastly more useful that way.

As a previous reviewer pointed out, there are only 5 mezzo arias in here (6, if you count "A lady fair, of lineage high" - which can be done by mezzo but I've mostly seen done by a soprano - and 7 if you count the fact that there is one aria that appears twice: "To a garden full of posies" is also the second half of "Cheerily carols the lark"). Which leaves 10 contralto arias in a book that's supposedly for mezzos. I can't really complain about what /does/ appear in this book, and to be fair, mezzos sometimes sing alto roles in G&S (I myself have done so more than once). So I guess it's mildly useful to have all of them in one place. However, any usefulness that provides is significantly hindered by the fact that someone who's less discerning/knowledgeable about G&S, given this anthology, is pretty likely to end up singing something they're not suited to. In short - do your research! It's nice to have this all in one place but if you're looking for a true mezzo aria, you're going to have to do a little googling to figure out which ones those are.

This purchase was smooth and easy. Shipping came in sooner than expected. The book is great and easy to read, with poetic translations to each song.

When Frederic Was A Lad
To A Garden Full Of Posies
Alone, And Yet Alive
A Lady Fair
Cheerily
Carols The Lark
Come Mighty Must!
My Lord, A Suppliant At Your Feet
On The Day When I Was

Wedded Sir Rupert Murgatroyd When But A Maid Of Fifteen Years When Our Galland Norman
Foes (I'm Called) Little Buttercup Were I Thy Bride When Maiden Loves, She Sits And Sighs When A
Merry Maiden Marries Silver'd Is The Raven Hair Oh, Foolish Fay

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