Arias For Mezzo-Soprano: G. Schirmer Opera Anthology
Synopsis


Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is a must-own for any mezzo-soprano (as are the corresponding volumes for any other
voice type.) I daresay this is the anthology standard for aspiring opera stars. I purchased mine when starting college and learned my first aria from it--"Non so piu, cosa son". Ten years later I am still finding pieces that fit my voice as it grows into works by Bizet, Massenet, Donizetti. And I know that I will continue to use it in years to come as I grow into the luscious arias of Dalilah or perhaps Mascagni's Lola. Having had the opportunity to work with Dr. Robert Larsen, I can say that he is one of the most knowledgeable people in the business about opera and how to get young people started. The translations provided are not poetic--they are accurate, true translations! The plot summaries are brief but helpful, enough to get you started, but short enough to encourage you to do your own work. Larsen notates alternate endings, appogioturi, and other traditional performance notes. I guarantee, if you buy this book, you'll use it until it falls apart. I'm on my second one now.

This book has great selections and editing. It also has a section in the beginning where it gives background information, text, and translations for each aria. I would strongly recommend it to any student mezzo for these things. Additionally, you can buy a companion "diction coach" volume that goes over the pronunciation for each piece in detail, which I would imagine would be very helpful for students. However, this book has a major disadvantage, which is that there is no companion CD with piano accompaniments for the pieces. I would have given it five stars, but the unavailability of accompaniments makes it very hard to actually practice the pieces without paying an accompanist.

If you are calling yourself a mezzo soprano but you don't have this book, you are not doing yourself any favors. This book contains a wide variety of the most popular and most widely performed mezzo arias in the repertoire. It even includes arias from some contemporary operas. Like I said, if you are a mezzo, you need this book.

These anthologies are just beyond wonderful. They have a brilliant selection of songs and the piano part is easy to follow if you wish to play and sing at the same time. The translations in the front of the book are clear, and while not underneath the other text in the actual songs, is easily written in if so desired. I personally am a mezzo-soprano and use this book all the time. It has enough songs to keep my repertoire varied and this book includes some interesting songs from musicals I hadn't previously heard of.

This publication has been around for a while and remains a very good choice. The selections are well chosen and the music clear and easy to read for both singer and pianist. As expected, dealing
with the stiff spine in this new book is a monumental chore. I'll be glad when it's broken in.

This (new) book appears to be an extremely poor photocopy of the prior issue of the same book. The pages are not centered and the ink is a fuzzy gray copy of a copy of a copy. Don't buy new!!!

Find a used one in good condition and you'll have a MUCH better book. I only gave it 2 stars because the collection of songs is good.

Music Teachers know the value of good music, and great repertoire for singers more specifically. The trouble is there are so few singers that want to sing opera. The arias in this collection are great; nothing new, but great! Perhaps we can reintroduce arias to students and allow these melodies to stay alive. There is something for all mezzo sopranos here in this anthology. Even sopranos sing a lot of these mezzo-soprano selections!!! Great works! Check them out for yourself!

As a singer, voice coach, and Directrix of Opera Lesvos on the island of Lesvos in Greece, these materials are absolutely necessary. Because I travel, I need them wherever I may be, and sometimes I forget to pack certain books. Actually sometimes I can't pack necessary items because of the weight. But that's where saves the day. The book was in excellent condition. Delivery was as promised. The price was acceptable. Needless to say, it is so convenient to press a few buttons and receive anything you wish. I reside part of the year in Greece, and such service is not a possibility. Too much hassle to buy anything. Hope you find this amusing, and yet for me it is a grim reality.

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