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### Find Translations and Phonetic Readings of Vocal Music Texts

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Below are selected sources that provide translations and/or phonetic readings of the texts of art songs, arias, and cantatas. For other translation sources, search the library catalog (HOMER, at <http://homerweb.lib.uconn.edu/>) for recordings that might include translations in the liner notes. Also check individual scores (they may include translations). For opera translations, look for libretti (they often include translations) in book form in the ML 40s and 50s, or in CD and LP sets. You can also use “libretto” or “libretti” as HOMER search terms. To find books on diction, see a separate guide entitled “[Finding Music #9: Resources for the Studio Singer.](#)”

**A note about location:** materials are located in the Music & Dramatic Arts Library stacks (basement) unless otherwise specified. “Ref.” refers to the non-circulating Reference section (first floor).

### Collections of Vocal Texts by Language

#### French Texts

- [1] Bernac, Pierre. *The Interpretation of French Song*. Ref. and stacks MT 892 .B4 1978
- [2] Castel, Nico. *French Opera Libretti*. Ref. ML 48 F875 1999 v. 1–2  
Includes International Phonetic Alphabet transcriptions.
- [3] Johnson, Graham. *A French Song Companion*. Ref. ML 54.6 .J76 F74 2000
- [4] LeVan, Timothy. *Masters of the French Art Song: Translations of the Complete Songs of Chausson, Debussy, Duparc, Faure & Ravel*. Ref. ML 54.6 M33 1991

#### German Texts

- [5] Fischer-Dieskau, Dietrich. *The Fischer-Dieskau Book of Lieder: The Original Texts of Over 750 Songs . . . with English Translations*. Ref. and stacks PT 1160 E6 F5 1977
- [6] Jeffers, Ron. *Translations and Annotations of Choral Repertoire*, v. 2 (German texts). Ref. BV 186.5 .J43 1988. See also volume 1 under “Latin Texts.”
- [7] Miller, Philip Lieson. *German Lieder*. Ref. ML 54.6 G275 1990
- [8] Phillips, Lois. *Lieder Line by Line and Word for Word*. 1979. Ref. ML 54.6 P55 L5 1980  
Includes Beethoven, Brahms, Mahler, Schubert, Schumann, R. Strauss, Wagner, and Wolf.
- [9] Praver, S. S. *The Penguin Book of Lieder*. Ref. PT 1187 .P46 1979

#### Italian Texts

- [10] Bleiler, Ellen. *Famous Italian Opera Arias: A Dual-Language Book*. Ref. ML 48 F3 1996
- [11] Castel, Nico. *Italian Belcanto Opera Libretti*. Ref. ML 48 .I882 2000 v. 1–2

- [12] Castel, Nico. *Verismo Opera Libretti*. Ref. ML 48 .I884 2000 v. 1 only.
- [13] Lakeway, Ruth C. *Italian Art Song*. ML 2533 .L25 1989
- [14] LeVan, Timothy. *Masters of the Italian Art Song: Word-by-Word and Poetic Translations of the Complete Songs for Voice and Piano*. Ref. ML 54.6 M34 1990.  
Includes Bellini, Donaudy, Donizetti, Puccini, Rossini, Tosti, and Verdi.
- [15] Richardson, Dorothy and Tina Ruta. *Arie Antiche*. ML 54.6 .A75 1990. Songs and arias.

### **Latin Texts**

- [16] Bausano, William. *Sacred Latin Texts and English Translations for the Choral Conductor and Church Musician: Propers of the Mass*. Ref. ML 54.8 .S23 1998
- [17] Jeffers, Ron. *Translations and Annotations of Choral Repertoire*, v. 1 (sacred texts). Ref. BV 186.5 J43 1988 v. 1 See also volume 2 under "German Texts."

### **Russian Texts**

- [18] Piatak, Jean. *Russian Songs & Arias: Phonetic Readings, Word-by-Word Translations, and a Concise Guide to Russian Diction*. Ref. ML 54.6.P57 R8 1991

### **Spanish Texts**

- [19] Cockburn, Jacqueline and Richard Stokes. *Spanish Song Companion*. Ref. ML 54.6 .S76 2006
- [20] Sobrer, Josep Miquel and Edmon Colomer. *The Singer's Anthology of 20th Century Spanish Songs*. PQ 6187 .S55 1987

### **Texts in Various Languages**

- [21] Coffin, Berton. *Phonetic Readings of Songs and Arias*. Ref. MT 883 P5 1982.  
Includes texts for over four hundred songs in Italian, German, and French, with International Phonetic Alphabet transcriptions.
- [22] Coffin, Berton. *Word-by-Word Translations of Songs and Arias*. 1966–72. Ref. ML 54.6 W65 v. 1–2  
Vol. 1 covers selected German and French texts, including works by Bach, Beethoven, Bizet, Brahms, Charpentier, Chausson, Debussy, Delibes, Duparc, Faure, Franck, Gounod, Grieg, Handel, Liszt, Mahler, Massenet, Mendelssohn, Mozart, Schubert, Schumann, R. Strauss, Wagner, Wolf, and many others.  
Vol. 2 includes Italian texts used by Bach, Beethoven, Bellini, Caccini, Cherubini, Donizetti, Gluck, Handel, Haydn, Monteverdi, Mozart, Pergolesi, Puccini, Rossini, Scarlatti, Schubert, Verdi, Vivaldi, and many others.
- [23] Miller, Philip L. *The Ring of Words: An Anthology of Song Texts*. Ref. ML 54.6 M5 R5 1973  
German, French, Italian, Russian, Scandinavian, and Spanish texts. Over 200 composers.
- [24] Singher, Martial. *An Interpretive Guide To Operatic Arias*. 1983. Ref. MT 892 .S5 1983  
Contains translations of many standard arias.

## Vocal Texts from the Works of One Composer

### J. S. Bach

- [25] Drinker, Henry S. *The Bach Chorale Texts in English Translation, with annotations showing the use of the melodies elsewhere by Bach in his vocal and organ works, and a musical index to the melodies*. Closed Shelf 1 or 2: ML 134 B1 D7 [1941]
- [26] Drinker, Henry S. *Texts of the Choral Works of Johann Sebastian Bach in English translation*. Closed Shelf ML 410.B13 D7 v. 1–4.
- [27] Unger, Melvin. *Handbook to Bach's Sacred Cantata Texts: An Interlinear Translation with Reference Guide to Biblical Quotations and Allusions*. Ref. ML 410 B1 U52 1996

### Brahms

- [28] Drinker, Henry S. *Texts of the Vocal Works of Johannes Brahms in English Translation*. ML 49 B65 [1946]
- [29] Magner, Candace A. *Phonetic Readings of Brahms Lieder*. Ref. MT 883 M23 1987
- [30] Stark, Lucien. *Brahms's Vocal Duets and Quartets with Piano: A Guide with Full Texts and Translations*. Ref. MT 115 .B73 S7 1998
- [31] Stark, Lucien. *A Guide to the Solo Songs of Johannes Brahms*. Ref. MT 115 B73 S73 1995

### Debussy

- [32] Cobb, Margaret G. and Richard Miller. *The Poetic Debussy: A Collection of His Song Texts and Selected Letters*. Rev. 2nd ed. Ref. ML 54.6 D42 C62 1994
- [33] Rohinsky, Marie-Claire. *The Singer's Debussy*. Ref. ML 54.6 D42 R62 1987

### Faure

- [34] Gartside, Robert. *Interpreting the Songs of Gabriel Fauré*. ML 410 .F27 G37 1996  
Includes translations, phonetic readings, and comments on style. Comprehensive.

### Mozart

- [35] Castel, Nico. *The Libretti of Mozart's Completed Operas*. Ref. ML 49 .M83 C315 1997 v. 1–2.  
Includes International Phonetic Alphabet transcriptions.

### Mussorgsky

- [36] Drinker, Henry S. *English Texts for the Songs of Modeste Moussorgsky*. Ref. ML 54.6 M9 D7 1950

### Pfitzner

- [37] Mercier, Richard. *The Songs of Hans Pfitzner*. ML 410 .P32 M47 1998

### Puccini

- [38] Castel, Nico. *The Complete Puccini Libretti*. Ref. ML 49 .P75 C37 2002 v. 1–2.  
Includes International Phonetic Alphabet transcriptions.

### **Rachmaninoff**

- [39] Challis, Natalia. *The Singer's Rachmaninoff*. ML 54.6 .R18 S52 1989  
Includes original Russian texts, IPA pronunciations, and English translations.

### **Ravel**

- [40] Gartside, Robert. *Interpreting the Songs of Maurice Ravel*. Oversize ML 410 .R23 G37 1992  
Includes translations, phonetic readings, and comments on style.

### **Rodrigo**

- [41] Draayer, Suzanne R. *A Singer's Guide to the Songs of Joaquin Rodrigo*. ML 410 .R632 D73 1999  
Includes International Phonetic Alphabet transcriptions.

### **Schubert**

- [42] Chusid, Martin. *A Companion to Schubert's Schwanengesang: History, Poets, Analysis, Performance*. ML 410 .S3 C65 2000
- [43] Drinker, Henry S. *Texts of the Solo Songs of Franz Schubert in English Translation*. 1951.  
Ref. ML 54.6 S39 D7 v. 1-2 (MISSING; library is checking this)  
Vol. 2 includes songs in the Breitkopf and Härtel, and not in the Peters Edition and part songs.
- [44] Magner, Candace A. *Phonetic Readings of Schubert Lieder*. Ref. MT 883 .M25 1994
- [45] Reed, John. *The Schubert Song Companion*. Ref. ML 410.S3 R265 1997
- [46] Wigmore, Richard. *Schubert: The Complete Song Texts. Texts of the Lieder and Italian Songs with English Translations*. Ref. & stacks ML 54.6 S39 W52 1988

### **Schumann**

- [47] Reinhard, Thilo. *The Singer's Schumann*. ML 54.6 .S4 R413 1989
- [48] Sams, Eric. *The Songs of Robert Schumann*. Ref. MT 115 S38 S3 1993  
Date, translation, commentary, and notes for 246 songs (Peters edition), arranged in order of composition.

### **Tchaikovsky**

- [49] Sylvester, Richard D. *Tchaikovsky's Complete Songs: A Companion with Texts and Translations*. ML 54.6.T24 S9 2001

### **Verdi**

- [50] Castel, Nico. *The Complete Verdi Libretti*. Ref. ML 49.V45 C372 1994 v. 4 only.  
Includes International Phonetic Alphabet transcriptions.

### **Wolf**

- [51] Sams, Eric. *The Songs of Hugo Wolf*. MT 115.W6 S3 1992

## Using Subject Headings to Find Texts and Translations

To find texts and translations not listed in this guide, try a Subject Heading search in HOMER using Library of Congress subject headings listed in the box below. You must type the exact words and word order, but you can ignore punctuation and capitalization.

Examples: songs france texts  
songs french texts

In Keyword Boolean searches, you can alter the word order, but you must type “and” between each term.

Examples: france and texts and songs  
french and songs and texts  
(french or france) and songs and texts *This combines the two searches.*

Afro-Americans—Songs and music—Texts (substitute desired nationality or ethnicity)  
Ballads, American—Texts (substitute desired nationality or ethnicity)  
Ballads, English—Texts (substitute desired language)  
Blues (Music)—Texts  
[Composer's name/dates]—Songs (e.g., Schubert Franz 1797–1828—Songs)  
Folk-songs, English—Texts (substitute desired language)  
German language—Phonetics (substitute desired language)  
German language—Pronunciation (substitute desired language)  
Music, Popular (Songs, etc)—Texts  
Musicals—librettos  
Musical revues, comedies, etc—Librettos  
Musicals—Excerpts—Librettos  
Operas—librettos  
Popular music—United States—Texts  
Propers (Liturgy)—Texts  
Propers (Liturgy)—Texts—Translations into English  
Singing—Diction  
Songs, American—Texts (substitute desired nationality or ethnicity)  
Songs, English—United States—Texts (substitute desired language and country)  
Songs—Analysis, appreciation (may include translations or phonetic readings)  
Songs—France—Texts (substitute desired country)  
Songs—Texts (finds materials with a variety of translations)

To find opera or musical librettos, do a Keyword Boolean search on the word “libretto,” and include the composer and/or title keywords. Try English and foreign-language terms.

Examples: librett? and mozart and figaro (*Librett? finds the terms libretti, librettos, and libretto.*)  
librett? and (flute or flöte or flaute) and (magic? or zauber?)

For libretti, also try the Prolific Author/Composer search. Type the composer’s last name, then browse to the specific opera. Libretti and sound recordings (with texts) are listed there.

*Adapted from guides at Ohio State University (Alan Green) and Southwest Texas State University (Tracey Rudnick, Brian Cockburn).*