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NOVELLO'S MUSIC PRIMERS AND EDUCATIONAL SERIES.

A

GUIDE TO SOLO SINGING

CONTAINING FULL INSTRUCTIONS ON SINGING, WITH A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF SOME WELL-KNOWN WORKS AND SONGS

BY

GUSTAVE GARCIA

PROFESSOR OF SINGING AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC, AND FORMERLY AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY AND GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC, LONDON.



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PREFACE.

My desire in writing this book is to assist amateurs, intending teachers, as well as professional singers. Although an efficient teacher is the best guide, much useful knowledge can be gained by private study if the student brings earnestness and intelligence to bear upon practice.

I have divided the course into progressive chapters, each one preceded by vocal exercises varying in form, which may be employed in accordance with the progress and capacity of the student. These exercises being purely progressive do not in any way refer to any particular period or author.

I wish to impress upon students the importance of mastering each chapter thoroughly before they proceed to the next.

Breathing exercises should precede the practice of vocal exercises or songs; the morning is generally the best time.

The singer must bear in mind that expression marks are simply suggestive and not arbitrary; as he is advancing in knowledge he must assert his own individuality in the interpretation of works or songs, paying at the same time due deference to the meaning af the author as regards words and music.

Individualism is an irresistible magnet which infallibly commands success, and if combined with a good voice cannot fail to insure a brilliant career for the singer.

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CHAPTER I.

BREATHING.

The management of the breath is the first thing to acquire. The following preliminary exercises are recommended:—

- (1) Stand erect without stiffness. Loosely clasp the hands behind the back and assume a pleasing expression.
- (2) Open the mouth slightly by an easy relaxation of the lower jaw; then breathe slowly, so that the chest may expand laterally by the distension of the ribs, and without effort, until the lungs have reached the limit of their tension, then gradually and slowly relax the tension until the chest has resumed its normal position. No noise or sound of any kind must be heard whilst inhaling the air; opening the glottis* wide keeps the breathing silent.
- (3) Be most careful to avoid raising the shoulders. This action is not only useless but detrimental.

The difficulty in the management of the breath is to obtain a slow and regular expansion of the chest. It is well to observe that, in actual singing, the retaining of the breath offers greater difficulty than the mere act of inhaling the air. To overcome this difficulty it is advisable to time one's self by slowly counting mentally up to twelve, both while inhaling and exhaling—which count of twenty-four must be spread over 10 to 12 seconds. While timing yourself when breathing, you must not attempt to see how long you can retain your breath. Such must not be the purpose in view. On the contrary, your practice must tend to improve the control of the breath gradually. Increase the period of your counting until you have acquired such physical power as will enable you to sustain a long musical phrase without undue effort.

(4) Stand erect, take a long, slow breath, extend the arms sideways and swing the body very slowly from side to side like a pendulum; having done so a few times let the body resume its erect position, then gradually exhale the breath and lower the arms slowly. This practice should be repeated two or three times daily—a few minutes each time. If you experience difficulty in either inhaling or controlling the breath whilst exhaling, I would advise the practice of physical exercises with or without light dumb-bells or expanders, according to recognised methods.

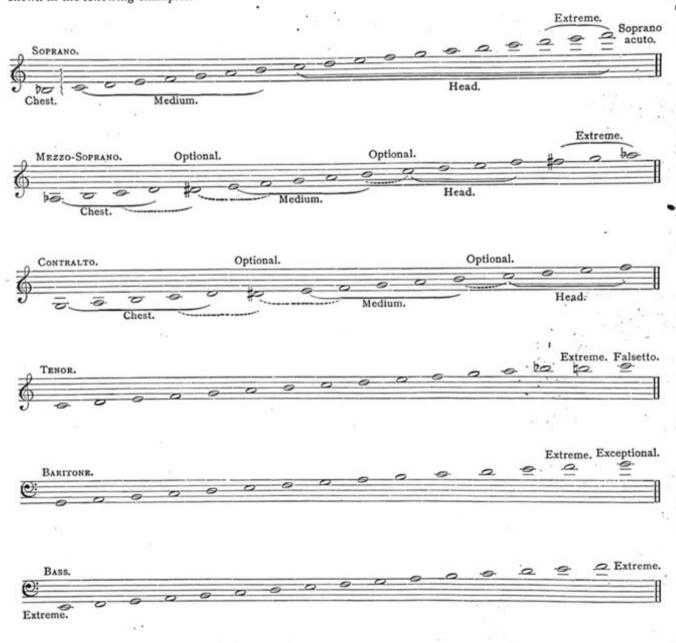
Breathing through the nose, although not practical in actual singing (as the inhalation is too slow), may nevertheless prove an excellent mode of studying breathing. Not only does this correct the tendency to breathe hurriedly, but it serves a hygienic purpose, the air being filtered and warmed by passing through the nasal cavities, and reaching the lungs under favourable conditions.

This mode of breathing must be practised, as already explained (counting to 12), but when sound is added to the breathing, count up to 10. Open the mouth slightly on 11 and sing on 12, thus avoiding opening the mouth suddenly, and producing a jerky sound. Count:—1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 0 10 11

CHAPTER II.

REGISTERS.

Before going any further it is necessary to understand the classification of registers,—chest, medium, head, as shewn in the following examples.

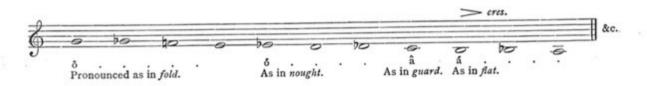


The above examples show the fullest extension in mature voices.

Until the vocal organs have become mature, exercises should not be sung to the full compass of the voice. Experience has proved that this is the best method of developing the voice. At least two years study on these lines is necessary before the voice will be sufficiently mature to make it desirable and safe to cultivate the extremes of the compass.

In Soprano voices the *chest* register need scarcely be considered, as it is generally weak in quality, but in Contralto and Mezzo-Soprano voices the difference between the lower and medium registers is very marked, especially in untrained voices, the lower being fuller and more resonant than the medium, especially in the Contralto.

In young voices it frequently happens that the *lower* or *chest* register is entirely undeveloped, hence the difficulty in classifying a voice. The simplest way is to start singing in the medium part of the voice, say from G, as in the following exercise.



Another way of testing the lower notes consists in dropping from a medium note to a chest note, with strong accentuation on the lower note,

Having formed some idea as to how the voice sounds in its medium and lower registers, the upper part of the voice, or head register, must then be tried.



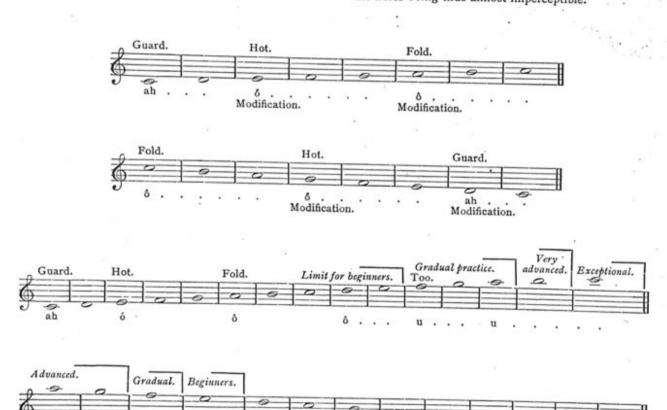
Having tested as far as practicable the possibilities of the three different registers, the student should proceed with the exercises in the following lessons, which may be transposed into any key that will suit the different voices, whether Contralto, Mezzo, or Soprano.

^{*} These three notes may be tested in the case of exceptionally pre-mature voices.

CHAPTER III.

BLENDING OF REGISTERS-IMPROVING FAULTY SOUNDS.

Stand erect, strike the chord of C on the piano, open your mouth slightly, take a deep breath as explained in the first lesson, and sing from C to C slowly on the broad a as in guard. As you ascend the scale you must gradually round the voice by modifying the a towards o as in hot and o as in fold. This modification must be so subtle and so carefully blended, from note to note, that the scales impress the ear as being perfectly smooth and even, both in quantity and quality, the modification between the notes being thus almost imperceptible.



In female voices, mostly Mezzo and Contralto voices, a marked contrast exists between the chest or lower register and the medium register. This contrast or disparity, usually called break, is due to the fact that an escape of air, or oozing-out of the breath, causes an imperfect closing of the vocal cords * (or lips of the glottis) whilst passing into the medium register.

^{*} See Appendix.

The practice of the following exercise will greatly assist in overcoming this defect. Sing each of the following Semi-quavers with a sharp stroke of the glottis on the following Italian vowels.

á, pronounced as in chat.
â, ,, ,, art.
é, ,, ,, fate.
è, ,, ,, pet.
i, ,, ,, sleep.



,, ,, top.

It may be observed that the five Italian vowels have several distinct sounds, which can be distinguished by the French signs marked above them, á, â, é, è, i, ó, ò, u, and are pronounced as follows:—

á, as in chat. â, ,, ,, art. é, ,, ,, fate. è, ,, ,, pet. i, ,, ,, feet. ó, ,, ,, caught. ò, ,, ,, coat. u, ,, ,, too.

By carefully observing the modifications of vowels, as explained in this chapter, you will avoid imperfect sounds, having one or more of the following defects:—

- (1) Guttural or throaty sounds produced by the contraction and tightening of the throat and undue raising or swelling of the tongue. The throat should be kept as loose and open as possible, and the tongue perfectly flat or almost hollowed, and quiet in the mouth.
- (2) Nasal sounds, caused by the contraction of the nasal cavities, as in a very thin sharp sounding of the Italian ee.
- (3) Trembling sounds. This fault can be best avoided, Firstly by carefully observing and practising the mode of breathing explained in Chapter I., and Secondly, by singing each note with a neat and short (not abrupt) explosion of air caused by the impact of the breath on the vocal cords. This sound (vibrating air) can be prolonged gradually as the voice acquires more steadiness, until it becomes a well sustained tone.

CHAPTER IV.

GRADUAL EXTENSION OF THE VOICE.

The following exercises may be transposed into Bb for Mezzo-Soprano, into A for Contralto and Baritone, and G for Bass, and may be repeated three or four times a day, five or six minutes at a time.

It is advisable to strike the notes on the piano now and again in order to ascertain that the voice is perfectly in tune.

As the voice begins to improve, Sopranos should sing the following exercise



as far as E, and gradually up to F and G, carefully observing the modification of the vowels, especially on the upper notes from C (called head voice from the fact that the resonance takes place in the pharynx * or back roof of the mouth).

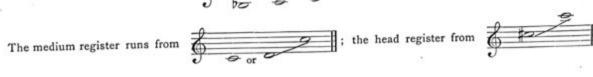
The same exercise may be practised by male voices each within their respective compass.

The next exercise consists in starting on the middle G on the vowel ô; in descending the scale by semitones the vowel must be modified very gradually from ô to ó, from 6 to â, and then to á on B \$\beta\$, which must be strongly accented, gliding on to the B\$\beta\$, A and A\$\beta\$, etc.; the glottis * being slightly lowered and expanded.

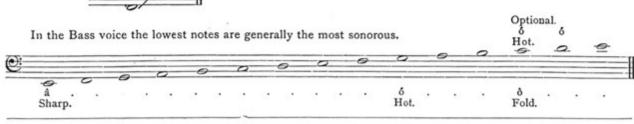


If after some practice the contrast between the lower and middle notes becomes noticeable, it will be easier to judge whether the voice has a tendency upwards or downwards, and to extend its compass in whatever direction the more musical sounds can be obtained. The same exercise may be reversed by starting on the lowest note, each according to the class of voice, and ascending the scale, observing the same modification of the vowels in the reverse way.

In Soprano voices the chest notes, or lower register, are generally weak, if not veiled. The lowest notes that might possibly be used are Bb to D.



The upper register is generally bright and sonorous. In Mezzo-Sopranos the medium and head notes from Medium. Head. are full and resonant, whilst an occasional G and A obtained with good effect by experienced singers. The chest register sounds fuller and richer than Sopranos, but not so sonorous as Contraltos. The timbre of a true Contralto voice can hardly ever be mistaken; the chest notes are remarkably powerful and sonorous, the medium full and rich, and the head notes, although not of great extension, are round and full. Chest. Medium. Head. Tenor voices are generally feeble and indifferent in quality on the lower C they become more and more brilliant and sonorous. Some Tenors attempt a top C in the chest quality, but generally with disastrous result. The quality of the top C sounds strained and unpleasant at the best of times. Only quite exceptional voices ought to attempt it.* The Baritone voice may, according to the writer's idea, be divided into two classes; the light high Baritone, and the lower full Baritone. In the former the lower notes have but little resonance, while the upper tones are full and brilliant. In the latter the notes are fuller and more even throughout the compass of the voice. ≥ Extreme. HIGH BARITONE. ò Float. Wrap. Lot. 2. Extreme. LOW BARITONE. Art. The "Basso-cantante" stands between the deep Bass and the Baritone; not so heavy or so full in quality as the Bass.

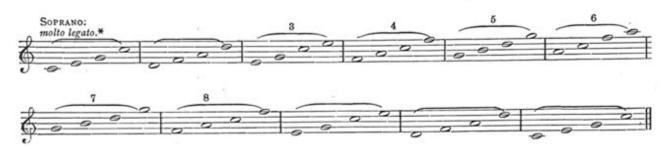


^{*} Some Tenor voices can produce very good effect on the top Bb, Bb and C by means of falsetto quality, especially in soft passages.

CHAPTER V.

HOW TO STUDY EXERCISES.

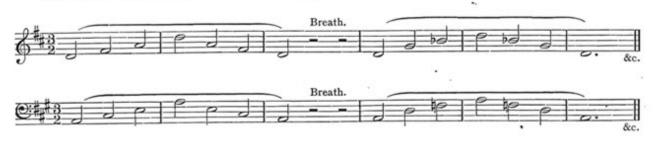
- 1. Stand erect and at ease, as already suggested in the first chapter. In this, and all following chapters, strike the chord on the piano, and ascertain that you keep quite in tune by touching the notes now and again.
 - 2. Open your mouth slightly by the simple act of letting the jaw drop.
 - 3. Take a long breath (Chapter I.).
- 4. Attack the sound with a neat shock of the glottis, such as is caused by sudden and subdued coughing, and sing the following exercises, observing all along the modification of the vowels as indicated in Chapter III.



This and the following exercises in every chapter must be transposed into the keys suitable for each voice, male and female, omitting the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th or 8th bars in the case of beginners, not attempting to sing the higher notes until more maturity has been acquired. The above exercise should be sung molto legato, i.e., very smoothly from note to note, without dragging, scooping or jerking. The quality and sonority of the voice must be strictly preserved throughout.



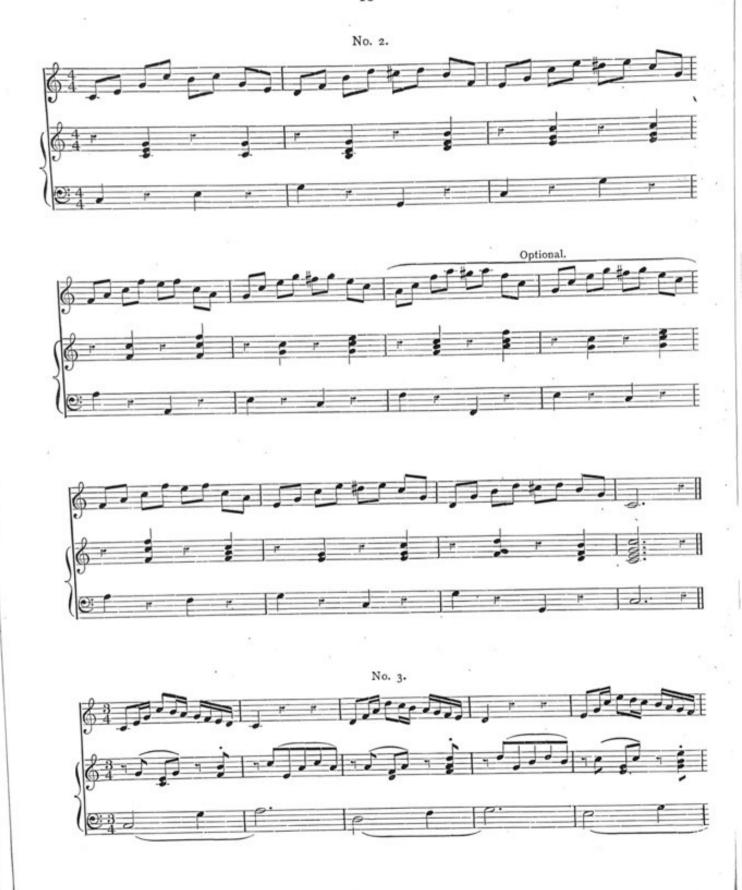
This exercise may be transposed into different keys, as below :-



The following exercises should be studied, first on the Italian vowel \hat{a} (in art), observing the modifications as explained in Chapter III. Also on \hat{e} (as in May), rounding slightly as you ascend the scale, taking care not to "blunt" the sound, or cause it to lose brilliancy. Then on i (as in feet), rounding slightly towards the French u, or as in Devonshire dialect, "to," ("where's her gone to"), and on \hat{o} (north), \hat{o} (hope), u (tooth).



Any of the bars between the two signs \oplus may be omitted in the following manner. If you do not wish to sing higher than bar 7, pass over bars 8 to 15 and continue on bar 16, or skip from bars 10 to 14 and continue on bar 15.







No. 5.

To be sung as above, i.e., continued, ascending and descending the scale in sequence,



CHAPTER VI. ADDITIONAL EXERCISES.







No. 10.



No. 12.



No. 13.



No. 14.



CHAPTER VII.

ARTICULATION.

The first consideration before singing a song is to learn how to articulate the words. The second consideration is to adapt the voice to the sentiments to be expressed.

Taking these in order, first learn to pronounce the vowels. Stand before a looking-glass and watch the different shapes of the mouth whilst singing on the Italian vowels.

á (fat)	BRIGHT VOWELS.
å (art)	
é (fate)	The corners of the mouth slightly drawn back without exaggeration so as to preserve a
è (peg)	pleasing expression.
i (fit)	
i (feet)	
6 (all) (broad 6 (hope) (se u (too) (clo	The line slightly rounded thus avaiding a neuting and the

The conformation of the mouth lends itself to multifarious modifications, however subtle they may be, and is capable of adapting itself to the different vowels and their various shades as well as to the infinite varieties of facial expression.

The English diphthongs should be studied as combinations of Italian vowels, as follows :-

```
u (you) = Italian iu.

ow (now) = ,, au.

oi (oil) = ,, 6i.

i (pie) = ,, ai.
```

As the words express the emotions of the soul, it is indispensable that the mechanism of the consonants as well as that of the vowels should be mastered.

CONSONANTS.

Consonants are produced by the more or less complete imprisonment of air in the mouth, caused by the contact of two articulatory organs, followed by the explosion of the air heard immediately those articulatory organs separate. From the fact that the contact of the articulatory organs varies in its completeness, consonants are classified in the following manner.

Sustained Consonants are preceded by a preparatory sound which can be prolonged at will.

The Semi-sustained Consonants are preceded by a short preparatory sound previous to the explosion.

The pure Explosive Consonants are not preceded by any preparatory sound.

These consonants are produced by the organs of the mouth, which, coming into contact, intercept partially or completely the issue of sound. The organs or parts of the mouth are:—the lips, tongue, hard palate, and teeth.

CLASSIFICATION OF CONSONANTS.

THE AIR IS COMPLETELY IMPRISONED.

* Pure Explosives.	F&V P T C	Closing and sudden separation of the uppe Closing and sudden separation of the lips, The tongue put between the teeth and wit (Italian) as in chess. Sudden separation part of the palate. (English) as in care. As in kiss. This is produced by a show pressing against the palate.	er teeth and lower lip. especially the lower. thdrawn rapidly, producing a snap-like sound. of the front part of the tongue from the front eck of air caused by the sides of the tongue			
Semi Explosive.	B D G	A slight guttural sound is produced in the	throat previous to the explosion			
Sustained.	L M N TH R S F&V	Tongue against palate. Lips closed. Tongue against palate. Tongue against upper teeth. Tongue vibrating against palate. Air whistling between tongue and palate. Closing and separation of the upper teeth.	These preparatory sounds, finding their issue through the nose and mouth, can be sustained as long as the breath permits.			

The R must be rolled, the tip of the tongue vibrating against the palate.

No singing can possibly be of any value without clear articulation. Especial care must be taken to pronounce the last consonant of a word, which singers often neglect to do.†

Clear articulation shows that a singer has temperament, that is, energy and dramatic feeling. Without temperament there is no force or variety of expression.

^{*} The F & V may be considered as sustained or pure explosives according to the mode of articulating them.

† "Down the dusty road together homeward pass the hurried sheep." not "Dow' the dusty roa' together homewar' pa' the hurrie' shee'."

CHAPTER VIII.

ATTACK OF SOUND AND SMOOTHNESS.

To obtain the colouring desirable in singing, complete control of the voice must be acquired. In the first place, the attack on a sound must be neat; in the second place, smoothness must be observed in going from note to note without slurring; in the third place, complete mastery of diminuendo and crescendo must be obtained by swelling or diminishing the sounds with perfect evenness and purity of tone.

No. 1.-ATTACK OF SOUND.



In singing this exercise be careful to observe the modification of the vowels while ascending and descending the scale, as already explained in former chapters. It is also necessary to observe that some vowels, as i (feet), & (fate), present very great difficulty to some voices. It is therefore advisable not to insist too much at first on the study of these vowels, but to use such modifications as & (in set), i (in fit), or towards the French u as in murmure, in fact, any shade of vowel as near as possible to the bright sonorous Italian vowels, until mastery of their pure sounds has been acquired.













No. 5.
MINOR SCALE.





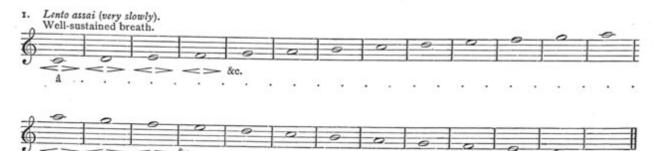




CHAPTER IX.

LIGHT AND SHADE IN EXERCISES.

The following study is for the practice of crescendo and diminuendo.



Each note in the above exercise must be started pianissimo and gradually increased in power until forte is reached, then the process should be reversed by gradually diminishing the sound; this practice must be repeated on the different vowels, and full breath must be taken after every bar.



The notes in this exercise must be attacked firmly mf, and then immediately diminished to a p. It frequently happens that singers (female voices in the medium register especially) experience some difficulty in swelling and diminishing the notes on the medium register. To overcome this, it is advisable at first to sing the notes very short and fairly loud, with a decided shock of the glottis,* then proceed step by step, increasing the length of each note until a long, well-sustained, and steady sound is reached. Once this is accomplished, the practice must be continued by swelling and diminishing each note. Some singers have a natural facility in modifying the sounds at will. They, however, may be considered as rather exceptional.

Tenor voices frequently experience a difficulty whilst ascending the scale, especially in the upper registers.



By paying particular attention to the soft tones (mezza-voce), a standard of performance will be attained which will greatly add to the equipment of a singer. The same remarks apply to baritones, who frequently experience some difficulty in singing mezza-voce from the medium to the upper register.



Baritones, as well as tenors, can overcome this difficulty by modifying the vowels, as already suggested in the preceding chapters, and practising as indicated below for the bass, but in a higher key. Bass voices, although heavier in tone than either the tenor or baritone, and for that reason more unwieldy, yet may obtain agility and control of tone by studying exercises such as the following:—



CHAPTER X.

OLD ENGLISH SONGS.

EXERCISES. PHRASING.





HINTS ON PHRASING.

The first consideration before attempting to sing a song is to understand the meaning of the words and to determine the dominant feeling or sentiment. The outline being thus established, the details must be filled up by colouring the phrasing, without losing sight of the individuality belonging to the sentiment to be expressed. The next thing is to commit the words to memory and declaim them with the right intonation without exaggeration or "ranting," thus imparting to the voice every possible device of dramatic force, emotion, and artistic resource. By applying this to your singing, you will acquire personality, which is such an important factor in determining an artist's success. Students who wish to become professional singers would do well to "suit the action to the word." It is said that the great English tenor, Sims Reeves, used to study the songs and recitatives from the Oratorios not only with a few appropriate actions, but even kneeling as in prayer in such a passage as "Let but that spirit which first rushed on me in the camp of Dan."—Recit. from "Samson." (Handel.)

^{*} Quotation from Hamlet.

It may be observed that as regards phrasing and colouring, there is no fast rule. There are many different ways of expressing the same sentiment either in painting, sculpture, literature, music, and interpretation; in singing especially, musical signs are only helps to suggestion. It remains, therefore, for the singer to let his own individuality guide him as to the best mode of interpreting the words he has before him, providing he has acquired the essentials of technique which will allow him freedom of personal expression, with due deference to the meaning of both poet and composer. These essentials are, in a few words, absolute command of tone-colour, rhythm, dramatic sentiment, fascination (magnetism). Self consciousness will at all times trammel a singer's freedom and lead him through monotony to failure.

It frequently occurs that pupils find difficulty in pronouncing their words without slurring from one note to another—or in other words "scooping."

The fault lies principally in careless articulation, the student not having mastered the mechanism of consonants as expounded on page 18, chapter vii.

The following examples illustrate the cause of this scooping, and may help to suggest a remedy. It may be added that very young singers are frequently addicted to this habit.



In the word 'mother,' the preparation of the 'm,' followed by a neat explosion, must take place on the note A. The second syllable 'ther' on the E, without the slightest sound, suggesting the repetition of the first note, being heard. Another method is to join the last consonant of a word to the next word, making an elision of the intervening vowel, as in the following example:—



The diphthong sound of the word 'young,' as well as the consonant sound in the above examples, show the possibility of articulating every word of a phrase without disturbing the lilting rhythm, or turning a broad and majestic melody into a spasmodic or commonplace tune. The illustrations given will suffice to enable the intelligent student to cope with the various combinations of words he may meet with. It is needless to add that, once these difficulties are conquered, and technique has become second nature, all laborious effort of articulation will disappear.

Colouring depends to a very great extent on the mode of articulating the consonants, especially the initial ones as well as the last, which are often quite inaudible owing to the carelessness of some singers.

- "Is not his word like a fire" (Elijah).
- "Hear ye, Israel" (Elijah).
- "Have ye not heard he hath prophesied against all Israel ' (Elijah).
- "O! glorious light, no cheering ray to glad my eyes—total eclipse " (Samson).

The preparatory sound in sustained consonants especially, must be carefully observed, as it imparts vigour and emotion to the diction both in speaking and singing, and also adds to the sustained effect of the

Care must be taken to emphasise the n and m with continuous and well sustained sound previous to the explosion of the note itself, without in any way sounding two separate letters n' no, m' me.

Before singing compositions of any kind, it is necessary to consider when and by whom they were written. Styles of writing differ, and with them the modes of interpretation. Let us first consider some of the old English masters such as John Blow, 1648, and this chapter, Henry Purcell, 1658.

THE "SELF-BANISHED," BY DR. JOHN BLOW.

A quaint sentiment of love as well as of sad resignation prevails throughout the two verses of this song, and although the music with its primitive construction does not convey any particular sense of sadness or love, yet tasteful phrasing and intensity of feeling will add considerably to the interest of the song. (First verse only.)



^{*} See Chapter vii. page 18, on consonants. † Sing this phrase with pathos by exclaiming the word "alas," emphasising the note and ending it with a sigh! ‡ Emphasise each note of the triplet with a slight accent.

"I'LL SAIL UPON THE DOG STAR."-HENRY PURCELL.

The time of this song must be marked boldly by accenting well all strong beats, the first of the bar especially.

Each word should be pronounced with a crisp distinct articulation, thus conveying a sense of perfect accentuation.



^{*} Although the groups of notes must be sung legato (smoothly), and with a full round tone, yet the notes must be perfectly distinct one from the other.

CHAPTER XI.

EXERCISES AND FURTHER SONGS.





"MY MOTHER BIDS ME."-CANZONETTA (PASTORAL), HAYDN, 1732-1809.

The characteristic sentiment of this song is that of quaint sadness, as suggested by the words and melody. It must be expressed with the simplicity of a young country girl.

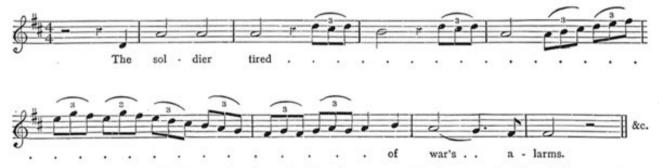




In the above every crescendo or diminuendo must be gracefully blended, and the accentuation, as marked, should be gentle and subtle, so as to preserve the simple and pastoral character of the song.

"THE SOLDIER TIRED."—Dr. ARNE (1710—1778). (EXCERPT.)

This song may be described as being typical of the time in which it was composed. It is of the florid style, and more adapted to bring out the technical ability of a singer than to express any special sentiment. It is otherwise excellent as a study, both for breathing and flexibility.



In the interpretation of this song the singer should endeavour to make the runs and triplets distinct and clear.

CHAPTER XII.

EXERCISES AND MODERN ENGLISH SONGS.





"LOOKING BACKWARD."-HUBERT PARRY.

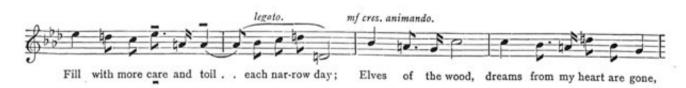
The pervading sentiment throughout this song is that of intense regret and sorrow, which are expressed both by words and music in a sublime manner. The end is a fine climax, which should be sung with a sonorous and well-sustained tone. The reminiscence of happier days is beautifully expressed in the following bars:—





thou and I were young! The world was bound-less, for we did not know, And life . . a poem,

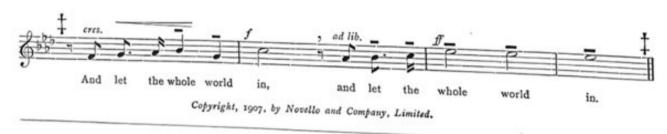




^{*——*} These two bars are the reflection of a disturbed mind, and lead with a gradual crescendo in the following five bars to the words "for God is far away." These must be sung with a broad and exalted tone, pure in quality, therefore free from any attempt at forcing or violence.



laugh - ing, lead me from the toil and din! Lay on my heart those small hands ten - der - ly,



^{*----*} These nine bars must be sung with emotion and tears in the voice, observing carefully the light and shade as well as the changes of time indicated in the music.

[†] These seven bars must be sung very smoothly, imparting to the voice a sentiment of tenderness as well as sadness.

[†] These last four bars, being the climax of the song, must be sung with a broad and well-sustained tone, which means taking a full breath.

CHAPTER XIII.

MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL (continued).

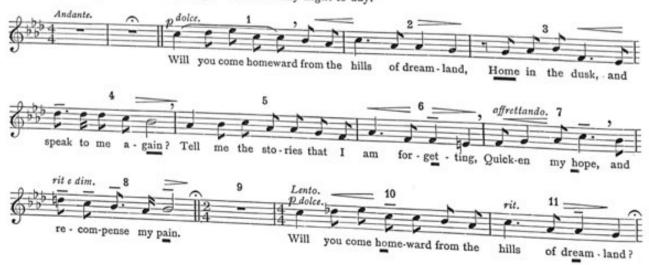




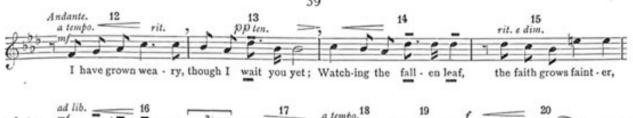
"PLEADING."-E. ELGAR.

ANALYSIS.

In bars 1 to 6 included, the tone of voice must be sympathetic and hopeful; that is, bright and well-sustained. Bar 7 must be expressed with vehemence of feeling, almost to buoyancy. Bar 8 with supplication. In bars 10 and 11 the voice repeats the same imploring entreaty with a tone intended to foreshadow the despondency expressed in bars 12 to 18. The last three of these bars "The faith grown fainter" should be sung mezza voce with a clear sympathetic tone, and the last words, "The memory smoulder'd to a dull regret," almost with tears in the voice. The words and music in bars 19 to 23 are the last rays of almost forlorn hope, to be expressed with a broad telling tone, immediately followed by the last appeal in bars 25 to 28, sung in a supplicating and subdued voice, brightening at the words of hope "And turn my night to day."











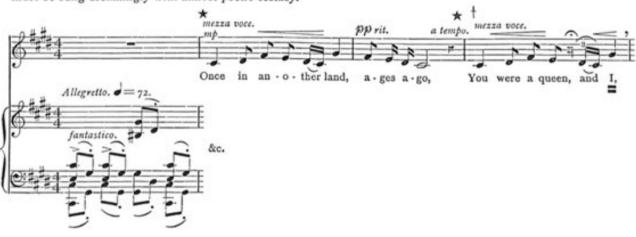


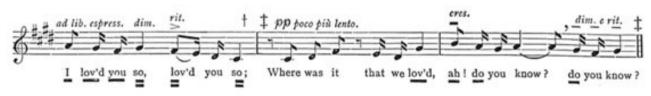
com the hills of dreamland, Home in the dusk, and turn my night to day? .

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"WAS IT SOME GOLDEN STAR,"-E, ELGAR.

The prevailing sentiment throughout this song is a mysterious contemplation of what may have happened in the past, bringing back the memory of a passionate love; it seems to be permeated with oriental atmosphere, and must be sung dreamingly with almost poetic ecstasy.





^{*} These two bars to be sung dreamingly.

[†] These two bars to be sung with admiration and great intensity of feeling.

[.] These two bars to express a sentiment of anxious inquiry.



- *----* These four bars ought to be sung with a somewhat brighter sentiment imparting to the voice a tone of inquiry,
- † These four bars must be sung with a sentiment of admiration and exalted pride.
- The word Kissed in the first bar must be strongly accented, and immediately followed by a gradually subdued tone of intensity and passion in the second bar.
- § The first bar must be sung in a whisper with the most distinct articulation, leading to a slight crescendo in the second bar. The third and fourth bars must be phrased in the same manner.
- ⊕ ⊕ In these last three bars the voice must drift from a soft mezza voce to an impressive pianissimo. The colouring of this song must be very subtle throughout, and care must be taken not to jump from the regular time to a sudden rallentando on the words "love is not dead," nor must the rallentando become a pause in the last bar on the word "dead."

CHAPTER XIV.

EXERCISES ON THE TRILL

ANALYSIS OF BACH ARIAS.

Although some voices have a natural trill, yet they may be considered quite exceptional. It can be acquired with perseverance and careful practise. The trill consists of two distinct notes forming either a whole tone or a semitone. They are produced by a quick movement of the vocal cords, at first resembling the rapid repetition of the same note as in ha ha, the h's being aspirated in quick succession. In the course of study the aspiration of the h gradually disappears and the quick repetition or shaking of the same note changes into the rapid alternation of two distinct notes at an interval of a half tone or a tone. To obtain the desirable distinctness in the alternation of the two notes, the study of the following exercises will prove helpful, inasmuch as they tend to give flexibility to the voice. It may be remarked that the upper note should be the one on which the shake is started,* otherwise the interval tends to become too narrow, and the shake degenerates into a mere trembling on the same note.



At first, the upper note must be long and piano, whilst the lower one must be emphasised and short without being jerky. In fact you may compare the action of the throat to that of an elastic string with a slight weight on the end of it; pulling the weight downwards and letting it go suddenly causes it to "bob" up and down rapidly and smoothly. As you go on increasing the speed of the two notes they become more and more even. Observing carefully the interval of a whole tone between them, you drift into a perfect shake. If this exercise should prove ineffectual, it would be advisable to try the following:—





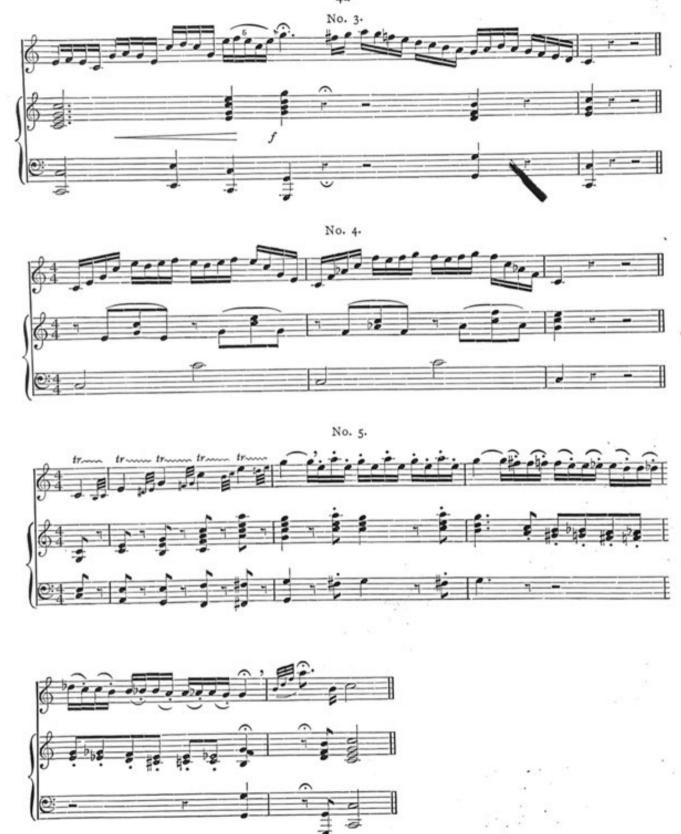
Each of these bars may be repeated as many times as necessary; the longer intervals must not be jerked as they are being sung, the action of the vocal cords must be perfectly free and the glottis quite loose.

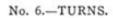
^{*} It does not follow that the shake should always be started on the upper note. When once acquired, the shake can be prepared in many different ways, according to the requirements of the passage and the taste of the singer, being either preceded by one note:—



or by groups of notes:-









No. 7.-ACCIACCATURA.



No. 8 .- CHROMATICS.

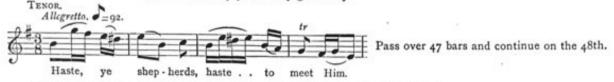




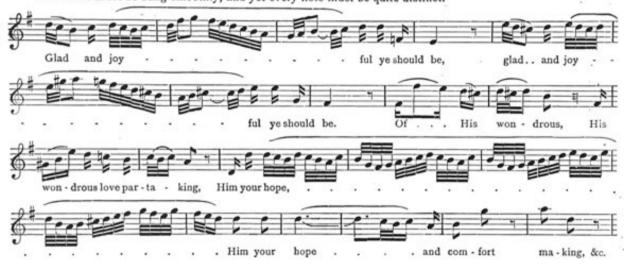
"HASTE YE SHEPHERDS" (CHRISTMAS ORATORIO).

The sentiment of this Song, as suggested by the words and music, is of a jubilant character. An inexpressible outburst of exalted joy and rejoicing is to be expressed by imparting to the voice great brilliancy and sonority of tone, at the same time retaining the solemn and religious atmosphere. All florid passages must be sung, the colouring being observed, and the breath taken, retaining at the same time the integrity of the phrase and observing strict rhythm.

This phrase to be sung with exalted joy and very gracefully.



These bars must be sung smoothly, and yet every note must be quite distinct.



"AGNUS DEI" (MASS IN B MINOR).

The rendering of this Song must be solemn in character at the same time full of entreaty. Like most of Bach's music it requires great sustaining power, as well as judgement in taking breath, so as to avoid cutting up the musical phrases, where they should be sung in one long breath. I have endeavoured to indicate the colouring as much as is necessary in the following excerpts.



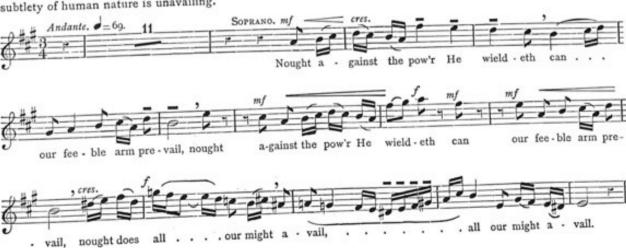
"COME, HEALING CROSS" (Passion. St. Matthew).

A sentiment of resignation and fervent prayer prevails throughout this Aria. Simon, a Hellenistic Jew, born at Cyrene, on the corbst of Africa, who was present at Jerusalem at the time of the crucifixion of Jesus, meeting the procession that conducted Jesus to Golgotha, was pressed, if not coerced to bear the cross which Jesus was unable to sustain longer. Although Simon became exhausted and sore under his burden, yet he prayed fervently that the healing cross might give him strength and courage to bear it. It is possible that the Aria can be considered as sung by Simon himself, but Bach probably intended him as emblematic of the sorrows that mankind have to bear, and the spirit of resignation that should be shown towards the troubles of this mortal life.



"NOUGHT AGAINST THE POWER" (CHRISTMAS ORATORIO).

The sentiment to be expressed in this Aria is that of extolling God's power against which the craft and subtlety of human nature is unavailing.



CHAPTER XV.

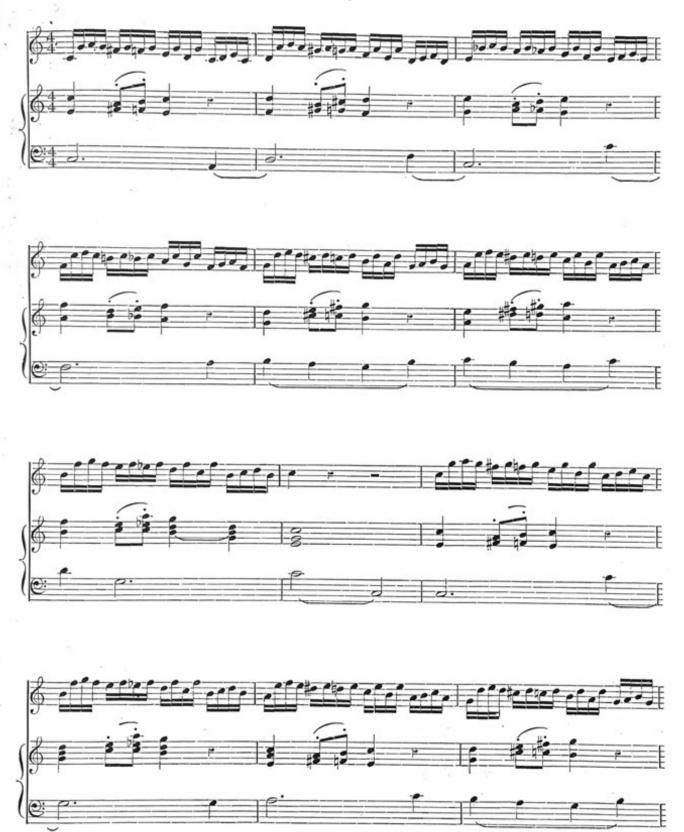
HANDEL.













Although such works as the Messiah, Creation, Elijah, etc., are amongst the most familiar Oratorios (Messiah especially), yet an analysis and excerpts from those different works may enable the students of sacred music to acquaint themselves with the traditional rendering, as well as to acquire the devotional sentiment necessary for their interpretation.

"MESSIAH" (COMPOSED 1741).

The word Messiah means anointed, and applies to one anointed with the holy oil, such as the high priest, the Kings of Israel, and the expected *Prince* of the chosen people, who was to complete God's purposes for them, to redeem them, and of whose *coming* the prophets of the old covenant spoke in all times. The expectation of the Messiah amongst the Jews was equivalent to the expectation of a great king and saviour, a God.

Three points belong to the subject :-

First.—The expectation of a Messiah amongst the Jews.

Second.—The expectation of a suffering Messiah.

Third .- The nature and power of the expected Messiah.

Handel has divided the Messiah into three parts :-

Part I .- (a) Prophecy and the expectation of the promised Saviour. "Every valley."

(b) His birth on earth and the rejoicing of the "daughter of Zion." "Rejoice greatly."

AIRS. Part II.—His sorrows on earth. {" He was despised." Why do the nations."

Part III.—His resurrection, triumph over death, immortality (" and this mortal must put on immortality"), held out to all human kind. "The trumpet shall sound."

RECIT.		Acc	compa	anied	Recitative.		Tenor.
	" "There were shepherds."		,,		"		Soprano.
	" "Thus saith the Lord."		,,,		"		Bass.
	Part II "Thy rebuke."	(ad	lib.)	Unac	companied	Recitative.	Tenor.
	Part III.—" Behold! I tell you a mystery."		,,	,	, ,,	,,,	Bass.

^{*} See Chapter xix. on Recitatives and their characteristics.

when the friends and





^{*}The R in rejoice must be strongly marked, almost like the roll of a drum, care being taken to give full value to the F and not make a semiquaver of it, so as to give a broad and impressive meaning to the word Rejoice, which occurs frequently throughout the Aria.

The groups of notes must be sung distinctly and with a telling full tone.



^{*} This phrase may be sung in one breath providing it does not distress the singer in any way, as it works up to a great crescendo. Otherwise it is advisable to take breath at the sign 3.

E III



"HE WAS DESPISED." (CONTRALTO.)

The sentiment to be expressed is that of intense grief, which must be imparted to the voice with a well-sustained tone, at the same time full of emotion and dignity.



^{*} This is to remind the singer that the sign — over the notes mean accentuation, i.e., emphasis of the initial consonant on the accented note,—the following semiquavers to be sung crisp and clear—at the same time legato.



"THE TRUMPET SHALL SOUND." (Bass.)

The reading of this Solo must be broad and energetic, the tone brilliant and well-sustained, yet show no sign of undue effort or of being forced in any way. The scale passages should be sung legato, and each note come out crisp and distinct.



^{*} The # must be sustained so as to assist the legato.



- * Breath if necessary.
- † The notes in this, and all similar passages throughout the Aria, must be neat and crisp, yet not jerky.
- Full value must be given to the dotted notes and the semiquaver well accented.
- § The treatment of these 22 bars same as throughout the Aria.

CHAPTER XVI.

EXERCISES.

ARIAS BY HAYDN.





The difficulty in singing chromatic scales or passages is to keep them very smooth, at the same time making every note crisp and distinct. The best mode of studying is to divide them into groups, emphasising 1st, the first note of each group; 2nd, the first and second; 3rd, the first, second, and third and so on, so that every note should be accented equally and heard distinctly. After this, each group should then be sung legato and slowly; and the speed increased gradually as skill is gained.

^{*} Accent slightly the first note of each group.

THE CREATION (HAYDN).

Haydn has divided his Oratorio into three parts :-

1st .- The Creation of the elements.

and .- The Creation of the vegetable, animal, and human life.

3rd .- The praise of God by all Creation.

Part 1.-A. "Rolling foaming billows" (Bass).

B. "With verdure clad" (Soprano).

" 2.-A." On mighty pens." (Soprano) (no analysis).

B. "In native worth" (Tenor).

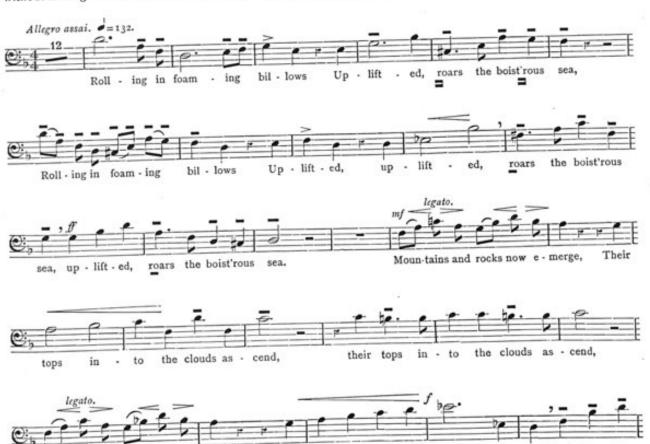
" 3.-A. Recit. "In rosy mantle."

Moun-tains and rocks now e - merge,

(For the treatment of this Recit. see chapter on Recitatives.)

"ROLLING IN FOAMING BILLOWS." (Bass.)

This Air is to be sung with a full sonorous tone, vigorous articulation and crisp accentuation of the time, but without forcing the voice, as it would tend to "blunt" the sound, and detract from its carrying power.



Their tops in - to

as - cend their tops

clouds



This should be sung with a round mellow tone, sufficiently bright to preserve its carrying power.



^{*} The following fourteen bars, being a repetition of the preceding ones, may be phrased with the same sentiment.

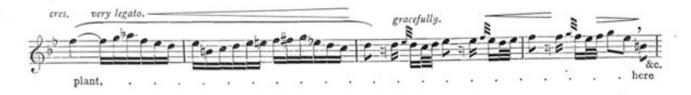
"WITH VERDURE CLAD." (SOPRANO.)

This Air, as suggested by the words, is the description of Nature in all its grace and beauty. The music is admirably adapted to the sentiment and must be sung with the most perfect taste, and the florid passages with irreproachable technique.



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"IN NATIVE WORTH." (TENOR.)

The first part of this Song describes the Creation of man 'adorned with beauty, courage, strength.' "A man, and king of nature all,"—and so must the voice be, full of brilliancy and sonority.

The second part, although starting with the same melody, must be sung with a mellow, pure, and bright tone, so as to impart to the voice the grace, tenderness, and affection so quaintly expressed by the words.



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CHAPTER XVII.

EXERCISES. ARIAS IN ELIJAH (MENDELSSOHN).

No. I.





ELIJAH THE PROPHET.

Elijah has been well entitled the "grandest and the most romantic character that Israel ever produced." Certainly there is no personage in the Old Testament whose career is more vividly portrayed, or who exercises on us a more remarkable fascination. His rare, sudden, and brief appearances, his undaunted courage, and fiery zeal, the brilliancy of his triumphs, the pathos of his despondency, the glory of his departure, and the calm beauty of his reappearance on the Mount of Transfiguration, throw a halo around him equalled by none of his compeers in sacred history. Nothing is known of his antecedents. "Elijah the Tishbite* of the inhabitants of Gilead" is all that we know of his parentage or locality.

THE ORATORIO ELIJAH (MENDELSSOHN).

PART I.

Part I. opens with Elijah's prophecy that "There shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word." Then after the overture and two choral numbers follows Obadiah's exhortation to the people to forsake their idols, and seek the Lord, "If with all your hearts."

Then Elijah appears before Ahab whom he accuses of "troubling Israel's peace" by neglecting God's commands, and worshipping Baalim as his forefathers had done before him. (The worship of Baal had spread greatly, and become the religion amongst the court and people of the ten tribes under the rule of Ahab, king of Israel, and Jezebel, his wife. To this influence may be attributed much of the deterioration in Israel's national life). Elijah, after summoning the people to him, addresses his fervent supplication to God, "Lord God of Abraham," followed by "O Thou, who makest Thine angels." He then commands the people to slay the false prophets, "Take all the prophets of Baal;" and striking terror amongst the enemies of God, he thunders forth with that fierceness of zeal and that directness of address which so characterize his utterances: "Is not His word like a fire?" To realize the impression he must have made on those "calf-worshippers" one must take the following circumstances into consideration:—

Ist.—It was in the wild loneliness of the hills and ravines of Gilead, that the knowledge of Jehovah, the living God of Israel, had been impressed upon Elijah's vivid imagination, which knowledge was to form the subject of his mission to the idolatrous court and people of Israel.

2nd.—His very striking appearance, with his hair, long, thick, and hanging down his back; his garment, consisting of a girdle of skin round his loins, which he tightened when moving quickly; a mantle of sheepskin in which he would hide his face in moments of emotion, or, if excited, would roll up as into a kind of staff. At times he would bend himself down upon the ground with his face between his knees. His very presence gave the impression of irrepressible enthusiasm, not to say fanaticism.

"IF WITH ALL YOUR HEARTS." (TENOR.)

Obadiah, although a high officer at the court of Ahab, was a devout worshipper of Jehovah during the fierce persecution of the prophets by Jezebel. At the risk of his life, he concealed a hundred of them in caves and fed them with bread and water. He appears in history in the third year of the terrible famine with which Samaria was visited, when the fountains and streams were dried up, in consequence of the long-continued drought. Obadiah set forth to seek whatever remnants of herbage might be left around the springs. It was whilst on this mission that he was startled by the abrupt apparition of Elijah, who had disappeared since the commencement of the famine. Probably to show him his long-concealed attachment to the worship of Jehovah, he addressed the idolatrous, holding out to them the promise of great expectations and reward, if they renounced their idols and returned to the worship of God.

The sentiment to be expressed in this Air is that of piety, of profound devotion to the cause of God. The voice must be tender, almost supplicating, so as to set in vibration every fibre of the heart, and move the very soul of a corrupt people.

The voice must be sustained, the tone bright and sympathetic.





"IS NOT HIS WORD LIKE A FIRE." (Bass.)

This Aria has to be sung with the stern dignity and fierceness of zeal belonging to Elijah's personality. The voice must be kept under absolute control, and show no sign of forcing or violence, so as to preserve throughout that fulness and brilliancy of tone which would be necessary to thrill, and impart enthusiasm to a large mass of people.





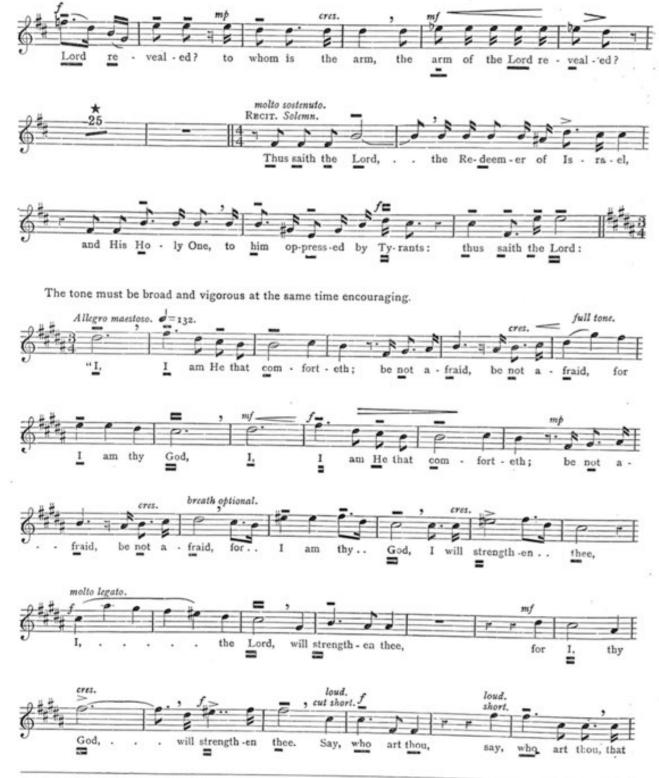


"HEAR YE, ISRAEL." (SOPRANO.)

Here an Angel commands the attention of the people: "Hear ye, Israel, what the Lord speaketh." These words must be sung with a bright, rich tone, almost like the sound of a "clarion" heralding the coming of a solemn event. "O hadst thou heeded My commandments." These are the words of God. The feeling to be expressed is that of sorrow as well as reproach, because commandments have been disregarded. In the Allegro that follows, "I am He that comforteth, be not afraid," the style should be dignified and hopeful, expressing sympathy and encouragement. "Say, who art thou?" Here the Almighty utters His stern reproach against those who are afraid of the mortal power and tyranny of Ahab and his consort, Jezebel, and at the same time disregard their Almighty Creator. The voice must express this feeling with a broad tone, and a crisp, vigorous articulation, &c., &c.



^{*} In order to render the exclamation "Oh," it is necessary strongly to aspirate the "h" in hadst.



^{*} In the rendering of the next 25 bars, especially when the melody repeats itself, the singer may modify the modes of phrasing according to her own personality and taste.



"O REST IN THE LORD." (CONTRALTO.)

After so many triumphs, there follows Elijah's despondency, full of pathos as may be imagined in a man so impulsive, so emotional. "He sleepeth beneath a juniper tree in the wilderness," after his flight from Queen Jezebel, who would have had him slaughtered. An Angel wakens him and orders him to journey on to Horeb, the Mount of God. Elijah despairingly exclaims "O that I now might die." Then follows the Angel's pathetic air, "O rest in the Lord."

This Air almost speaks for itself; full of sympathy and encouragement, it must be sung smoothly— Andantino—with simplicity and purity of tone and never dragged; the colouring must be observed without interfering in the least with the integrity of the rhythm.

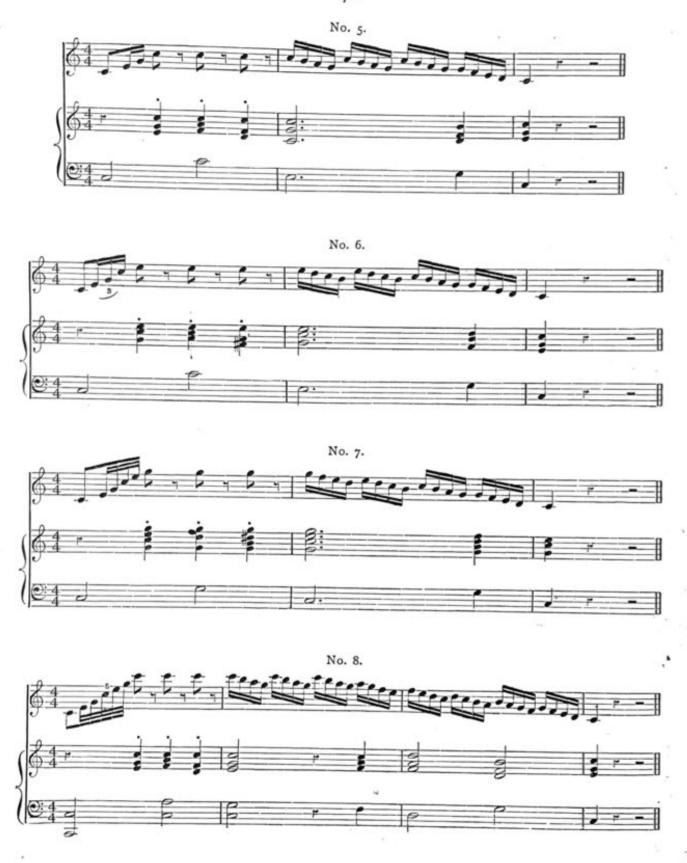


^{*} This exclamation can be rendered by strongly rolling the R like the Italian double R in the word terra.

CHAPTER XVIII.

EXERCISES. SPECIMENS OF RECITATIVES FROM CACCINI'S AND JACOPO PERI'S OPERA "EURIDICE."









RECITATIVE.

The recitative is a form of declamatory music which probably owes its origin to the early Greek plays, the special feature of which was the choral poetry. As time went on, in 525 B.C., chorus and dance were added to tragedy and comedy. There is little doubt that Jacopo Peri and Emilio dal Cavaliere in their esthetic studies of the Greek drama were inspired with the idea of reviving the form of the classic drama, and invented the peculiar style of music "the Recitative," now so extensively used in oratorio, cantatas and operas. The recitative secco * is supported by an unpretentious simple thorough Bass (Basso continuo) figured, so that the necessary chords can be filled up on the harpsichord or piano as was done until recent dates at Covent Garden during the Italian season.

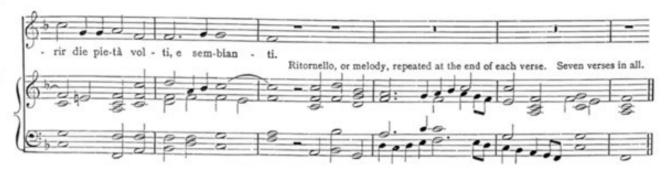
Caccini, who was a great singer, assisted in the attempt to restore the mode of declamation peculiar to the Hellenic Tragedy which led to the discovery of the modern recitative. Notwithstanding the small amount of learning displayed in this unpretentious form of musical drama, yet to have originated, or helped to originate such a great invention which led to the modern form of opera, commands our admiration, were it only from an æsthetic point of view.

In conjunction with Jacopo Peri, Giuglio Caccini detto Romano, composed in 1600 an Opera "L'Euridice" from which I give the following extracts, which are sung by The *Prologue* and Orpheus, both characters in the opera.

"THE PROLOGUE."



^{*} Secco, in this case, means simple, it implies simple figured bass.



The following almost literal translation of the above example must be so construed so as to convey in English the Italian sentiment:-

The Prologue.—I, who express sighs, tears, sorrows, threats, and all the emotions of the soul, make such deep impressions on the masses of the people, who throng our vast theatres, that livid pallor invades their countenances, and distorts their features.



The translation of the above may be constructed as follows:—Why turn a deaf ear to the pitiful entreaties of an ardent lover? What difference will it make if, amongst so many many souls wandering in these remote solitudes, Euridice is permitted to behold the sun again.

N.B.—I have given these short extracts not only from an æsthetic point of view, but also to show by the most striking example, what is meant by Recitative. The phrasing of these recitatives must depend on the inspiration of the singer. Grief, despair, entreaty, joy, &c., &c., must be expressed with subtlety, by combining singing with declamation; modulating the voice in singing, and declaiming the words so as to obtain the desired effect, which in reality depends more on declamation than singing. (See next chapter on Recitative.)

I have also filled up the scanty figured bass as near as indicated in the original text.

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CHAPTER XIX.

EXERCISES. RECITATIVES.



There are two classes of Recitatives.

One class is supported by simple chords and sung freely, in a declamatory way, more attention being paid to the meaning of the words than to the strict values of the notes.

The other class has a more or less elaborated accompaniment, and sung in strict time.* The following Recitative may be sung with whatever licence is necessary, disregarding the exact value of notes or rests, in order to give the proper emphasis to each phrase or word. At the same time, a certain rhythm must be observed so as not to lengthen or shorten each bar unduly.

RECIT. "THOU TRAITOR." (CHRISTMAS ORATORIO.)-BACH.

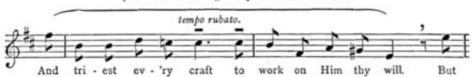
The sentiment to be expressed in this recitative is that of contempt and indignation against Herod, who is accused of treacherous and crafty designs in sending messengers to Bethlehem to enquire the whereabouts of Christ, under the false pretence of worshipping Him, his sole purpose being to kill Him.

In Bach recitatives, very little liberty if any, may be taken with either the time or the vocal part. The singing may be treated with all the dramatic energy or devotion required, resorting to tempo rubato† if necessary, without interfering with the length of a bar.



* Combining the voice with the instrumental harmony without destroying the effect of partly soliloquized sentences.

! These two bars might be phrased in one breath.



[†] Tempo rubato (robbing time) consists in robbing one note and anticipating the next, but in such a manner that the value of a bar, as a whole, remains intact. It is a subtle device which in the hands of a singer gifted with a sense of rhythm, adds greatly to his mode of phrasing, for the reason that it gives elasticity to his interpretation, and at the same time allows him to accent certain words and notes without interfering with the fundamental rhythm.



ST. MATTHEW PASSION .- BACH.

No words can better express the sublimity of the St. Matthew Passion than the following excerpts taken from Sir Hubert Parry's admirable book on Bach:—

"And there can be no manner of doubt that most people who have ever heard the work with any attention, were they ever so little in touch with the devotional attitude at the outset, would be touched with some glimmer of the divine light of love before the work is over. the tragedy is unfolded in its purely human aspects, as the sacrifice of the man who was ideally adorable as a man, rather than on account of his divine descent."

It is probably the most beautiful expression of a beautiful phase of religion. The singer must impart to his voice the serenity of future peace, bought at the mournful expense of the Saviour's life, and the solemn thought which ensues, must never be forgotten.









(TENOR.) "THY REBUKE." (MESSIAH, PART II.)-HANDEL.

A sentiment of extreme sadness pervades this Recitative. It must be expressed with a sympathetic dignified tone.



(Bass.) "BEHOLD, I TELL YOU A MYSTERY." (MESSIAH, PART III.)-HANDEL,

In this Recitative a great event is foretold—the resurrection of the dead at the last trumpet—changed into immortality. This must be expressed with a broad noble tone.



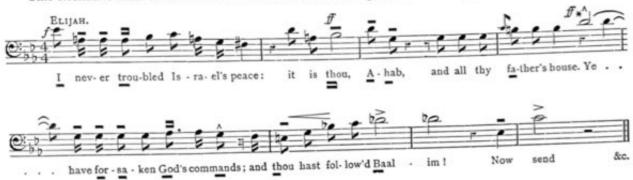
(Bass.) "IN THE BEGINNING." (CREATION.)-HAYDN. Ad lib. The voice full and dignified. In the be - gin - ning, God ted the heav'n and the earth; and the earth was with-out form, and void; Slowly and impressively. and dark ness face of the deep. (TENOR.) "IN SPLENDOUR BRIGHT." (CREATION.)-HAYDN. Ad lib. Largo. The voice bright and resonant. In splendour bright is ri - sing now the sun, And darts his rays; joy-ful, hap-py allargando. spouse, gi-ant proud and glad To run his measur'd course. (Tenor) "YE PEOPLE REND YOUR HEARTS." (ELIJAH.)-MENDELSSOHN. RECIT. OBADIAH. mf Ye peo-ple, rend your hearts, rend your hearts, and not your garments, for your transgressions; the prophet E li - jah hath seal - ed the hea - vens through the word of God. I there-fore say to ye, For-sake your ., dim._ i - dols, re-turn to God; for He slow an ger, and mer - ci - ful, and kind and gra - cious, and pent - eth Him of the

^{*} Impetuous and almost angry.

[†] Change of tone more inviting and commanding.

(Bass.) "I NEVER TROUBLED ISRAEL'S PEACE." (ELIJAH.)-MENDELSSOHN.

This Recitative must be declaimed with a broad tone full of vigour and fearless agitation.



(CONTRALTO) "SO GO YE FORTH." (ELIJAH.)-MENDELSSOHN.

In declaiming this Recitative it must be borne in mind that the Queen is a woman of violent and unrestrained passions, amounting to ferocity. In her hatred against Elijah, she urges her people to slaughter him for having brought chastisement upon them. In this as in similar Recitatives singers must fill themselves with the atmosphere of the scene, they must act it in their own mind, and if they have temperament let them "unchain" it, and give full sway to their natural impulse. Technique which has taught them control of voice, and correct interpretation must never be lost sight of. Self-consciousness is apt to create monotony; singers must guard against it, and if wanting in temperament they must try by every means to acquire it.

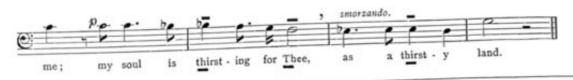








Night fall-eth round me, O Lord! Be Thou not far from me! hide not Thy face, O Lord, from



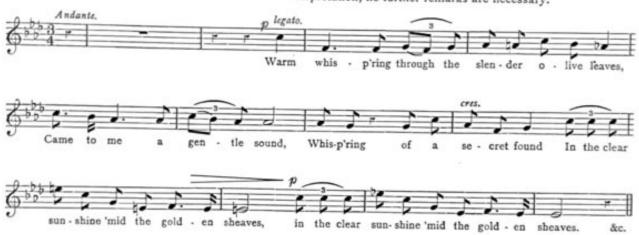
CHAPTER XX.

ANALYSES OF BALLADS.

(Mezzo-Soprano or Tenor.) "BLUE WINGS." C. VILLIERS STANFORD. FROM "THE SPANISH GIPSY." BY GEORGE ELIOT.

"ACTION CURVED TO SOFT ANDANTE STRAINS PITCHED PLAINTIVELY."

The author having given the above clue as to interpretation, no further remarks are necessary.



(Bass.) "YE JACOBITES BY NAME," H. WALFORD DAVIES. WORDS BY R. BURNS.

The exact meaning of this Song is hard to determine, though Burns' experts no doubt know. Sir George Grove thought the poet poured scorn on Scotch Royalists in name who at heart were faithless to the Kingly cause, and favoured the rising tide of bloodthirsty Republicanism as manifested in the spirit of the French Revolution (1793). According to Dr. Walford Davies the spirit of this poem is that of white-hot satire and reproach of faithlessness.

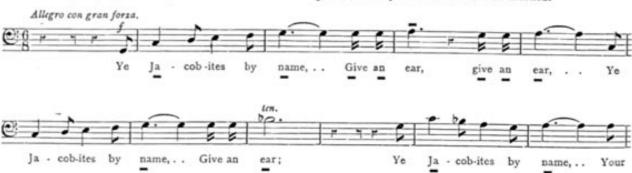
Three things are necessary to render this Song properly, namely :-

1st-A broad and telling tone throughout, conveying a sentiment of satire without exaggeration, avoiding any tendency toward coarseness of tone.

2nd-Perfect articulation.

3rd-Perfect rhythm, accenting well each strong beat and thus conveying a sense of swinging movement.

Where groupings of two quavers occur in the g time, each quaver should be well marked.





^{*} The eleven bars must be sung and phrased with the same sentiment as already described,

(BARITONE.) "ROLLING DOWN TO RIO." EDWARD GERMAN. RUDYARD KIPLING'S "JUST SO STORIES."

This might be termed a "rollicking jolly" Song, full of humour, both words and music. The time must be kept like "clock-work" throughout, except where a pause is marked on any one note, or an alteration is indicated; but immediately after each of these marks, the regular time must be resumed with spirit and humour. Articulation must be crisp and clear. Some words must of course be emphasized so as to bring out the humorous points.



(CONTRALTO.) "IN APRIL," ERNEST AUSTIN,

This Song has the "atmosphere" of a quiet warm evening in April, the "air blows warm and wet," the poet expressing his wish to utter a Song with as "soft and dreamy a melody." The voice should be well-sustained and mellow in tone, expressing a quiet reflective mood; the singer should endeavour to "paint" every changing thought with the requisite tone-colour, using every subtlety of accentuation, cres. and dim.





(MEZZO-SOPRANO OR TENOR.) "COME BACK." H. ARNOLD SMITH, G. ROSSETTI.

The prevailing sentiment of this Song is that of passionate regret and yearning, expressed in the words "Come back! in tears, O memory, hope, love of finished years." The voice should be full and very sympathetic in quality, and the phrases well sustained and broad in effect, without dragging. The various nuances of expression will be found already marked in the music, being, however, always subservient to the individual feeling of the artist and interpreter.





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APPENDIX.

EXPLANATION OF THE FEW NECESSARY TECHNICAL TERMS USED IN THIS BOOK.

THE LARYNX, which comprises the Trachea or Windpipe, as well as the oesophagus or gullet, constitutes the organ of voice.

The GLOTTIS, or upper part of the Larynx, which protrudes in the front part of the neck; commonly called "the Apple." It contains two little bands called Vocal Cords, which adhere to each side of the Glottis. In the act of singing they meet, and being set in vibration by the breath, as already explained, contribute to the formation of the vocal sounds or voice.

The Pharynx, or back vault of the mouth is, by its shape and physical condition, an important vocal resonator. The posterior wall, a portion of which may be seen by looking straight through the mouth, gathers the sound-waves as they are reflected from the epiglottis* and projects them forward either beneath the soft palate,† against the hard palate, or sounding board, and teeth, or against the surface of the superior vault-like shape of the pharynx. Two muscles, the constrictor and palato-pharyngeal, covering the long frame-work of the posterior wall of the pharynx, serve so to shape the reflecting surface, that the vocalized breath may be directed to any desired point.

^{*} The epiglottis serves to guide the food into the oesophagus or gullet, a passage through which food and drink pass into the stomach in the act of deglutition. Its use is to protect the trachea or wind pipe, and prevent any particle of food from entering it.

[†] The soft palate and uvula which can be seen at the back of the mouth, forming an archway, control the sounding-waves, directing them up, either through the pharyngeal vault into the mostrils, or out through the fauces into the mouth.