FOREWORD

The particular purpose of these new volumes of "Pathways of Song" may best be explained by recalling to mind the statements made in the Foreword to the first two volumes regarding the aim of the series as a whole. That purpose, re-stated here in general terms, is to make available to students and teachers of voice, in studios, in classes in high schools, and wherever voice is studied, songs of great musical worth and authentic vocal style, that at the same time do not demand the advanced vocal technique of the mature artist for their adequate performance. In addition, translations are sought that reflect faithfully the subtle qualities of mood that distinguish all really fine songs; and these translations further seek vocal ease, and the placing of words of specific emotional hue at the points they occupy in the original poems, where they guided the composer's melody. Prompting the entire effort has been also the conviction that modest vocal accomplishments have no necessary correlation with the singing of empty and saccharine songs that contain no substantial musical or vocal values.

To these aims the present volumes adhere, while registering some advances in gradation. The songs of the first two volumes (which were equal in grade, one with the other) stayed within a limited compass, avoided dramatic declamation that might have proven dangerous to the cultivation of good voice quality and a controlled bel canto, and dealt largely with sustained tones. In the present pair of volumes the compass of each song is still not wide, but a little more of declamation finds entry and the development of agility and flexibility of voice is provided for by some songs of faster tempo and some with melodies of a more florid character. The proportion of comparatively unhackneyed songs included is, meanwhile, as great as before.

The Editors hope that the aims they have thus announced will be regarded as worthy, and that the songs in which they have been embodied will be found helpful and pleasing to the many who love songs and singing. The cordial acceptance accorded the first two volumes encourages their belief that such hopes will not prove to be wholly without foundation.

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AIDS IN PROGRAM BUILDING

In order to facilitate the arrangement of programs, the undersigned has selected groups of titles from the four volumes of PATHWAYS OF SONG with contrast of movement and of mood, but with due regard to the period and nationality of the composers. The extra numbers indicated in italics could be substituted, added or used as encores at the discretion of the singer.

With this nucleus other numbers may be added at will. The songs and arias by Handel could be used separately or combined as the singer desires. The groups of folksongs are very colorful and admit of various other arrangements as well as those suggested here.

Frank LaForge

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Blessed Redeemer

Liebster Herr Jesu

The first appearance of this sensitive melody was in a book by Schemelli published in 1736. It contained a large number of songs and hymns for which the melody and bass only were printed. In his preface Schemelli states that all the pieces were composed or "improved" by J. S. Bach. Musicologists since have spent much time in trying to discover which songs were composed and which simply improved by the master.

The song below, through extrinsic evidence as well as by reason of depth and sincerity of feeling and integrity of structure, appears to be certainly Bach's own composition. The necessary largeness and dignity of feeling, as distinguished from lachrymose and theatrical expression, can be secured by abstaining from sudden dynamic changes and by a broad, flowing sketching of the phrases. This to be sung in the manner of a choral.



Golden Sun Streaming

Die gold'ne Sonne, voll Freud' und Wonne

This noble melody first appeared in 1708 in Freylinghausen's well known Gesangbuch. It was subsequently included in the Schemelli collection which J.S. Bach edited. While the origin of the melody is obscure, the treatment of it reflects the sterling attributes of the great Leipzig master.

Inner warmth that should be reflected in a rich-toned, broadly flowing delivery pervades the composition. If we may picture dynamic contours—amount of tone and intensity, or earnestness of delivery—as mountains in silhouette against the sky, then these outlines here will not be jagged and precipitous, but will display long sweeps of elevation and subsidence. For single tones the dynamic shape of the organ tone and not that of the piano should largely prevail. This is to be sung in the manner of a choral.

PAUL GERHARDT English version by WILL EARHART

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685 - 1750)



