

INTRODUCTION

As Principal Harp with Welsh National Opera for thirty years, I have enjoyed the company of singers for a considerable part of my life and with whom I have performed on numerous and varied occasions; over the years, many singers have become lifelong friends.

The contents of this volume is the result of many collaborations: therefore they are varied in style, some more well-known than others. Despite initially not being written for harp accompaniment, I am very pleased that they do work well in this format. Some minor changes have been made for artistic and technical reasons and pedalling marks have been inserted for easier reading.

I am extremely pleased that Helen Field had agreed to edit the vocal parts, a task she carried out with expert care and enthusiasm: we have both enjoyed our sessions preparing this music and hope that these arrangements will encourage many performances of these well-known songs.

Meinir Heulyn

PREFACE

I am delighted to have been involved in the compilation of this eclectic volume of song arrangements for harp and voice.

These arrangements, by a miscellany of well-known European composers, provide an attractive selection of music for this popular combination.

The songs range from the calm serenity of “Der Nussbaum” by Schumann, to the lively, vibrant songs of Granados; the dark and brooding atmosphere of Schumann’s “Dem Helden” is superbly evoked by the exciting interaction of harp and voice, whereas the haunting vocal melody of Elgar’s “Where Corals Lie” is enhanced by the elegant harp accompaniment.

The fluency of the harp encourages a lovely legato vocal line in Mendelssohn’s “On Wings of Song”, contrasting with the sensual throb of the harp depicting a broken heart in Tchaikovsky’s “None But the Lonely Heart”. Also, the harp provides an agreeably sympathetic balance to the female voice and this versatile combination is eminently suited to performing either in recitals or private functions.

We hope that this repertoire will provide enormous enjoyment to audience and performers alike.

Helen Field