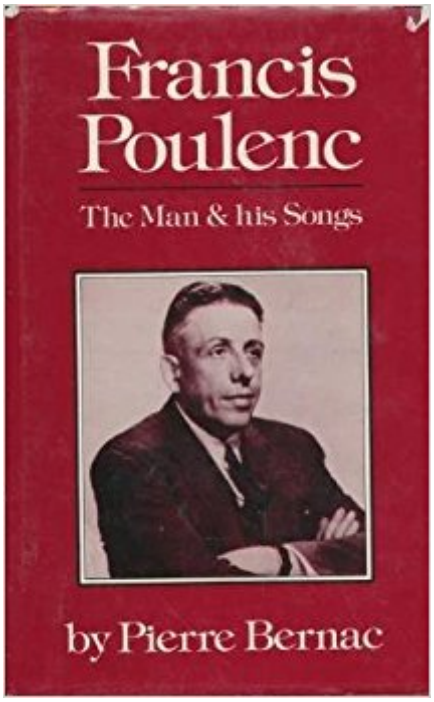
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Francis Poulenc: The Man And His Songs (English And French Edition)



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Synopsis

Pierre Bernac aimed in this book to pass on his personal understanding of the songs of Francis Poulenc as well as a little of their mutual experience in interpreting and performing them. He has thereby left a unique record whose importance cannot be overestimated. Each of the 137 poems is annotated for pronunciation, with a line-for-line translation into English by Winifred Radford, who also translated the text of the book. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

Hardcover: 233 pages

Publisher: Norton (February 1978)

Language: English, French

ISBN-10: 0393021963

ISBN-13: 978-0393021967

Product Dimensions: 1 x 1 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,220,153 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #31 inÃ Â Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Composers > Poulenc #3692 inÃ Â Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Forms & Genres > Lieder & Art Songs #14460 inÃ Â Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Biographies

Customer Reviews

Text: English, French (translation)

Pierre Bernac was born in Paris in 1988 and began studying singing at the age of 18. In 1935 his professional partnership with Poulenc was formed and lasted until 1959 when Bernac retired from the concert platform. He then devoted himself to teaching and giving masterclasses through Europe, USA and Canada. He died in 1979. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Pierre Bernac probably knew Francis Poulenc’s songs better than anyone save the composer -- they had a working relationship that stretched across several decades, and Bernac personally premiered the lion’s share of Poulenc’s song output. This volume is Bernac’s tribute to his friend and collaborator, and includes a useful biographical sketch with some amusing anecdotes, and a comprehensive survey of Poulenc’s song output (though a few songs including the Eight Polish

Songs, Fancy - Poulenc’s only English language setting, from Shakespeare - and the Quatre chansons pour enfants are conspicuously missing). Each song includes complete texts and translations and Bernac’s notes on composition, general mood and singer’s motivation.This book goes alongside Bernac’s The Interpretation of French Song as essential reading for the serious devotee of French melodies. Must reading for anyone thinking about singing Poulenc’s songs.

This is THE book for singers and anyone interested in the wonderful melodies of Francis Poulenc.

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