

ABSTRACT

CREATIVE PROJECT: Herbert's Songs: Designed for Classical Singers

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This study addresses proper performance practice of Victor Herbert's repertoire. The study details the vocal abilities of three of Victor Herbert's most prolific sopranos (Alice Nielsen, Fritzi Scheff, and Emma Trentini), and identifies compositional elements of three of Herbert's most famous arias ("The Song of the Danube," "Kiss Me Again," and "Italian Street Song"), using historical data to demonstrate that each composition was tailored specifically for the versatility and profound vocal ability of each opera singer, and is poorly mishandled by those without proper classical training. The researcher concludes that Herbert's repertoire should not be given to students until they have developed foundational vocal technique. Students who try to sing the difficult literature without classical vocal training are likely to harm their vocal instrument.