Finding Translations and Phonetic Readings of Vocal Music Texts

Below is a listing of selected sources in the Livingston Library which provide translations and/or phonetic readings of the texts used in solo vocal music and choral music. For additional sources search the library’s online catalog as well as the music library card catalog for sound recordings which may include translations in accompanying booklet or liner notes. Please feel free to ask the music librarian for help if you cannot find what you need.

Collections of Texts by Specific Language

French Texts


German Texts

Fischer-Dieskau, Dietrich. The Fischer-Dieskau Book of Lieder : The Original Texts of Over 750 Songs ... with English Translations. 1984. Call no.: 784.015 F52f

Includes selected texts used by Beethoven, Brahms, Mahler, Schubert, Schumann, [Richard] Strauss, Wagner, and Wolf.


Italian Texts

Gerhart, Martha. Italian Song Texts from the 17th Through the 20th Centuries. 2002-
Call no: R 784.30945 G47i 2002
Vol. I. 17th century
Vol. II. 18th century


Includes Bellini, Donaudy, Donizetti, Puccini, Rossini, Tosti, and Verdi.
**Latin Texts**

**Call no.: R 783.23 S23b 1998**

**Call no.: R 784.96 C81c**  
Selected sacred texts, p. 153-164. Also includes *The Lord’s Prayer* in English, Latin, French and German.

**Call no.: 784.1 J35t**  

**Russian Texts**

**Call no.: 784.932 P53r 1991**

**Spanish Texts**

**Call no.: 784.30946 C63s 1992**

**Call no.: 784.30946 1987**

**Collections of Texts in Various Languages**

**Call no.: R 784.932 P46p 1982**  
Includes texts for over 400 songs in Italian, German, and French, with International Phonetic Alphabet transcriptions.

**Call no.: 784.016 C65s**  
Part 5. Program notes for the *Singer's Repertoire* [includes translations]

**Call no.: R 784.93 W89**
Vol. 1 covers selected German and French texts, including works by Bach, Beethoven, Bizet, Brahms, Charpentier, Chausson, Debussy, Delibes, Duparc, Faure, Franck, Gounod, Grieg, Handel, Liszt, Mahler, Massenet, Mendelssohn, Mozart, Schubert, Schumann, R. Strauss, Wagner, Wolf and many others.

Vol. 2 includes Italian texts used by Bach, Beethoven, Bellini, Caccini, Cherubini, Donizetti, Gluck, Handel, Haydn, Monteverdi, Mozart, Pergolesi, Puccini, Rossini, Scarlatti, Schubert, Verdi, Vivaldi and many others.

Miller, Philip L. *The Ring of Words : An Anthology of Song Texts*. 1963.  
**Call no.: 784.93 M61r**  
Includes German, French, Italian, Russian, Scandinavian, and Spanish texts used by over 200 composers.

**Texts of Works by Specific Composers**

**J.S. Bach**

Drinker, Henry S. *The Bach Chorale Texts in English Translation, with Annotations Showing the Use of the Melodies Elsewhere by Bach in His Vocal and Organ Works, and a Musical Index to the Melodies*. 1941.  
**Call no.: 784.015 B34c 1941**

**Call no.: 784.015 B34v 1942**  
Vol. 1. Cantatas 1 to 100  
Vol. 2. Cantatas 101-199  
Vol. 3. Passions, oratorios, motets, secular and unpublished cantatas and songs  
Vol. 4. Index and concordance to the English texts

**Call no.: 783.092 Bach, J.S. U85h 1996**

**Brahms**

**Call no: R 784.3092 Brahms G53b 1999**

**Call no.: 784.3092 Brahms M34p 1987**

**Call no.: 784.30092 Brahms S72g 1995**

**Debussy**

Cobb, Margaret G. & Richard Miller. *The Poetic Debussy : A Collection of His Song
Texts and Selected Letters. 2nd ed. 1982. Call no.: 784.3092 Debussy D43p 1982

Rohinsky, Marie-Claire. The Singer’s Debussy. 1987. Call no.: 784.3092 Debussy D43s 1987

Medtner

Drinker, Henry S. English Texts for the Songs of Nicholas Medtner. Call no.: 784.015 M44s

Mussorgsky

Drinker, Henry S. English Texts for the Songs of Modeste Moussorgsky (1835-1881). Call no.: 784.015 M87s 1950

Poulenc


Puccini

Kaye, Michael. The Unknown Puccini : A Historical Perspective on the Songs ... 1987. Call no.: 784.3092 Puccini K38u 1987

Rachmaninoff

Includes original Russian texts, with pronunciations in the International Phonetic Alphabet, and English translations.

Schubert

Drinker, Henry S. Texts of the Solo Songs of Franz Schubert in English Translation. 1951. Call no.: 784.015 S39s 1951


Schumann, R.

*Call no.:* R 784.3092 Schumann, R. G53s 2002

*Call no.:* 784.3092 Schumann S39s 1989

**Schutz**

*Call no.:* 784.015 S397v 1952

**Strauss, R.**

*R* 784.3092 Strauss, R. G53r 2004

*Call no.:* 784.3092 Strauss, R. J44l 1971

**Wolf**

*Call no.:* 784.015 W66s 1949

*Call no.:* R 784.3092 Wolf G53h 2000

**Internet Resources**

*The Lied and Art Song Texts Page* [www.recmusic.org/lieder/](http://www.recmusic.org/lieder/)

The Lied and Art Song Texts Page is an archive of texts used in Lieder and other classical art songs as well as many choral works and other types of classical vocal music. The collection indexes vocal texts and includes translations to English, French, Italian, Dutch, German, Spanish, Portuguese, and other languages. The site has frequent updates.

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