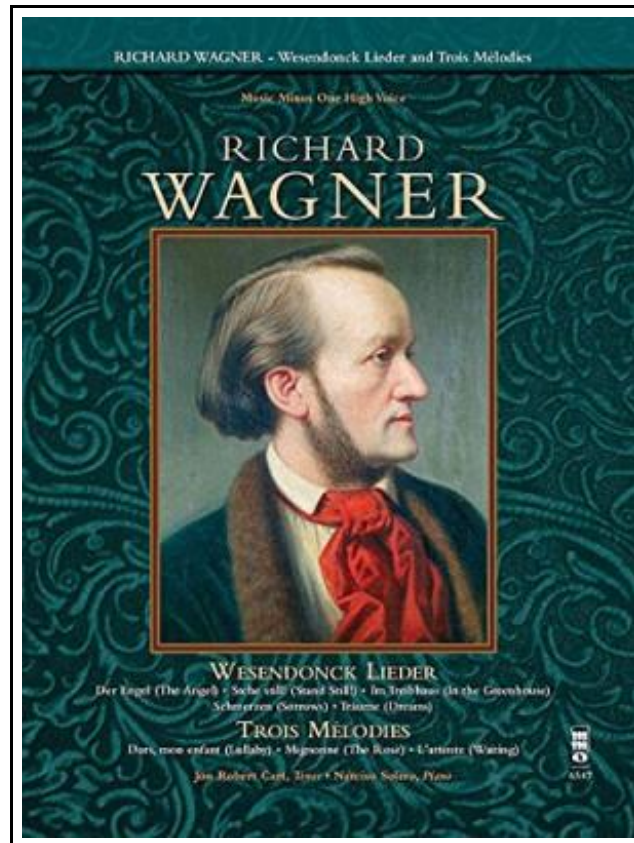


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RICHARD WAGNER - WESENDONCK LIEDER AND TROIS MELODIES: MUSIC MINUS ONE HIGH VOICE (PAPERBACK)



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Music Minus One, 2012. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. (Music Minus One). In 1857 and 1858, as Richard Wagner had come to the completion of *Die Walkure*, the second installment in his epic opera cycle, *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, he took time out to write a series of lieder for (and based on poems by) Mathilde Wesendonck, with whom Wagner was believed to have been, at the very least, extremely infatuated. Whatever the truth might have been behind their relationship, it is known that Wagner had met Mathilde's husband, Otto, in Zurich, and his ensuing friendship with the couple led to this beautiful set of lieder. Wagner himself called two of the set's songs (*Im Treibhaus* and *Traume*) studies for his magnificent opera *Tristan and Isolde*, and though originally intended for female voice with piano, all of these songs were eventually orchestrated, either by Wagner (in the case of *Traume*) or by other composers. When they were first performed in 1862, they were titled *Five Songs for a Female Voice*. In the 20th century they also became very popular songs for some of the greatest tenors. Much earlier, in 1839, Wagner had composed a three-song cycle called *Trois Melodies*. The first piece, entitled *Dors, mon enfant*, was a lullaby that Wagner ascribed to an unnamed young poet of his publisher's acquaintance, and of which he wrote that his wife had called heavenly for sending one to sleep. He then set Ronsard's song *Mignonne* and Victor Hugo's *L'attente* (from that author's *Orientales*) to round out the set. Wagner offered *L'attente* to the reigning diva of the time, Pauline Viardot, who is said to have flatly refused it. Wagner wrote in his memoirs *My Life* I have no reason to...

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