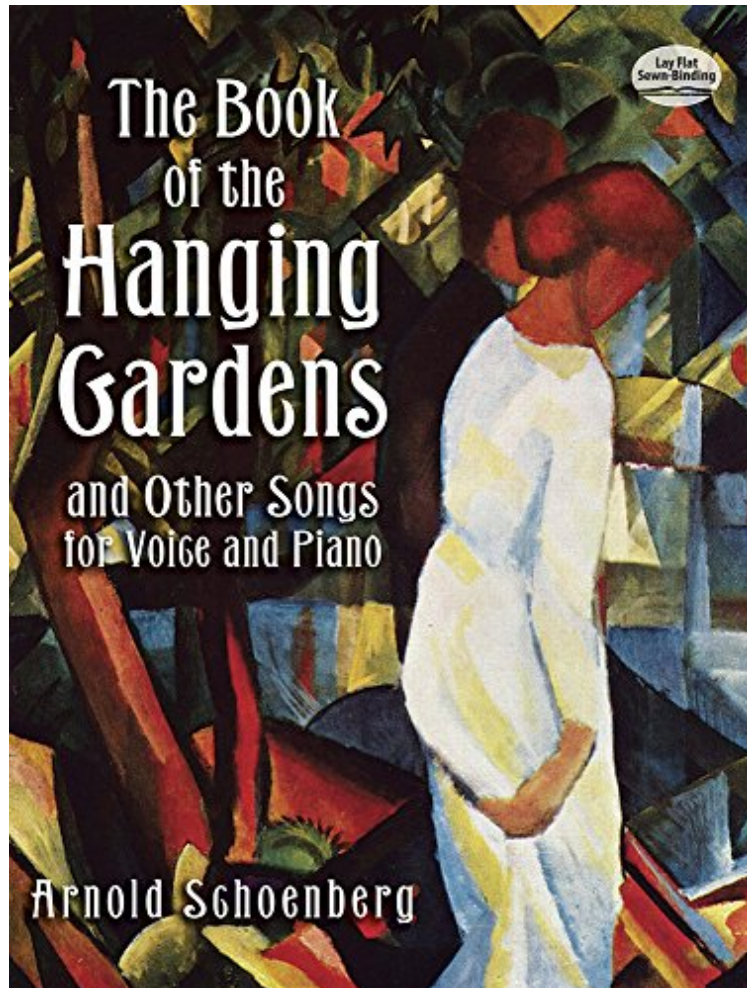


The Book of the Hanging Gardens and Other Songs for Voice and Piano

Arnold Schoenberg

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Arnold Schoenberg : The Book of the Hanging Gardens and Other Songs for Voice and Piano before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Book of the Hanging Gardens and Other Songs for Voice and Piano:

Even in his earliest songs, Schoenberg had begun explorations of chromaticism that would lead him away from traditional harmony and, eventually, from tonality itself. Audiences and critics did not take to these new sounds without protest. As Schoenberg himself put it, "the scandal never stopped." But despite listeners' resistance, the composer persisted on a course that in time deeply influenced the musical language of the twentieth century. Today,

his songs have become an integral part of song recitals and recordings devoted to the roots of contemporary composition. This superb collection contains forty-three of the composer's most important songs, all from the turn of the twentieth century. They include *Four Songs, Op. 2* (1899), *Six Songs, Op. 3* (1899/1903), and *Eight Songs, Op. 6* (1903/05), all set to texts by Dehmel, Keller, Nietzsche, and others; *Six Orchestral Songs, Op. 8* (1903/05), set to texts by Petrarch and others, and arranged for voice and piano by Anton Webern; *The Book of the Hanging Gardens, Op. 15* (1908/09), fifteen songs on texts of Stefan George; and four songs from *Gurrelieder* (1900/01), arranged for voice and piano by Alban Berg. Stanley Appelbaum has supplied new English translations of the texts.

About the Author Austrian composer Arnold Schoenberg (1874/1951) developed the twelve-tone system and ranks among the most influential figures of twentieth-century music. A leading member of the German Expressionist movement, he fled Nazi oppression in the 1930s and settled in the United States.