THE SCHOOL SONG BOOK. UNISON SONGS AND PART-SONGS FOR GENERAL SINGING

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The School Song Book. Unison Songs and Part-Songs for General Singing by Osbourne McConathy

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OSBOURNE MCCONATHY

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"The dominant note of the book expresses the joyousness and courageous optimism of youth."

THE SCHOOL SONG BOOK

Unison Songs and Part-Songs for General Singing

STUDENTS' EDITION
VOCAL PARTS ONLY

EDITED BY

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INTRODUCTION

The School Song Book is designed chiefly to encourage interested and spontaneous singing on the part of the older students, through the rendition in unison of well-known songs; also through part singing of standard songs which have been harmonized in a very simple manner.

The collection includes both songs of the People and of the Masters. The selections, for the most part, are those that have attained to lasting popularity because of their beauty, and should therefore be made known to every student.

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ous optimism of youth.

A large number of excellent unison songs are provided for the several voices and adapted to their vocal requirements: unison songs for soprano, unison songs for alto, and (most important of all) unison songs for the much neglected alto-tenors and basses. Through this specialized unison singing an opportunity is provided for the development of the different voices in compass, flexibility and quality. The basses and alto-tenors in particular need frequent exercise in melody singing, a fact which has long been recognized by thoughtful teachers. Heretofore, in an attempt to meet this need, many songs have been arranged with the melody in a lower part, the other voices singing an accompaniment, but this plan has frequently failed to accomplish the desired results because, in the effort to secure a satisfactory balance of parts, so much drill and nicety of adjustment have been required that the spirit and freedom of the melody have of necessity been sacrificed.

In the development of part singing it is important that a good foundation be laid in the fundamental concepts of harmony before going beyond these into the elaborations of harmony such as abound in modern compositions. This can be effected by an appeal to that elemental sense of harmony with which we are all endowed, and which manifests itself, for instance, whenever a person without special musical training, but with a good natural ear, supplies a "second" to a familiar melody. It is because of his convictions that this primitive harmonic sense should be fully developed in early part singing that the Editor has selected so many simple songs for arrangement in this collection, songs which, through their simplicity, lend themselves to an elemental harmonic treatment, and in the harmonizing he has followed not only the lines of

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simplicity found in the songs themselves, but also the most fundamental laws of harmonic expression.

The alto-tenor or tenor part is printed throughout on the bass staff, in this way providing an easy and logical plan of teaching the students to read from that staff.

The School Song Book is issued in two forms, the Students' Edition and the Complete Edition. The Students' Edition gives only the voice parts. The Complete Edition contains the full score for voice and piano, also a glossary of musical terms, the stories of many of the songs, and biographical data concerning the principal composers represented.

The School Song Book is an outgrowth of the work done by the editor as music director in the public schools, and he believes that his work owes much of its effectiveness to the plan of instruction outlined in these pages.

THE EDITOR.

Oct. 9, 1909.

Norz. The songs in this book are numbered to correspond with the Complete Edition.

THE SCHOOL SONG BOOK.



CHORALE.

