

**MUSICAL
COMPOSITION: A SHORT
TREATISE FOR STUDENTS**

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Musical Composition: A Short Treatise for Students by Charles Villiers Stanford

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CHARLES VILLIERS STANFORD

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The Musician's Library

MUSICAL COMPOSITION



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A SHORT TREATISE FOR
STUDENTS

BY
CHARLES VILLIERS STANFORD
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IN GRATEFUL MEMORY
OF
THE MASTERS WHO TAUGHT ME

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PREFATORY NOTE

THIS little treatise does not pretend to do more than touch the fringe of a great subject. It only attempts to give such advice as a master might find useful in teaching (or rather in controlling) a student of composition; and it is, to some extent, a résumé of the experience of twenty-five years in watching and criticising the efforts of many young men, some of whom have risen, and some of whom are rising, to eminence in their craft. The author has not (as is usually the case) to express his obligation to any authorities for help or assistance in its making, for he unfortunately knows of no modern treatise which would have suited his purpose. Composers are usually reticent as to their methods and experiences, probably because they are too much immersed in creative work to analyse the means which enabled them to write it. To do so with thoroughness would fill volumes, probably so thick that no one would wade through their contents, and if they are good composers they are better employed in inventing good music. But he has to put on record a very deep sense of gratitude to a numerous and many-sided body of pupils who, in learning from him, have taught him how to teach, and by their unvarying loyalty and keen endeavour have