

THEIR TEN FAVORITE AMERICAN SONGS

Lists of Compositions by Resident Composers Which Noted Concert Artists Prefer to Sing

Songs Which Received Four or More Votes:

<i>Bird of the Wilderness</i> (Horsman).....	7
<i>Danny Deever</i> (Damrosch).....	6
<i>Long Ago</i> (MacDowell).....	4
<i>Invictus</i> (Huhn).....	4
<i>Will-o'-the-Wisp</i> (Spross).....	4

In the series of song recitals given by him at the New York University during the past summer the distinguished baritone Reinald Werrenrath devoted his final program to American numbers, prefacing the recital with a brief talk, in which he spoke of his particular offerings as his favorites. Comment on Mr. Werrenrath's choice in the review of this recital published in *MUSICAL AMERICA* led the singer to write an article, which appeared in this journal, in which he explained that he was endeavoring to present a program of songs that would "represent the best output of the best American composers."

Through a misunderstanding, however, the artist's selections were widely regarded as his idea of ten intrinsically best American song products. Nevertheless, Mr. Werrenrath had made it clear that his choice was not to be viewed in that light, but rather as conditioned by the suitability of the songs to his voice and their appeal to his particular artistic personality.

The matter suggested the interesting experiment of investigating the preferences in the matter of American songs of certain leading concert artists in this country, of discovering which songs they best liked to sing. The results of this canvass are given herewith. From them may be deduced various interesting conclusions.

However much those who have ranged widely over the field of American song composition may be inclined to deplore the absence of certain works that touch greatness, they cannot fail to be impressed by the frequent mention of some other songs. The great French baritone, Maurice Renaud, once remarked that "musicians do not love master-works." The reader may decide for himself to what extent this hypothesis is here justified.

Following is the soprano verdict:

Anna Case

"To designate the ten best American songs would almost be impossible, as we have so many interesting songs by good composers," said Anna Case. "The following I have sung with great pleasure and success in my concerts:

<i>The Sacred Fire</i>	Alexander Russell
<i>Ah! Love But a Day</i>	Mrs. Beach
<i>Hindu Slumber Song</i>	Harriet Ware
<i>That's the World in June</i>	Charles Gilbert Spross
<i>My Lovely Nancy</i>	Max Herzberg
<i>The First Spring</i>	Kurt Schindler
<i>Slumber Song</i>	MacDowell
<i>Star Trysts</i>	Marion Bauer
<i>The Bird of the Wilderness</i>	Edward Horsman
<i>The Wind That Shakes the Barley</i>	Arthur Claassen

Florence Hinkle

"Here are ten songs which I sing constantly, and love to do, although I cannot get all my favorite American songs within the allowance," said Florence Hinkle:

<i>Sunset</i>	Alexander Russell
<i>Her Love Song</i>	Mary Turner Salter
<i>A Birthday</i>	Woodman
<i>Summertime</i>	Ward-Stephens
<i>Sing to Me, Sing</i>	Homer
<i>A Ruined Garden</i>	Arthur Farwell
<i>Yesterday and To-day</i>	Spross
<i>Ah! Love But a Day</i>	Beach
<i>Allah</i>	Kramer
<i>Bird of the Wilderness</i>	Edward Horsman

Olive Kline

Olive Kline, the soprano, selects these as her ten favorites:

<i>Long Ago</i>	Sidney Homer
<i>Bird of the Wilderness</i>	Edward Horsman
<i>Summertime</i>	Ward-Stephens
<i>Down in the Forest</i>	Landon Ronald
<i>Virgins Cradle Hymn</i>	F. Morris Class
<i>Romance</i>	Will Macfarlane
<i>Remembrance</i>	Will Macfarlane
<i>Condescend</i>	Will Macfarlane
<i>Will-o'-the-Wisp</i>	Charles Gilbert Spross
<i>To a Messenger</i>	Frank La Forge

Horsman, Damrosch, MacDowell, Huhn and Spross Lead, According to This Investigation

Alma Gluck

"The following are among my favorite American songs," declares Alma Gluck:

<i>The Land of the Sky Blue Water</i>	Cadman
<i>Allah</i>	Chadwick
<i>Mammy's Lullaby</i>	Homer
<i>The Lark Now Leaves His Wat'ry Nest</i>	Parker
<i>Long Ago</i>	MacDowell
<i>The Bird of the Wilderness</i>	Edward Horsman
<i>Will-o'-the-Wisp</i>	Spross
<i>Green River</i>	Carpenter
<i>My Laddie</i>	Thayer
<i>Carry Me Back to Old Virginny</i>	Bland

Alice Nielsen

"Here is my list of songs American," wrote Alice Nielsen:

<i>Mighty Lak' a Rose</i>	Nevin
<i>Ecstasy</i>	Rummel
<i>The Sweetest Flower That Blows</i>	Rogers
<i>The Land of the Sky Blue Water</i>	Cadman
<i>Expectancy</i>	La Forge
<i>The Swan</i>	MacDowell
<i>Spirit Flower</i>	Campbell-Tipton
<i>Will-o'-the-Wisp</i>	Spross
<i>Her Rose</i>	Coombs
<i>To My Love</i>	Matthews

Corinne Rider-Kelsey

"The wording of your request for the ten songs by American composers which I 'prefer to sing' ought to make it very easy for one to comply, but the caption 'Symposium' sounds very argumentative and would seem to indicate a discussion of relative values rather than more personal preference in the performance of the songs," offers Mme. Corinne Rider-Kelsey. "Permit me to say that the following list is the answer to your question, and in no way implies that there are not many other American songs of equal or even greater merit":

<i>Long Ago</i>	MacDowell
<i>Bluebell</i>	MacDowell
<i>Retreat</i>	La Forge
<i>Am See</i>	La Forge
<i>Im der Nacht</i>	Van der Stucken
<i>The Year's at the Spring</i>	Beach
<i>I'm Wearing Awa', Jean</i>	Foot
<i>The Lark Now Leaves His Wat'ry Nest</i>	Parker
<i>June</i>	Downing
<i>The Joy of Spring</i>	Woodman

Mezzo-Soprano and Contralto Preferences

Mme. Schumann-Heink

"Allow me to say that I think the following are the best American songs," announces Mme. Ernestine Schumann-Heink:

<i>When I Am Dead</i>	Chadwick
<i>Allah</i>	Chadwick
<i>The Rosary</i>	Ethelbert Nevin
<i>Before the Crucifix</i>	Frank La Forge
<i>Cry of Rachel</i>	Mary Turner Salter
<i>Love But a Day</i>	Mrs. Beach
<i>Do You Remember?</i>	Carrie Jacobs Bond
<i>War</i>	J. H. Rogers
<i>Mavourneen</i>	M. R. Lang
<i>Dawn in the Desert</i>	Gertrude Ross

Christine Miller

"I send you a list of the ten American songs I prefer to sing," writes Christine Miller. "This, as you know, is a very difficult list to select, as I feel there are considerably more than ten such songs that I have great pleasure in singing and which I feel are worthy of serious consideration. However, I have selected the following:

<i>The Day Is No More</i>	John A. Carpenter
<i>How's My Boy</i>	Sidney Homer
<i>A Nocturne</i>	A. Walter Kramer
<i>A Birthday</i>	Arthur Whiting
<i>The Danza</i>	George A. Chadwick
<i>Song of the Persian Slave</i>	Mabel W. Daniels
<i>The Bird of the Wilderness</i>	Edward Horsman
<i>Only of Thee and Me</i>	Marion Bauer
<i>The Moon Drops Low</i>	Charles W. Cadman
<i>The Nightingale's Song</i>	Ethelbert Nevin

Eleanora de Cisneros

"The question 'Which are the best American Songs' is difficult to answer," according to Eleanora de Cisneros. "To my mind, the American songs have improved 50 per cent in the last five years. There are now such a number of beautiful compositions that it is difficult to make a limited selection. Particularly is the superiority noticed in the exquisite poems and



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