



# Diary of My Songs: Journal De Mes Melodies

*Francis Poulenc*

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## **Diary of My Songs: Journal De Mes Melodies** Francis Poulenc

A unique record of Poulenc (1899-1963) who is considered the greatest composer of melodies of his period, a period that opened with the aftermath of the First World War and closed as recently as 1960. He set to music poetry by all the greatest French twentieth century poets as well as others from earlier times. He wrote this diary of songs as an answer to what he felt were the frequent misinterpretations of his work. It describes the origins of each song, comments on performances he heard and offers guidelines for interpretation. The diary is filled out with explanatory notes, a collection of unfamiliar photographs and the English translation to the text written opposite the French original. It will appeal to singers who include French song in his or her repertoire and also to those who have an interest in music of this period. The translator, Winifred Radford is also the singer who gave the first performance in England of Poulenc's song cycle "Fiancailles pour rire" in 1945. She was coached by Poulenc and Pierre Bernac with whom she later wrote "The Interpretation of French Song " and "Francis Poulenc, The Man and his Songs".

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