# Le plus doux chemin

# French Gabriel Faure

#### **Respiration and Support**

This exercise will activate the lower abdominal muscles and encourage energetic air flow. On one pitch, sing:

- 1. [ha] breath [he] breath [hi] breath [ho] breath [hu]
- 2. [ha he] breath [hi ho] breath [hu]
- 3. [ha he hi ho hu] on one breath with pulsing abdominal muscles.

Follow the breathing pattern in measures 1 and 2, and then pulse the abdominal muscles for measure 3.



Transfer this skill to some of the phrases of the song, adding breaths (or pants) between words and phrases to build energy. Remove these breaths later, but continue with the same buoyancy.

#### Resonance

Use  $[\theta ai]$  to help the vocal folds vibrate easily and the tongue to gain flexibility for better resonance. Sing  $[\theta ai]$  on single pitches, on short scales, and finally on the melody. The exercise below will assist in gaining flexibility and consistent resonance.



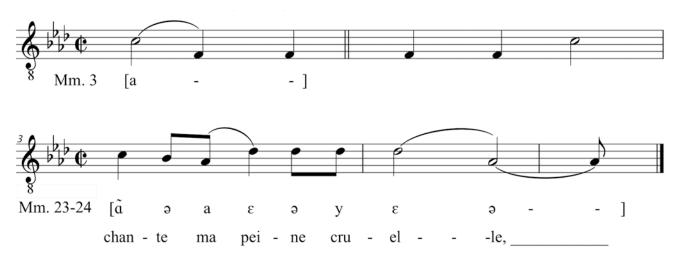
#### **Phonation**

Some notes of long duration in this song are sung on nasal vowels. To make sure that vibrato exists in the nasalized vowel, practice speaking the sustained nasal vowel while imitating a ghost.



## Registration

Extract measure 3, invert the interval, and sing on one vowel with a *portamento* (slide). Next, sing as written. Extract measures 23-24, and sing as a vocalise on vowels with *portamenti*. Finally, sing as written.



#### **Diction/Articulation**

This exercise, which uses a combination of vowels and consonants, was developed by early Italian teachers to unify articulation.



# Phonetic Transcription and Translation of the Text

# À mes pas le plus doux chemin

[a me pa lə ply du  $\int \mathfrak{d}m\tilde{\epsilon}$ ] For my steps, it is the most sweet path

# Mène à la porte de ma belle,

[me na la porte de ma bele] that leads to the door of my beautiful one,

#### -Et, bien qu'elle me soit rebelle,

[e bjɛ̃ kɛllə mə swa rəbɛllə] and, although she is rebellious (resists) to me

# J'y veux encore passer demain.

[3i vø zãkor passe dəmɛ̃] I want to pass by there again tomorrow.

#### Il est tout fleuri de jasmin

[i le tu fløri də ʒasmɛ̃]

The path is completely covered in jasmine

# Au temps de la saison nouvelle,

[o tã də la sɛzõ nuvɛllə] in the time of the new season (spring).

# Et, bien qu'elle me soit cruelle

[e bjɛ̃ kɛllə mə swa kryɛllə]

And, although she may be cruel to me

#### J'y passe, des fleurs à la main.

[3i passə de flør. 2a la  $m\tilde{e}$ ] I'll go there, with flowers in my hand.

# Le plus doux chemin

