

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.

1. [ha he hi ho hu] 2. [ha he hi ho hu] 3. [ha he hi ho hu]

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

[θai - - - θai - - - θai - - - θai] [θai - - - θai - - - θai - - - θai]

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.

[õ - -] [ã - -] [ẽ - -] [œ̃ - -]

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.

Mm. 3 [a - -]

Mm. 23-24 [ã ə a ε ə y ε ə - -]
chan - te ma pei - ne cru - el - - -le, _____

Diction/Articulation

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

La Be Da Me Ni Po Tu La Be La Be Da Me Ni Po Tu La Be
Do Re Mi Fa Sol Fa Mi Re Do Do Re Mi Fa Sol Fa Mi Re Do

Phonetic Transcription and Translation of the Text

À mes pas le plus doux chemin

[ɑ mɛ pa lə ply du ʃɑmɛ̃]

For my steps, it is the most sweet path

Mène à la porte de ma belle,

[mɛ na la pɔrtə də ma bɛlə]

that leads to the door of my beautiful one,

-Et, bien qu'elle me soit rebelle,

[e bjɛ̃ kɛllə mə swa rɛbellə]

and, although she is rebellious (resists) to me

J'y veux encore passer demain.

[ʒi vø zɑkɔr passe dɑmɛ̃]

I want to pass by there again tomorrow.

Il est tout fleuri de jasmin

[i lɛ tu fløri də ʒasmɛ̃]

The path is completely covered in jasmine

Au temps de la saison nouvelle,

[o tɑ də la sezɔ̃ nuvɛllə]

in the time of the new season (spring).

Et, bien qu'elle me soit cruelle

[e bjɛ̃ kɛllə mə swa kɾyɛllə]

And, although she may be cruel to me

J'y passe, des fleurs à la main.

[ʒi passə də fløʁ. za la mɛ̃]

I'll go there, with flowers in my hand.

Le plus doux chemin

Op. 87 N.1

Armand Silvestre

à Madame Edouard Risler

Gabriel Fauré
(1845-1924)

Moderato ♩=58 2 *p*
3

A mes pas

4 5 6

le plus doux che-min Mè - ne à la por-te de ma bel - le, Et,

7 8 9

bien qu'el-le me soit re - bel - le, J'y veux en-cor pas-ser de-