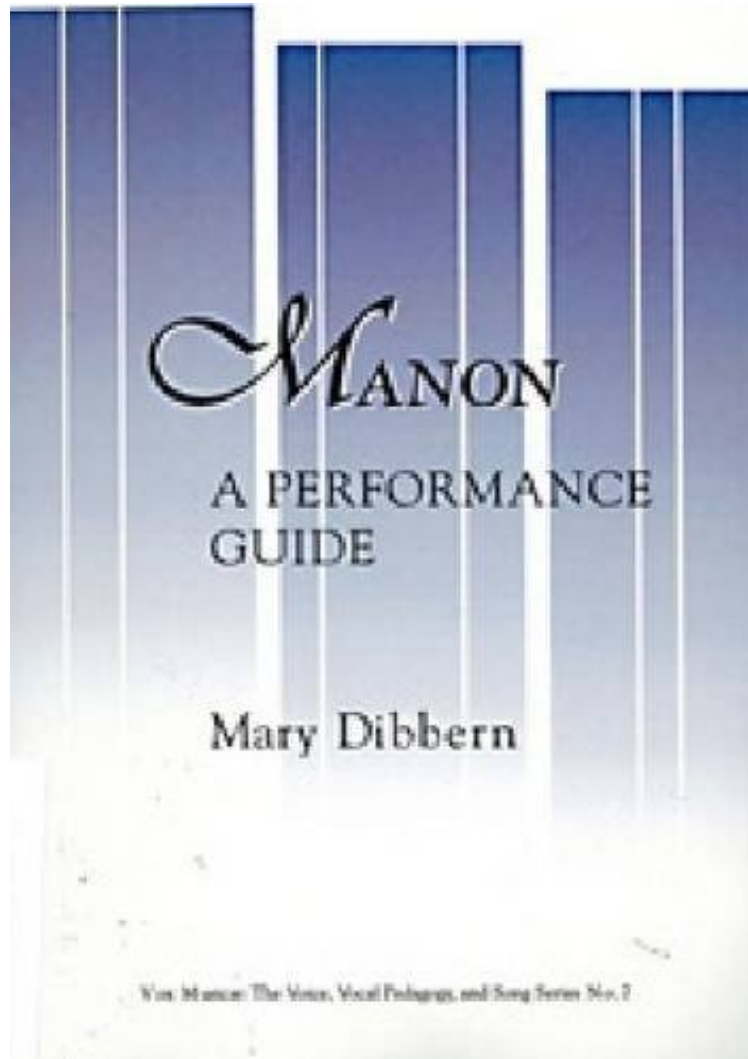


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## **Manon: A Performance Guide (Vox Musicae the Voice, Vocal Pedagogy, and Song; No 7)**

*Mary Dibbern*

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**Mary Dibbern : Manon: A Performance Guide (Vox Musicae the Voice, Vocal Pedagogy, and Song; No 7)**  
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Manon: A Performance Guide (Vox Musicae the Voice, Vocal Pedagogy, and Song; No 7):

Mary Dibbern, Music Director of Education and Family Programs at The Dallas Opera, and adjunct faculty member at

the University of North Texas has created a Performance Guide for Massenet's opera "Manon." This contribution to the Vox Musicae series presents a word-by-word translation and IPA transcription of the dialogue and recitative versions of the French libretto, and her translations of its literary sources trace the opera libretto's development from Abb Prvost's short novel, "L'Histoire du Chevalier Des Grieux et de Manon Lescaut." Nathalie Paulin, internationally recognized interpreter of the title role, presents her insights into interpretation of this opera's controversial heroine. This well-rounded volume is designed for use by singers, vocal coaches, conductors, producers and directors, as well as opera-lovers.

Manon: A Performance Guide  
Mary Dibbern  
Pendragon Press  
PO Box 190, Hillsdale, NY 12529  
9781576471661, \$36.00, "Manon: A Performance Guide" (from the Series Vox Musicae: The Voice, Vocal Pedagogy, and Song No. 7) is described as a "word-by-word translation into English, transcription into the International Phonetic Alphabet, and annotated guide to the Dialogue and Recitative versions of Massenet's Manon". In addition, "Manon: A Performance Guide" contains a list of plates (10 black and white illustrations/photos), a consecutive list of Arias and Duets listed by act number, a list of Melodrames (again consecutive by Act), a Foreword with an interview of Nathalie Paulin, a Canadian soprano who performed the role of Manon for Opera de Quebec and other opera companies, a pithy introduction to Massenet, an 'innovative collaborator,' a chapter listing features of the book and suggestions for its use, and a French Diction Concepts chapter. "Manon, A Performance Guide" is heavily footnoted and also features a Chronology and a Select Bibliography. As part of its complex history and evolution as a performance masterpiece of French opera, the translated libretto of "Manon" is presented complete with 24 pages of inserts presented consecutively, by Act and Scene. "Manon, A Performance Guide" is meant to be used as a helpful guide to both pronunciation and translation of the libretto in putting together a production of the opera. As such, it is an invaluable resource to singers, conductors, coaches, stage directors, and opera producers, as well as opera students and teachers. No. 7 in the Vox Musicae Series on The Voice, Vocal Pedagogy, and Song Series, "Manon, A Performance Guide" reflects a master's care with details of vocal production, pronunciation, history of the French opera art form, and more. --The Midwest Book About the Author  
American pianist Mary Dibbern holds the position as Head of Music at the Minnesota Opera. She is an internationally known specialist in the field of vocal music, including opera coaching, recitals, recordings, master classes, Young Artists Programs, television and radio appearances in Europe, the United States and Asia. Dibbern is Phi Beta Kappa graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Piano Performance from the University of North Dakota and a summa cum laude graduate of Southern Methodist University with a Master of Music in accompaniment under the direction of Maestro Paul Vellucci. As a thirty year resident of France, she worked for all of the major French opera companies including the Opra National de Paris, Nice, Bordeaux, Lyons, Toulouse, Chtelet, the Opra-Comique, the Festival de Radio France-Montpellier as well as operacompanies in Switzerland, Portugal, Lithuania, Latvia, Canada and China. In the US she has also worked for the operas of Seattle, Fort Worth, Cincinnati, Kentucky, Memphis, and Hawai'i. She has accompanied vocal recitals in the USA, Europe and Japan. Her recordings include Mlodies de Jacques Leguerney (Claves), to honor the composer s 90th birthday and which won the Grand Prix du Disque; Offenbach au Menu (Maguelone) and Mlodies de Jacques Leguerney, (Harmonia Mundi France) and Under Her Spell: The Viardot Effect. She was editorial consultant for eight vols of Leguerney's mlodies Editions Max Eschig as well as for a series of works of Leguerney published by Musik Fabrik.