

May and June

105

Christina Rossetti



Birds sing in tune To flow'rs of May,
Bright sun - ny June Brings long - est day.

THE ELEANOR SMITH MUSIC PRIMER

BY
ELEANOR SMITH



AMERICAN BOOK COMPANY
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PRIMER

PREFACE

THE Eleanor Smith Music Primer presents a collection of songs to be used during the first year in which it is advisable that a book be placed in the hands of the children.

The songs comprising the book will be found varied in origin and character, childlike in spirit and very simple in structure. The tastes of all, rather than the tastes of a few children, have been considered, and songs expressive of the natural activities and interests of childhood will be found on every page.

Music of lasting quality has been chosen — songs which, when remembered in later years, may be treasured as the foundation of mature good taste. Chief among these are the beautiful folk songs with which the book abounds. These come from many nations and are, for the most part, original children's songs. That German folk songs are in the majority will appear natural when we remember that the most domestic nation is also the most musical.

Many French and English melodies have been included, as well as others from Scandinavian and Slavic countries. Among the songs in artistic form are contributions from well-known composers, — Americans and Europeans being equally well represented.

The contents of the Primer has been divided into three parts: Part I is composed of songs to be learned by note. These songs, which are for the most part accompanied, will be valuable for artistic reasons. Through their agency, children will be taught to sing, their interest in music will be stimulated and their appreciation of good music will be assured. Part II consists of a group of melodies, most of them exceedingly simple. The structure of these songs is so obvious that the melodic forms composing them can be effectively observed and studied. Part III comprises a considerable number of the simplest tunes, many of them of obvious structure, which it is intended shall be used for practice in sight reading and in writing music.

The typographical arrangement of the Primer will commend itself to children and teachers alike. Reading and observation are rendered easy, and confusion is avoided in the case of the accompanied songs, by printing the melody in large, clear type, while the accompaniment is printed in smaller type. Throughout Part II and Part III each line represents a complete phrase of the song, thereby making the child's observation and study more easy and definite.

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