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Wicked - Piano/Vocal Arrangement



Synopsis

(Vocal Selections). Nominated for a whopping 10 Tony Awards in 2005, *Wicked* is an undeniable Broadway smash! A prequel to the all-American classic *The Wizard of Oz*, this new musical is a character study of Elphaba and Glinda, school roommates who grow up to become the Wicked Witch and the Good Witch, respectively. We are very proud to offer several songbooks featuring this delightful music, including a Vocal Selections book which contains the vocal line with piano accompaniment (00313268), and a Piano/Vocal Selections book, in standard piano/vocal format with the melody in the piano part (00313267). Songbooks feature a special section of color photos from the production, a note from composer/lyricist Stephen Schwartz, and these fantastic tunes: As Long as You're Mine * Dancing Through Life * Defying Gravity * For Good * I Couldn't Be Happier * I'm Not That Girl * No Good Deed * No One Mourns the Wicked * One Short Day * Popular * What Is This Feeling? * The Wizard and I * Wonderful.

Book Information

Paperback: 120 pages

Publisher: Hal Leonard (June 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 063407881X

ISBN-13: 978-0634078811

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.3 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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Customer Reviews

After waiting for so long to finally get this book, I've discovered it to be well worth the wait. Stephen Schwartz is releasing two versions of vocal selections for *Wicked*, this version containing the melody interpolated into the piano part, and another book that is billed as a professional accompaniment without the melody necessarily built into the piano arrangement. This led many to speculate that the "with melody" version would therefore be much easier and less true to the music. Although I haven't seen the other book yet as it has yet to be released as I write this, you should definitely know that

this book has not one "easy" arrangement. The arrangers have done a really excellent job of keeping the parts interesting while building in the melody. For instance, "Defying Gravity," the amazing Act-One closing number, is particularly well done, and if you can work through the key-- (it remains, as in the show, in Db) you will be VERY satisfied with the richness and fullness of the sound. Schwartz has adapted the songs for use as solos or (where applicable) duets, removing longer instrumental breaks, trimming ensemble sections, and providing some new lyrics and endings to make the songs work really well for this new format. This in my opinion is yet another reason to purchase the book, as it gives fans of the show a way to interpret small sections of some of the songs differently. Sometimes I do wish some cuts could have been avoided (notably I miss the wonderful "We deserve each other" theme that appears on the cast album intersecting "Dancing through Life" and the counterpoint melody "Who's that mage..." in "One Short Day"), but Schwartz is right, it would have impeded the creation of solo pieces to put those in. The score for *Wicked* is definitely not to be missed, it really is a must have-- (especially while I wait patiently for the imminent release of the other version of the score!) Overall, the music is wonderful, the arrangements remain challenging, but are extremely well edited and contain chord diagrams to help you along as well. Well done.

I bought this book because a friend gave me the *Wicked* CD and I fell in love with the show. This book is a selection of the most popular songs from the show, in a format where a singer could perform them with only piano accompaniment. Most of the songs are pretty close to the versions that you hear on the CD, but some have been altered to make them easier to perform as solos or audition pieces. Most of the speaking and chorus parts (like in "Popular" and "One Short Day") have been removed and some of the songs have new endings. In "Dancing Through Life", the second half of the song has been cut so the entire song can be sung by only one person. Also, the part in "The Wizard and I" where Elphaba has a vision also appears in "Defying Gravity". Lastly, "For Good" is written so it can be sung as a duet or a solo. This book is good for anyone looking to sing these songs as a solo, duet or for an audition. The piano part is a simplified version of the orchestral score with the melody line usually occurring in the right hand and it is easy enough for almost any accompanist to play. However, if you are looking for an exact translation of the songs from the show, you will be disappointed. Otherwise, this is a good buy for any *Wicked* fan who wants to perform their favorite songs from this fantastic show!

The piano arrangements in this book are very faithful to the orchestrations. If you're like me, you

ordered this book because you are familiar with the recording; you will not be disappointed with the accompaniments. A couple of the songs have been edited down, presumably to avoid the selections becoming too long. Very good buy.

I bought this for my girls, because they are currently obsessed with *Wicked*. My oldest is taking piano lessons and is going to sing one of the songs for a talent show. She says this is the best book in our collection.

I am very pleased with this product. As a beginner, I am playing the vocal piece and will move into the piano piece once my skills improve. Although I'm not a singer, I enjoy having the lyrics to all the songs. The wonderful photos (most in color) are also a plus. Many of them are the same as those included in the *Wicked* CD booklet, but here they are full-sized and look fantastic. This is a great product for anyone who's a fan of the show or who simply enjoys playing or singing show tunes.

Having purchased the songbook primarily so I could learn to play "*Wicked*'s magnificent opening number on the piano, I was disappointed to discover that this song, and others, had been abridged. To quote the Note from the Composer on page 9: "Several decisions always have to be made in translating the score from a show into a book of vocal selections. ... In the end, I chose to try to make the songs work for this medium, and thus to make changes in certain cases from the way they appear in the stage show and on the cast album. This entailed ... eliminating interior chorus sections, intros, or other show-oriented material from several of the selections." Once I accepted my purchase for what it is, I've been able to enjoy the shortened version of the music; it's been fairly easy to learn, and maintains much of the pleasing sound I've come to love from the show's recordings. Even so, I would have much preferred the songs without the cuts.

I. Love. This. Book. Luckily, my mom is a fantastic pianist and will play these songs for me so that I can sing them. She finds some of them a little difficult to play, especially with multiple key changes, but they are beautiful arrangements. (As I am not a pianist, I can't speak to the actual difficulty of the music on a personal level.) As a singer, I love the way they are arranged, even the duet songs (*For Good*, *As Long As You're Mine*) as I can sing them by myself if I want. All of the songs that I enjoy singing are included, although I'm not sure it includes every song that is featured in the musical. Wonderful purchase!

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