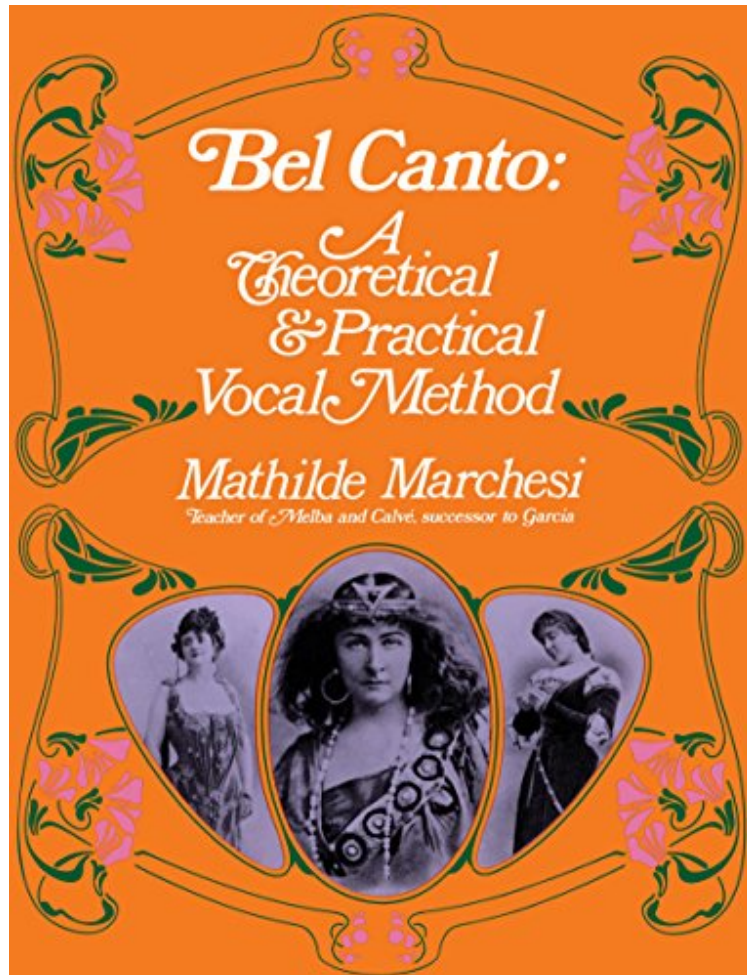


## Bel Canto: A Theoretical and Practical Vocal Method (Dover Books on Music)

*Mathilde Marchesi*

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**Mathilde Marchesi : Bel Canto: A Theoretical and Practical Vocal Method (Dover Books on Music)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bel Canto: A Theoretical and Practical Vocal Method (Dover Books on Music):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Kindle version is basically unusable By N Tredoux Having purchased the Kindle edition to read on my large format tablet, I found that the kindle formatting was so poor that the musical notes were unreadable. Therefore I have returned this book, apart from the merits that the text may have. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This is a remarkable book. It sheds light on ... By R. Conrad Immel Jr. This is a remarkable book. It sheds light on the thinking of a leading vocal teacher in the prime of the last Golden Age of Singing. The chapter on "coup de glotte" was particularly informative. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good selection of pieces By Esther T Bought this book for my daughter, who is taking voice lessons. It arrived very

promptly and she is using it a lot.

Mathilde Marchesi (1821–1913) was probably the most renowned singing teacher of the late nineteenth century. Herself the pupil of the great Manuel Garcia the Second and the associate of the unsurpassable divas of the middle nineteenth century, she also linked the traditional bel canto teaching method to the beginning of the twentieth century. Early in her career her work was praised enthusiastically by Rossini, who was for a time officially in charge of voice training in France; and toward the end of her career she prepared such superstars as Melba, Calveacute;, Eames, Aida, and others. This volume embodies Madame Marchesi's "vocal alphabet," or basic instructions and exercises that formed the voices of her great pupils. An introductory text discusses breathing, attack, registers, and similar matters, while the remainder of the book contains many exercises that teach voice management and projections. Marchesi's book is today even more important than when it first appeared, for it offers the basis for a construction of the bel canto training system. At the time the book appeared, the bel canto system had gone out of fashion in favor of more modern schools that seemed to offer more rapid maturation, voice volume, and dramatics. Today, a more realistic reevaluation has revealed that the bel canto system gave the singer much longer performing life, a more pleasing voice, and far greater musical ability. As Philip Miller states in his introduction, "a solidity, a sure technical mastery, an even scale with no register break . . . strong, even and secure trills, their coloratura masterly." In addition, the resurgence of interest in early-nineteenth-century opera renders a work like Marchesi's indispensable to the modern singer.