

PREFACE

TO

MUSSON'S CYCLOPÆDIA OF MUSIC AND MUSICIANS

THIS book is intended to be a record of fact and not of opinion. It is a reference book to which one may turn for adequate information on any matter connected with music or musicians. It is comprehensive, containing a wider variety and, it is believed, a greater number of topics than any other musical reference work. It includes, for example, definitions of musical terms simply expressed; biographies of all musicians worthy of remembrance; explanations of the theory of music, without technicalities; the stories of all the important operas, beside all the matters usually included in musical encyclopædias. Because of the fact that English-speaking people hear opera in every tongue but their own, the author has made a point of narrating as fully as possible stories of all operas which are generally sung or which are likely to become popular. In this respect the work has unusual value for the layman. Since special stress is laid on achievement, complete lists of the works of the great composers are given. Even in the notes about obscure musicians the titles of some works are included. A list of books for further reading is given at the end of every important article.

American and English musicians, so often neglected in works of this kind, are given their due proportion of space. Respect for the old masters of established reputation has not interfered with just treatment of the younger generation of French and Italians. For the first time in an English reference work special