



Selected Translations of Classic and Modern Chinese and English Lyrics (Paperback)

By Charles Yung Huang

Ehgbooks, United States, 2016. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: Chinese . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. This anthology, sorted into three parts, collects some seventy English translations of Chinese poems and song lyrics as well as a dozen of English classics into Chinese. These translations are the cumulative, on-and-off efforts of this translator in the past decades, especially after his retirement, by treating such translation as a pastime. In the 1980 s, I briefly joined a Chinese chorus. I noticed that the programs for the chorus public performances always included English translations of the Chinese lyrics, presumably to help non-Chinese-speaking audiences understand what was being sung. An idea dawned on me: why not make these songs singable in English? This is how Part I of this anthology came into being. To convert Chinese songs into singable English versions, one confronts a spectrum of limitations. First of all, the meaning of each line has to be expressed within the number of syllables allowed as dictated by the number of musical notes for that line. Then rhymes are to be appropriately assigned and awkward spots smoothed out. When feasible, I may even render classic Chinese poems into traditional metered English verse....

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