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PITTSBURGH **OPERA** EDUCATION

2009-2010 Opera Season Recommended Listening and Reading List

A collaboration of Pittsburgh Opera and the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Music Department, with special thanks to Rebekah Hill.

Please note that there are other books, videos, DVDs, and CDs beyond this list available at the Carnegie Library and for purchase at your favorite store. Call numbers indicate holdings of the Music Department, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, unless otherwise indicated.

(For more information about borrowing materials, call Music, Film, and Audio, 412-622-3105, or visit the website at www.carnegielibrary.org/music)

The Music Department at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh offers an extensive collection of materials pertaining to opera, from composer biographies, studies of operas, and histories of opera, to opera libretti, opera scores, and performances on CD, VHS, and DVD. The items listed below constitute a small selection to whet your appetite as you look forward to the live performance. Enjoy!

Eugene Onegin by Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky, 1840-1893

Audio / DVD / Video

Are these items checked out? Not to worry, the Main Library-Oakland owns 3 additional visual presentations (DVD/VHS formats) of the opera!

- CD Eugene Onegin, Deutsche Grammophon, 1988.
Freni, von Otter, Shicoff, Allen, Burchuladze; Levine, Rundfunkchor Leipzig;
Staatskapelle Dresden.
Op Tch #1946 (3 copies)

- CD Eugene Onegin, Philips, 1993.
Focile, Borodina, Shicoff, Hvorostovsky; Bychkov, St. Petersburg Chamber Choir;
Orchestre de Paris.
Op Tch #5806

Eugene Onegin by Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky, 1840-1893

DVD *Eugene Onegin*, Kultur, 2005 (1989).
Novikova, Dyadkova, Marusin, Leyferkus, Okhotnikov; Temirkanov, Kirov Opera.
M1500.C435 E9 2005bx

DVD *Eugene Onegin*, Decca, 2007. (The Metropolitan Opera HD live)
Fleming, Zaremba, Vargas, Hvorostovsky, Aleksashkin; Gergiev, Metropolitan Opera.
M1500.C435 E9 2007x

****Special note about searching:**

In order to achieve the best results, you may wish to use a title search in the original language: *Evgeniï Onegin*. You'll be sure not to miss any of our holdings!

Libretto:

Eugene Onegin; Libretto by Peter I. Tchaikovsky and K.V. Shilovsky, after Aleksandr Pushkin's novel; English translation by David Lloyd-Jones. London: J. Calder; New York: Riverrun Press, 1988.

Includes several essays, a guide to musical themes in the opera and a side-by-side Russian (transliterated) and English translation.

ML50.C435 E82 1988

For further reading:

Tchaikovsky: The man and his music by David Brown. New York: Pegasus Books, 2007.

Brown revisits the life of the Russian composer; his previous 4-volume biography is quite extensive. Tchaikovsky as man and artist comes through in the engaging writing. His descriptions of *Eugene Onegin* in one of the chapters are quite intimate in regard to the emotional content of the opera. An important addition to this work is the chapter about Tchaikovsky's relationships with his wife, Antonina Milyukova, and his long-time female friend, Nadezhda von Meck, the latter relationship carried out mostly via letters. *Eugene Onegin* seems to be heavily influenced by the composer's brief marriage (only 2 ½ months) to Antonina. Brown entitles this chapter, "Two Women: Marriage."

ML410.C4 B745 2007x

Tchaikovsky: A biography by Anthony Holden. New York: Random House, 1995.

Holden's biography has been labeled by many critics as the first definitive work about Tchaikovsky's life. Holden does not shy away from discussing the composer's homosexuality and how his clandestine relationships influenced his personal life, public work, and musical output. The author also discusses the cloudy facts about Tchaikovsky's death from cholera, the result of drinking a glass of unboiled water. A dramatic portrait.

ML410.C4 H63 1995

Eugene Onegin by Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky, 1840-1893

Tchaikovsky: His life & music by Jeremy Siepmann. Naperville, IL: Sourcebooks MediaFusion, 2008.

Siepmann's work is very straight-forward in his discussion of life events and compositional works. Most interesting about this book are the multimedia features. Two compact discs are included with the book, and the "interlude" chapters of this biography allow the reader to dive more deeply into specific works through reading and listening. The reader also has access to an exclusive website through Naxos Records that has more music to listen to and other bonus material.

ML410.C4 S52 2008

Tchaikovsky by Roland John Wiley. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Tchaikovsky scholar Wiley provides the most recent biography of the composer. Using various documents from imperial Russia, Soviet and post-Soviet sources, he has created a compelling portrait. His chapter about Tchaikovsky's ill-fated marriage paints a picture of Milyukova as a persistent woman, almost stalker-like. This chapter is immediately followed by one discussing the music created the same year of his marriage, which of course, includes *Eugene Onegin*.

ML410.C4 W52 2009

Falstaff by Giuseppe Verdi, 1813-1901

Audio / DVD / Video

Are these items checked out? Not to worry, the Main Library-Oakland owns 5 other CD versions and 3 additional visual presentations (DVD/VHS formats) of the opera!

- CD Falstaff, Decca, 1989 (1964).
Ligabue, Freni, Simionato, Kraus, Evans, Merrill, Foiani; Solti, RCA Italiana Opera Orchestra & Chorus.
MUSIC CD CLASSICAL (available at CLP-Downtown and Business)
- CD Falstaff, Deutsche Grammophon, 1983.
Ricciarelli, Hendricks, Terrani, Gonzalez, Nucci, Bruson; Giulini, Los Angeles Master Chorale; Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra.
Op Ver #5715
- CD Falstaff, Philips, 1985 (1980).
Kabaivanska, Perry, Ludwig, Schmidt, Araiza, Taddei, Panerai; von Karajan, Wiener Staatsoperchor; Wiener Philharmoniker.
Op Ver #569 (2 copies)
- DVD Falstaff, Deutsche Grammophon, 2005 (1979).
Armstrong, Ihloff, Lindenstrand, Szirmay, Cosotti, Bacquier, Stilwell; Solti, Wiener Philharmoniker.
M1500.V48 F3 2005x (2 copies)

Falstaff by Giuseppe Verdi, 1813-1901

Libretto:

Seven Verdi librettos; English translations by William Weaver; with the original Italian.
(Libretto of *Falstaff* by Arrigo Boito)
New York: W.W. Norton, 1977 (1975).
ML49.V45 O62 1977x

For further reading:

Verdi with a vengeance: An energetic guide to the life and complete works of the king of opera by William Berger. New York: Vintage Books, 2000.

Berger explores Verdi's operas in chronological order and also provides biographical information on the composer and his view of the art of Italian opera from the baroque era to the present. His chapter about *Falstaff* includes commentary (interspersed throughout a synopsis of the opera) that describes musical motifs and elements of staging. The final section of Berger's book gives the author's recommendations of recordings, films, and other books about Verdi.

ML410.V4 B29 2000

Verdi (3rd edition) by Julian Budden. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

In addition to his invaluable 3-volume set about Verdi's operas, Budden's biography of the composer is also a wonderful resource. Budden offers a complete sketch of Verdi's public and private life; the chapter, "Indian Summer," describes the years Verdi composed *Otello* and *Falstaff*. A later chapter delves into the musical details of *Falstaff*, Verdi's final opera.

ML410.V4 B9 2008

Giuseppe Verdi, Falstaff by James A. Hepokoski. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 1983.

Another volume in the Cambridge Opera Handbooks series. Essays in this work describe the musical structure of the opera and Verdi's thoughts about staging guidelines. An earlier essay describes how Boito blended texts from Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Henry IV* to create his libretto, and another compares/contrasts the three versions of the score, known as Milan, Rome, and Paris for the cities in which each version had a premiere. A great collective view of this masterpiece.

ML410.V4 H46 1983

Verdi: A biography by Mary Jane Phillips-Matz. Oxford, England; New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.

Written with the full collaboration of the Verdi family, this 900+ page biography explores the rich life of Verdi the composer, Italian nationalist, and intensely passionate friend/husband/farmer.

ML410.V4 P43 1993

The Rape of Lucretia by Benjamin Britten, 1913-1976

Audio / DVD / Video

CD The Rape of Lucretia, London, 1990 (1971).
Baker, Harper, Pears, Luxon, Shirley-Quirk; Britten, English Chamber Orchestra.
Op Bri #3447

DVD The Rape of Lucretia, Kultur, 2005 (1987).
Owens, Rigby, Pope, Harries, Rolfe Johnson, Opie, Smythe, Van Allan; Friend, English
National Opera Orchestra.
M1500.B827 R3 2005x

Libretto:

The Rape of Lucretia, a symposium by Benjamin Britten, edited by Eric Crozier.
London: Bodley Head, 1948.

Includes the full libretto by Ronald Duncan, essays by Duncan and John Piper about the construction of the libretto and the set design respectively, and essays by Crozier and Henry Boys about the opera's history and its musical structure.

qMT100.B8 R3

For further reading:

Benjamin Britten: A biography by Humphrey Carpenter. New York: C. Scribner's Sons, 1992.

The book jacket describes Carpenter's work as "the long-awaited full-scale biography of Benjamin Britten." Carpenter weaves Britten's writings and personal interviews with his friends and colleagues to create a vivid portrait of a brilliant and confident artist who was also prone to depression and self-doubt.

ML410.B853 C37 1992x

The Cambridge companion to Benjamin Britten edited by Mervyn Cooke. Cambridge, U.K.; New York: Cambridge University Press, 1999.

Part of the Cambridge series that highlights composers as well as specific works. Essays are fairly scholarly in tone, but interesting to read. The essay entitled "The chamber operas" discusses *The Rape of Lucretia* as well as *Albert Herring* and *The Turn of the Screw*. The author describes these works as intimate and comments on their unique place in Britten's compositional output.

ML410.B853 C36 1999

Britten (Rev. Ed.) by Michael Kennedy. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2001.

Part of the Masters Musicians series. Kennedy gives a thorough biographical sketch of the composer including his relationships with the tenor, Peter Pears, his lifetime companion and lead character in many of his operas, and W. H. Auden, a fellow left-wing intellectual. The second section of the book details his compositional output in chronological order and the appendices provide a bibliography and discography.

ML410.B853 K45 2001

Carmen by Georges Bizet, 1838-1875

Audio / DVD / Video

Are these items checked out? Not to worry, the Main Library-Oakland owns 7 other CD versions and 4 additional visual presentations (DVD/VHS formats) of the opera!

- CD Carmen, London, 1985 (1976).
Trojanos, te Kanawa, Domingo, van Dam; Solti, John Aldis Choir, London Philharmonic Orchestra.
CLASSICS CD 0043 BIZET (available at Northern Tier Regional Library and through the Bookmobile)
- CD Carmen, Deutsche Grammophon, 1988 (1977).
Berganza, Cotrubas, Domingo, Milnes; Abbado, Ambrosian Chorus, London Symphony Orchestra.
Op Biz #20931
- CD Carmen, Opera d'Oro, 1998 (1967).
Bumbry, Freni, Vickers, Díaz; von Karajan, Chor der Wiener Staatsoper, unidentified orchestra (i.e. Vienna Philharmonic).
Op Biz# 20932
- DVD Carmen, Deutsche Grammophon, 2000 (1989).
Baltza, Mitchell, Carreras, Ramey; Levine, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and Chorus.
M1500.B629 C4 2000x (2 copies)
- DVD Bizet's Carmen: a film, Columbia TriStar Home Video, 1999 (1984).
Migenes-Johnson, Esham, Domingo, Raimondi; Maazel, Orchestre national de France, Chorus and Children's Chorus of Radio-France.
Mus O Car

For a different perspective:

- DVD Carmen, Video Artists International, 2006 (1915).
Cecil B. DeMille's silent film from 1915 stars mezzo Geraldine Farrar in the title role. An extra feature on the DVD has Farrar's 1914/15 Victor recordings of the "Habanera", "Séguedille", and final scene from *Carmen* (with Giovanni Martinelli) accompanied by a montage of stills and scenes from the film.
DVD C [shelved in feature films in the Main Library]
- DVD Carmen Jones, Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment, 2001 (1954).
Harry Belafonte and Dorothy Dandridge star in Otto Preminger's musical adaptation that features Bizet's music and Oscar Hammerstein's lyrics. Belafonte plays Joe, an army corporal seduced by the Southern temptress, Carmen Jones.
DVD C [shelved in feature films in the Main Library]

Carmen by Georges Bizet, 1838-1875

DVD U-Carmen, Koch Lorber Films, 2007 (2005).

The story of the doomed affair between cigarette factory worker Carmen and a police sergeant set in the pool halls, bars, courtyards, and barracks of South Africa. Bizet's music is sung in Xhosa.

DVD C XHOSA [shelved in Foreign Films in the Main Library]

Libretto:

Carmen, Libretto by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy with English translation by Nell and John Moody. London: J. Calder; New York: Riverrun Press, 1982.

Includes several essays, a guide to musical themes in the opera, and a side-by-side French and English translation.

ML50.B625 C22 1982

For further reading:

Bizet and his world by Mina Kirstein Curtiss. New York: Knopf, 1958.

Curtiss' biography appears to be the most complete biographical sketch of Bizet, even after the first appearance of this work over 50 years ago. With the help of Bizet's family and friends, including the son of Ludovic Halévy, one of the librettists for *Carmen*, Curtiss uses personal remembrances, Bizet's letters, and other archival material to create her portrait. The final section of the book is solely dedicated to *Carmen*.

ML410.B62 C87

Georges Bizet: His life and work by Dean Winton. London: J.M. Dent, 1965.

This biography is a revision of Dean's 1948 work. Acknowledging Curtiss' book, he rewrote many sections of this earlier edition. Dean's focus is still on the music rather than Bizet's life and he delves deeply into the libretto and musical motifs of *Carmen*. He also talks about the never-ending controversy of using the spoken dialogue versus the recitatives composed by Ernest Guiraud after Bizet's death.

780.92 B49de

Georges Bizet, Carmen by Susan McClary. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 1992.

Part of the Cambridge Opera Handbooks series. The various essays allow the reader to dive into various aspects of this work. One essay highlights the original story by Prosper Mérimée that first appeared in a French travel journal while another discusses race, class, and gender issues of nineteenth-century France. Bizet's musical language is discussed and analyzed; a final essay talks about film versions depicting this famous temptress.

ML410.B62 M25 1992

The Marriage of Figaro by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, 1756-1791

Audio / DVD / Video

Are these items checked out? Not to worry, the Main Library-Oakland owns 9 other CD versions and 6 additional visual presentations (DVD/VHS formats) of the opera!

- CD The Marriage of Figaro, London, 1983 (1982).
te Kanawa, Popp, von Stade, Allen, Ramey; Solti, London Opera Chorus, London Philharmonic Orchestra.
Op Moz #515 (2 copies)

- CD The Marriage of Figaro, Harmonia Mundi France, 2004.
Gens, Ciofi, Kirchschlager, Keenlyside, Regazzo; Jacobs, Concerto Köln.
Op Moz #21689

- CD The Marriage of Figaro, Deutsche Grammophon, 1996 (1968).
Mathis, Janowitz, Troyanos, Fischer-Dieskau, Prey; Böhm, Chor und Orchester der Deutschen Oper Berlin.
Op Moz #21692

- DVD The Marriage of Figaro, Kultur, 2003 (1994).
Hagley, Fleming, Schmidt, Finley; Haitink, Glyndebourne Chorus, London Philharmonic.
M1500.M84 N54 2003bx (2 copies)

- DVD The Marriage of Figaro, Decca, 2005 (1990).
Ommerlé, West, Larson, Maddalena, Sylvan; Smith, Wiener Symphoniker.
M1500.M84 N54 2005bx (2 copies)

****Special note about searching:**

In order to achieve the best results, you may wish to use a title search in the original language: *Le Nozze di Figaro*. You'll be sure not to miss any of our holdings!

Libretto:

The Marriage of Figaro. Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte based on *Le mariage de Figaro* by Beaumarchais, English translation by Edward J. Dent. London: J. Calder; New York: Riverrun Press, 1983.
Includes several essays, a guide to musical themes in the opera, and a side-by-side Italian and English translation.
ML50.M939 N62 1983

The Marriage of Figaro by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, 1756-1791

For further reading:

Mozart and his operas by David Cairns. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006.

Cairns' unique biography traces Mozart's life and creative output through his operas. Cairns discusses how Mozart matured as an artist with each opera and writes about how his strength as a composer of great theater influences his instrumental works as well, particularly his piano concertos and string quartets. The chapter that highlights *The Marriage of Figaro* describes Mozart's new partnership with the librettist, Lorenzo Da Ponte, as a "perfect marriage". Many consider this work to be Mozart's operatic masterpiece.

ML410.M9 C253 2006

Mozart: A cultural biography by Robert W. Gutman. New York: Harcourt Brace, 1999.

Gutman's biography, as the title suggests, discusses Mozart's life in relation to eighteenth-century Europe—the politics, the social scene, and the artistic trends. The last chapters of the book cover Mozart's time in Vienna; *The Marriage of Figaro* was composed during that time of his life. A good read.

ML410.M9 G96 1999

Mozart's operas: A companion by Mary Kathleen Hunter. New Haven [Conn.]: Yale University Press, 2008.

A new addition to the many books about Mozart's operatic output. Hunter talks about the genres of opera seria, opera buffa, and singspiel—all represented in Mozart's works. A synopsis of each opera is given and Hunter's commentary delves into the origins of each work and its reception by the audience of Mozart's time and subsequent reputation today. The section about *Figaro* also discusses the issues of class struggle and gender "wars".

ML410.M9 H895 2008

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: A biography by Piero Melograni. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

Written during the 250th anniversary year of Mozart's death, Melograni's biography is a wonderful addition to the many volumes written about the composer. Avoiding in-depth musical analyses, Melograni instead weaves the texts of Mozart's letters throughout his narrative to create a thoroughly enjoyable account of the artist's life. A great read for the music lover or novice.

ML410.M9 M4313 2007

Explore more about opera online!

Oxford Music Online (part of the Access PA Power Library)

This resource combines the content of *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, *The New Grove Dictionary of Opera*, *The New Grove Dictionary of Jazz*, *The Oxford Dictionary of Music*, and *The Oxford Companion to Music*—all in one place. Explore editor Stanley Sadie's invaluable guide to the world of opera, *The New Grove Dictionary of Opera*. A valid Pennsylvania library card is required. This link will get you there: <http://www.carnegielibrary.org/research/databases/> . . . then click on the Access PA logo.

Operabase

<http://www.operabase.com/index.cgi?lang=en>

This website allows you to search opera performance details of several international opera companies, including upcoming schedules. You can also find information on past performances of over 53,000 operas (from August, 2006 and onward), biographies of specific singers, and websites of international opera houses.

OperaGlass

<http://opera.stanford.edu/>

A great resource for plot synopses of operas, libretti, discographies, and performance histories. Links to other opera websites are also listed.

YouTube

<http://www.youtube.com>

Though YouTube is not a specific site for opera research, it really does have everything and anything as far as video and sound clips. If you use the titles of any of this season's operas in a search, you will find several archived performances from stage productions, concerts, and more.

Visit the Pittsburgh Opera website: www.pittsburghopera.org
Visit the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh website: www.carnegielibrary.org