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PITTSBURGH **OPERA** EDUCATION

2011-2012 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!

La traviata by Giuseppe Verdi, 1813-1901

CD / DVD

Are these items checked out? Not to worry, the Main Library-Oakland owns 16 other CD versions and 6 additional visual presentations of the opera!

- CD La traviata, Deutsche Grammophon, 2004 (1977).
Cotrubas, Domingo, Milnes;
Kleiber, Bayerischer Staatsopernchor, Bayerisches Staatsorchester.
COMPACT DISC Op Ver 38973

- CD La traviata, EMI Classics, 1997 (1955).
Callas, di Stefano, Bastianini;
Giulini, Orchestra e coro del Teatro alla Scala di Milano.
COMPACT DISC Op Ver 15735

La traviata by Giuseppe Verdi, 1813-1901

- DVD *La traviata*, Deutsche Grammophon (Universal Music Distribution), 2006.
Netrebko, Villazón, Hampson; Rizzi, Konzertvereinigung Wiener Staatsopernchor,
Mozarteum Orchester, Wiener Philharmoniker.
(DVD) M1500.V48 T5 2006x
- DVD *La traviata*, Universal Home Video, 1999 (1982).
Stratas, Domingo, MacNeil; Levine, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and Chorus
(Franco Zeffirelli's film version).
(DVD) M1500.V48 T5 1999bx
- DVD *La traviata: love and sacrifice*, Kultur, 2008 (2001).
This documentary presents the story of Verdi's opera *La Traviata*, illustrated by excerpts
taken from various productions, 1955-1994.
(DVD) ML410.V4 T735 2008x

Libretto:

- Seven Verdi librettos*; English translations by William Weaver; with the original Italian.
(Libretto of *La traviata* by Francesco Maria Piave)
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, provides biographical information
on the composer, and discusses his view of the art of Italian opera from the baroque era
to the present. His chapter about *La traviata* 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. Oxford, England; 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, "The High Noon," discusses the musical details of *La*
traviata, labeled by Budden as "the best-loved opera in the Verdian canon."
ML410.V4 B9 2008

La traviata by Giuseppe Verdi, 1813-1901

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 biography explores the rich life of Verdi the composer, Italian nationalist, and intensely passionate friend/husband/farmer.

ML410.V4 P43 1993

Tragic manhood and democracy: Verdi's voice and the power of musical art by David A.J. Richard. Brighton; Portland: Sussex Academic Press, 2004.

Richard's book details the sociological elements at play in Verdi's operas. Specifically he focuses on patriarchal practices such as codes of honor and how these practices affect personal and political relationships. Violetta, Alfredo, and Germont are tragically affected by the demands of their society. This work is a fascinating read.

ML410.V4 R49 2004

The Pearl Fishers by Georges Bizet, 1838-1875

CD / DVD

- CD The Pearl Fishers, EMI, 1989.
Hendricks, Aler, Quilico, Courtis;
Plasson, Chœurs et orchestre du Capitole de Toulouse.
COMPACT DISC Op Biz 5411

- CD The Pearl Fishers, Dynamic, 2005.
Massis, Nakajima, Grassi, De Donato;
Viotti, Orchestra e Coro del Teatro la Fenice di Venezia.
Coming soon on CD to CLP Main Library-Oakland!

- CD The Pearl Fishers, EMI Classics, 2008.
Micheau, Gedda, Blanc, Mars;
Dervaux, Chœurs et Orchestre du Théâtre National de l'Opéra Comique.
Coming soon on CD to CLP Main Library-Oakland!

- DVD The Pearl Fishers, Dynamic, 2004.
Massis, Nakajima, Grassi, De Donato;
Viotti, Orchestra e Coro del Teatro la Fenice di Venezia.
(DVD) M1500.B629 P4 2004x

****Special note about searching: In order to achieve the best results, you may wish to use a title search in the original language: *Pêcheurs de perles*. You'll be sure not to miss any of our holdings!**

The Pearl Fishers by Georges Bizet, 1838-1875

Libretto:

The Pearl Fishers, libretto by E. Cormon and Michel Carré; English version by Charles A. Byrne.
New York: C. Burden, 1908.
ML50.B625 P32 1908x

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 tenth chapter of the book discusses the composition of *The Pearl Fishers*.
ML410.B62 C87

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

This biography is a revision of Dean's 1948 work. Acknowledging Curtiss' book, he rewrote many sections of his earlier edition. Dean talks about *The Pearl Fishers*' initial failure with audiences; the original production only had 18 performances. The author also discusses the musical ideas in the piece, specifically those with exotic elements. Bizet would continue to explore those elements in his later opera, *Djamileh*.
780.92 B49de

The keys to French opera in the nineteenth century by Henri Lacombe, translated from the French by Edward Schneider. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.

Lacombe details the operatic landscape of nineteenth-century France, including the works of Bizet, Saint-Saëns, Gounod, Massenet, and others. The author describes *The Pearl Fishers* as the model of French opera that combined traditional and innovative elements. Bizet and his contemporaries were especially drawn to the new element of exoticism. *The Pearl Fishers* illustrates the composer's ability to create a world quite different from his homeland.

ML1727.4.L3513 2001

Hansel and Gretel by Engelbert Humperdinck, 1854-1921

CD / DVD

Are these items checked out? Not to worry, the Main Library-Oakland owns 4 other CD versions and 4 additional visual presentations of the opera!

CD Hansel and Gretel, London, 1988 (1978).
Fassbaender, Popp, Hamari, Berry; Solti, Wiener Philharmoniker.
COMPACT DISC Op Hum 7295

Hansel and Gretel by Engelbert Humperdinck, 1854-1921

- CD Hansel and Gretel, Teldec, 1994.
Larmore, Ziesak, Behrens, Weikl;
Runnicles, Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks.
COMPACT DISC Op Hum 14950
- DVD Hansel and Gretel, Kultur, 2006 (1999).
Nikiteanu, Hartelius, Lechner, Muff; Welser-Möst, Orchestra of the Zurich Opera House
(DVD) M1500.H946 H3 2006x
- DVD Hansel and Gretel, EMI Classics, 2008. (sung in English)
Coote, Schäfer, Plowright, Held; Jurowski, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra
(DVD) M1500.H946 H3 2008x

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Libretto:

German miscellaneous opera libretti: with International Phonetic Alphabet transcriptions, word for word translations, a guide to the IPA, and notes on the German transcriptions (includes libretto of *Hansel and Gretel* by Adelheid Wette, translation by Nico Castel)
Geneseo, NY: Leyerle, 2005.
q ML48.G458 2005x

For further reading:

- The uses of enchantment: the meaning and importance of fairy tales* by Bruno Bettelheim.
New York: Penguin Books, 1991.
Bettelheim, a Freud scholar, analyzes classic fairy tales according to Freud's methods. The author believes that fairy tales, even the scary ones, can teach children about the struggles in life and provide models for behavior. *Hansel and Gretel* is a fine story for Bettelheim's theories with its plot line of children being cast into the forest by their angry mother, getting lost in the forest, and fighting against an evil witch. Scary indeed!
GR550.B47 1991x
- Grimm's fairy tales*. London: J.M. Dent & Sons, Ltd.; New York: E.P. Dutton & Co., Inc., 1949.
"This edition . . . is based on the selection made by Marion Edwardes, first published by Dent in 1901 . . . omissions from the Edwardes edition [include six tales] . . . several tales have been revised to render more exactly the German original, and entirely new translations by A.A. Dent are substituted for eleven stories"—Publishers' note. The collection includes *Hansel and Gretel* and other classics like *Little Red Riding Hood* and *Rapunzel*.
GR166.K53213 1949x

Tosca by Giacomo Puccini, 1858-1924

CD / DVD

Are these items checked out? Not to worry, the Main Library-Oakland owns 15 other CD versions and 8 additional visual presentations of the opera!

- CD Tosca, EMI Classics, 2004 (1953).
Callas, di Stefano, Gobbi;
de Sabata, Coro e Orchestra del Teatro alla Scala di Milano.
COMPACT DISC Op Puc 30766
- CD Tosca, Legato Classics, [199-?] (1957).
Milanov, Corelli, Guelfi;
Gibson, Orchestra and Chorus of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.
COMPACT DISC Op Puc 9917
- DVD Tosca, Deutsche Grammophon, 2005 (1976).
Kabaivanska, Domingo, Milnes; Bartoletti, Ambrosian Singers, New Philharmonia
Orchestra (filmed on location in Rome at sites described in the opera).
(DVD) M1500.P97 T54 2005bx
- DVD Tosca, Virgin Classics, 2010 (2009).
Mattila, Álvarez, Gagnidze;
Colaneri, The Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and Chorus.
Coming soon on DVD to CLP Main Library-Oakland!

Libretto:

Puccini librettos in new English translations by William Weaver (Libretto of *Tosca* by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa). Garden City, NY: Anchor Books, 1966.
Includes side-by-side English and Italian and synopsis of the opera.
ML49.P75 W42

Tosca by Giacomo Puccini, 1858-1924

For further reading:

The romantic world of Puccini: a new critical appraisal of the operas by Iris J. Arnesen.

Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2009.

Arnesen's book, an intriguing work, brings a fresh view of Puccini to the table. She draws comparisons between Puccini and Wagner, even calling Puccini's operas a Rose Cycle contrasting with Wagner's Ring. She also argues that Puccini's works evolved from the romance genre of 12th century France, full of strong heroines. *Tosca* definitely fits the bill!

ML410.P89 A66 2009

Puccini: his life and works by Julian Budden. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.

Budden, most known for his treatment of the operas of Verdi, seems equally at home with Verdi's fellow countryman. A brief biography gives way to in-depth analyses of all of Puccini's operas. In the chapter on *Tosca*, Budden describes the opera's creation, interprets the numerous musical motifs, and discusses the work as an "opera of action." The romance of *La bohème* seems to be gone, and in its place is a love story that packs an emotional wallop.

ML410.P89 B83 2002

The complete operas of Puccini: a critical guide by Charles Osborne.

New York: Atheneum, 1982, © 1981.

Osborne is the "go-to" man if you want detailed treatments of opera composers. He has also written books about the works of Mozart, Richard Strauss, Verdi, and Wagner. Osborne's discussion of *Tosca* begins with an account of how the work was created and premiered; excerpts from Puccini's letters highlight the process. The middle section discusses the plot and characters, comparing Puccini's versions of the main characters to those in Victorien Sardou's original play, *La Tosca*. Did you know that *La Tosca* was written as a vehicle for Sarah Bernhardt? The last section of this informative work outlines the opera's musical motifs.

ML410.P89 O8 1982x

The Puccini problem: opera, nationalism and modernity by Alexandra Wilson. Cambridge, UK; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007.

Wilson explores the debates about Puccini as a composer. Was he an Italian nationalist or an international artist? Did he modernize opera or did he continue its traditions? The chapter about *Tosca* is titled "Tosca: truth and lies". Wilson describes Puccini's work as a story "set in real places, at real times" but one that is structured around insincerity as its theme. Lies and deceit drive the characters' actions. Some critics believe *Tosca* is more about the drama than the music. What do you think?

ML410.P89 W53 2007

The Abduction from the Seraglio

by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, 1756-1791

CD / DVD

Are these items checked out? Not to worry, the Main Library-Oakland owns 4 other CD versions and 2 additional visual presentations of the opera!

CD The Abduction from the Seraglio, Erato, 1999 (recorded on authentic instruments). Schäfer, Petibon, Bostridge, Paton, Ewing; Christie, Les Arts florissants.
COMPACT DISC Op Moz 13651

CD The Abduction from the Seraglio, EMI, 1989 (1966). Rothenberger, Popp, Gedda, Unger, Frick; Krips, Chor der Wiener Staatsoper, Wiener Philharmoniker.
COMPACT DISC Op Moz 2431

DVD The Abduction from the Seraglio, Deutsche Grammophon, 2005 (1980). Gruberova, Grist, Araiza, Orth, Talvela; Böhm, Bavarian State Opera Chorus and Orchestra.
(DVD) M1500.M84 E6 2005x

DVD The Abduction from the Seraglio, TDK Mediactive, 2003 (2002). Mei, Ciofi, Trost, Montazeri, Rydl; Mehta, Orchester und Chor des Maggio musicale fiorentino.
(DVD) M1500.M84 E6 2003x

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Libretto:

Mozart's librettos, translated by Robert Pack and Marjorie Lelash (Libretto of *The Abduction from the Seraglio* by Gottlieb Stephanie, after Christoph Friedrich Bretzner).
New York, Meridian Books [1961].
ML49.M83 P22

The Abduction from the Seraglio

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 Abduction from the Seraglio* describes Mozart's new life in Vienna. Mozart had written a successful stage work in his native language and his personal life was also fulfilling—he married his beloved Constanze.

ML410.M9 C253 2006

Mozart's women: his family, his friends, his music by Jane Glover. New York: HarperCollins, 2005.

Mozart scholar and conductor Glover takes us into the lives of the women Mozart loved: his mother, his sister, his wife, her sisters, female patrons, lovers, and singers. They were his inspiration for the strong women found throughout his operas. Sometimes his real life and music life merged; his wife's sisters, Aloysia and Josefa, sang many of his vocal works. No greater tribute exists, however, than his wife's namesake, Constanze, the female lead in *The Abduction from the Seraglio*. The love story of Mozart and his wife is reflected in that of Constanze and Belmonte.

ML410.M9 G645 2004

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. This biography is a great read for the music lover or novice.

ML410.M9 M4313 2007

Mozart on the stage by John A. Rice. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Rice talks about Mozart and his place in the operatic culture of the eighteenth century. The author focuses on the relationships between the composer and his librettists, singers, stage designers, orchestra, and audiences. The chapter about theaters and stage design is especially interesting and includes artistic renderings of costumes and sets.

ML410.M9 R538 2009

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Opera in Video

The **newest** addition to our electronic database collection. As described on our website, "Opera in Video allows library cardholders to watch opera on demand and free of charge. This frequently updated database contains streaming video of great operas from the Baroque period through the 20th century, as well as interviews and documentaries focusing on opera." A valid Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh card is required. This link will get you there: <http://www.carnegielibrary.org/research/music/databases.html>

Oxford Music Online

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* in one place. A valid Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh card is required. This link will get you there: <http://www.carnegielibrary.org/research/music/databases.html>

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 30,000 operas (from August 2010 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.

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