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PITTSBURGH OPERA EDUCATION

2016-2017 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 and Julie Hanify.

*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 <http://www.carnegielibrary.org/>)*

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 in Oakland owns 15 other CD versions and 8 additional visual presentations of the opera!

- CD *La Traviata*, Deutsche Grammophon, 2005.
Netrebko, Villazón, Hampson; Rizzi, Konzertvereinigung Wiener Staatsopernchor,
Mozarteum Orchester, Wiener Philharmoniker
COMPACT DISC Op Ver 31318

- 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*, Opus Arte, 2015 (2014).
Gimadieva, Fabiano, Christoyannis; Elder, The Glyndebourne Chorus, London
Philharmonic Orchestra
(DVD) M1500.V48 T5 2015x
- 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 *Traviata et nous* (Becoming Traviata), Cinema Guild, 2013.
Over two months in 2011, filmmaker Philippe Béziat follows the development of Jean-
François Sivardier's production of Verdi's opera *La Traviata* at the Aix-en-Provence
Festival in France, starring Natalie Dessay.
(DVD) MT955.T75 2013x

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; 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

Salome by Richard Georg Strauss, 1864–1949

CD / DVD

Are these items checked out? Not to worry, the Main Library in Oakland owns 3 other CD versions and 3 additional visual presentations of the opera!

CD *Salome*, London, 1985 (1961).

Nilsson, Hoffman, Wächter, Stolze, Kmentt; Solti, Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra
COMPACT DISC Op Str 506

CD *Salome*, Deutsche Grammophon, 1991 (1990).

Studer, Rysanek, Terfel, Hiestermann, Bieber; Sinopoli, Orchester der Deutschen Oper Berlin
COMPACT DISC Op Str 15142

DVD *Salome*, Sony Classical, 2011 (2008).

Mattila, Komlósi, Uusitalo, Begley, Kaiser; Summers, The Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and Chorus
(DVD) M1500.S89 S3 2011x

DVD *Salome*, Kultur, 2001 (1992).

Ewing, Knight, Devlin, Reigel, Leggate; Downes, Orchestra of the Royal Opera House
(DVD) M1500.S89 S3 2001x

Salome by Richard Georg Strauss, 1864–1949

Libretto

Salome/Elektra; Libretto by the composer after the play by Oscar Wilde in the German translation of Hedwig Lachmann; English translation by Tom Hammond. London: J. Calder; New York: Riverrun Press, 1988. Includes several essays and a side-by-side German and English translation. ML50.S918 S32 1988

For further reading

Richard Strauss: A Musical Life by Raymond Holden. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2011. Holden explores Strauss as a composer, but also as a conductor, a role often overlooked in other biographies. Strauss really saw composing and conducting as intrinsically connected. Holden's access to the Strauss family's private archives allows a vivid portrait of an artist and a man to be revealed. ML410.S93 H65 2011

The Complete Operas of Richard Strauss by Charles Osborne. North Pomfret, VT: Trafalgar Square Publishing, 1988. Osborne easily guides the reader through the operatic output of Strauss, just as he did in similar books about the operas of Mozart, Puccini, Verdi, and Wagner. Osborne's examination of *Salome* details the creation of the work and its premiere, provides information about the source material (the Bible and Wilde's play), and gives a synopsis of the plot interspersed with discussion of the musical motifs. Excerpts from Strauss' letters pepper the text, adding wonderful background information. An interesting fact: *Salome's* American premiere at the Metropolitan Opera House in 1907 caused such a furor that the production was withdrawn after one performance. ML410.S93 O7 1988x

Richard Strauss, Salome edited by Derrick Puffett. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 1989. This work is part of the Cambridge Opera Handbooks series, an invaluable set of works for the opera fan and scholar. A synopsis of the opera and analyses of the musical themes are presented in two of the essays. The other essays are quite intriguing, especially one about Strauss' abilities as a librettist and another that debates if the opera is art or kitsch. ML410.S93 R52 1989

The Cambridge Companion to Richard Strauss edited by Charles Youmans. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010. Morten Kristiansen's essay, "Strauss's Road to Operatic Success," focuses on the early operatic works of Strauss, including *Salome*. The author points out the myriad reactions to the work including moral outrage and the cold reception by most music critics. Later essays take up Strauss' place in the musical canon of the twentieth century and the composer's own views about making a living as a musician. An important scholarly work. ML410.S93 C36 2010

Richard the Lionheart by George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759

CD / DVD

CD *Richard the Lionheart*, Editions de l'Oiseau-Lyre, 1996 (1995).
Mingardo, Piau, Lallouette, Scalitriti, Brua, Bertin ; Rousset, Les Talens lyriques (on authentic instruments)
COMPACT DISC Op Han 46801

DVD Currently, no commercial DVD release is available.

Libretto

The CD recording of *Richard the Lionheart* in our collection contains the libretto (by Paolo Antonio Rolli, adapted from *Isacio tiranno* by Francesco Briani) in the program notes.

For further reading

Handel's Operas, 1726-1741 by Winton Dean. Woodbridge, UK; Rochester, NY: Boydell Press, 2006.

Winton Dean's book is a follow-up to *Handel's Operas, 1704-1726* and is the first in-depth study of Handel's final 22 operas. Dean explores Handel's musical language in great depth and discusses the huge differences between the first and second versions of the work. He also does not mince words in his criticism of the opera, claiming it is not satisfactory and that the characters are not truly developed. Dean's scholarship is worth the read.

ML410.H13 D372 2006x

Handel, rev. edition by Christopher Hogwood. New York: Thames & Hudson, 2007.

Early music specialist Hogwood presents a thorough portrait of the composer.

Richard the Lionheart is briefly mentioned in the chapter, "London: The Heyday of Opera." This chapter also presents the fruitful period of Handel's operatic composing, the years 1710-1728. Hogwood's afterword in this revised edition (first edition published in 1984) discusses the interest in scholarship and performances of Handel's works, particularly his Italian operas and dramatic oratorios.

ML410.H13 H57 2007

The Art of Handel's Operas by Hugo Anthony Meynell. Lewiston, N.Y.: E. Mellen Press, 1986.

Meynell's work focuses on Handel's works for the stage. *Richard the Lionheart* is discussed in the chapter, "Full Maturity." The author describes the work as "one of the most approachable of Handel's less serious operas." His essay discusses several of the compositional techniques used by Handel in this work.

ML410 .H13 M5 1986

Richard the Lionheart by George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759

Essays on Handel and Italian Opera by Reinhard Strohm. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 1985.

Strohm examines the relationship between Handel's operas and the earlier Italian operatic masterpieces. The author believes Handel built upon the early styles to create his unique works, which reflect both his respect for the Italian masters and his desire to use text and music to forge his own compositional voice.

ML410.H13 S75 1985

As One by Laura Kaminsky, 1956–

CD / DVD

Currently, no commercial CD or DVD releases are available, but you can listen and watch excerpts at the American Opera Works' website: <http://www.aopopera.org/AsOne/> Click on the Video/Audio header in the middle of the page. American Opera Works commissioned the opera in 2014.

Libretto

The libretto is printed as text in the *As One* scores in our collection. We have both the full score and the piano/vocal edition. The libretto was written by Mark Campbell and Kimberly Reed.

For further reading

www.laurakaminsky.com/

The official website of the composer provides a biography, a works list, press pages (links to reviews, previews, announcements), a publications page (containing information about where to purchase scores and recordings), and audio/video clips.

http://www.operanews.com/Opera_News_Magazine/2014/9/Departments/Hearing_Both_Sides.html

The composer was interviewed by Brian Kellow, features editor for the magazine, *Opera News*, prior to the premiere of *As One* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

<http://dctheatrescene.com/2015/09/29/from-creation-of-transgender-opera-as-one-to-urbanarias-quick-embrace/>

This Washington, D.C. theatre website featured an interview with Laura Kaminsky and Robert Wood, General Director and President of UrbanArias, a D.C.-based opera company, prior to the work's 2015 production by the company.

Turandot by Giacomo Puccini, 1858–1924

CD / DVD

Are these items checked out? Not to worry, the Main Library in Oakland owns 5 other CD versions and 9 additional visual presentations of the opera!

- CD *Turandot*, RCA Victor (BMG), 1996 (1959).
Nilsson, Tebaldi, Bjoerling, Tozzi; Leinsdorf, Rome Opera Orchestra and Chorus
COMPACT DISC Op Puc 12712
- CD *Turandot*, Myto (Qualiton Imports), 2008 (1958).
Udovich, Mattioli, Corelli, Clabassi; Previtali, Orchestra sinfonica e Coro di Milano della RAI
COMPACT DISC Op Puc 38721
- DVD *Turandot*, Arthaus Musik, 2009 (1994).
Marton, Mazzaria, Sylvester, Langan; Runnicles, San Francisco Opera Chorus and Orchestra
(DVD) M1500.P97 T8 2009x
- DVD *Turandot in the Forbidden City of Beijing*, RCA Victor (BMG), 1999 (1998).
Casolla, Frittoli, Larin, Colombara; Mehta, Chorus and Orchestra of Maggio musicale fiorentino
(DVD) M1500.P97 T8 1999x
- DVD *The Turandot Project*, Zeitgeist Video, 2002 (2000).
This documentary follows the collaboration of conductor, Zubin Mehta, and film director, Yimou Zhang, in mounting the elaborate Florence production of *Turandot*. The film continues as the Florence production is brought to China and produced in an original Ming dynasty setting.
(DVD) MT955.T86 2002x

Libretto

Turandot, Libretto by Giuseppe Adami and Renato Simoni, based on the play by Carlo Gozzi, with English translation by William Weaver.
London: J. Calder; New York: Riverrun Press, 1984.
Includes several essays and a side-by-side Italian and English translation.
ML50.P965 T72 1984x

Turandot 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.

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 treatments of all of Puccini's operas. The penultimate chapter focuses on *Turandot*. Budden describes the opera's creation, interprets the musical motifs, and discusses the controversial completion of the work by Franco Alfano after Puccini's death.

ML410.P89 B83 2002

The Complete Operas of Puccini: A Critical Guide by Charles Osborne. New York: Atheneum, 1982, c1981.

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 *Turandot* 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, including the transformation of Italian *maschere* (masks, figures from *commedia dell'arte*) into the characters of Ping, Pang, and Pong. The last section of this informative work outlines the work'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? Even the chapter about *Turandot* is titled, "A suitable ending?". Wilson discusses whether Puccini's final work continued to celebrate great romantic plots or if it veered from that formula with its more "cold" and "intellectual" title heroine.

ML410.P89 W53 2007

The Summer King – The Josh Gibson Story

by Daniel Sonenberg, 1970–

CD / DVD

Currently, no commercial CD or DVD releases are available, but you can listen and watch excerpts at the composer's personal site: <http://www.danielsonenberg.org/listen-1/>

Libretto

The libretto, co-written by Daniel Sonenberg and Daniel Nester, has not been published and is not available at this time.

For further reading

www.danielsonenberg.org/#home-section

The official website of the composer provides a biography, audio excerpts, video excerpts, and the composer's blog.

www.aopopera.org/summerking/

American Opera Projects, which co-produced the first concert version of the opera, provides a video interview with the composer that took place before the opera's first public reading by the New Works Forum in 2014. Click on the Video/Audio header in the middle of the page. The interview also appears on Sonenberg's website.

umpbump.com/press/2007/09/14/the-summer-king-an-interview-with-composer-daniel-sonenberg/

The now defunct baseball commentary site (publication ceased in 2013) has an archived interview with the composer about the opera. The interview took place after Sonenberg commented on the negative post umpbump.com/press/2007/08/30/sure-kick-a-man-when-hes-been-buried-for-50-years/ by Paul Moro, the subsequent interviewer.

Explore more about opera online!

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/> (Choose “Music” from the Subject dropdown menu, then click the “Find” button. Oxford Music Online is the last entry on the music database list.)

Operabase

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 64,000 operas (from August 2014 onward), biographies of specific singers, and websites of international opera houses.

OperaGlass

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

youtube.com

Though YouTube is not a specific site for opera research, it offers a wide range of 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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