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PITTSBURGH **OPERA** EDUCATION

2017-2018 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!

Tosca by Giacomo Puccini, 1858-1924

CD / DVD

Are these items checked out? Not to worry, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Main (Oakland) owns 14 other CD versions and 7 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
Op Puc 30766

- CD *Tosca*, London, 1988 (1978).
Freni, Pavarotti, Milnes; Rescigno, National Philharmonic Orchestra, London Opera
Chorus, Wandsworth Boys' Choir
Op Puc 9918

Tosca by Giacomo Puccini, 1858-1924

DVD *Tosca*, Kultur, 2013 (1992).
Malfitano, Domingo, Raimondi; Mehta, Orchestra sinfonica e coro di Roma della RAI
(Filmed on location in Rome at exact locations and precise times of day in the opera.)
(DVD) M1500.P97 T54 2013x

DVD *Tosca*, Virgin Classics, 2010 (2009).
Mattila, Álvarez, Gagnidze; Colaneri, The Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and Chorus
(DVD) M1500.P97 T54 2010x

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 texts and synopsis of the opera.
ML49.P75 W42

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

Tosca by Giacomo Puccini, 1858-1924

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 Marriage of Figaro by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, 1756-1791

CD / DVD

Are these items checked out? Not to worry, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Main (Oakland) owns 10 other CD versions and 7 additional visual presentations of the opera!

CD *The Marriage of Figaro*, London, 1983 (1981).

Te Kanawa, Popp, von Stade, Allen, Ramey; Solti, London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Opera Chorus
Op Moz #515

CD *The Marriage of Figaro*, Harmonia Mundi France, 2004.

Gens, Ciofi, Kirchschrager, Keenlyside, Regazzo; Jacobs, Concerto Köln, Collegium vocale Gent
Op Moz #21689

DVD *The Marriage of Figaro*, Metropolitan Opera, 2010 (1985).

Vaness, Battle, von Stade, Allen, Raimondi; Levine, The Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and Chorus
(DVD) M1500.M84 N54 2010x

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

DVD *The Marriage of Figaro*, Opus Arte, 2013 (2012).
Matthews, Teuscher, Leonard, Iversen, Priante; Ticciati, Orchestra of the Age of
Enlightenment, The Glyndebourne Chorus
(DVD) M1500.M84 N54 2013x

****Special note about searching: In order to achieve the best results, you may wish to use a title search in the original language: *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 side-by-side Italian and English texts.
ML50.M939 N62 1983

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

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

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

Experiencing Mozart: A Listener's Companion by David P. Schroeder. Lanham, Maryland: Scarecrow Press, Inc., 2013.

Music historian David Schroeder tells the reader about the issues Mozart explored in his compositions and how these issues still resonate today: politics, gender conflicts, power struggles, and religion. The chapter, "Revolutionary thoughts about women and power: *Figaro* and *Così*," talks about the conflicts between women and men in these operas and in Mozart's society, but also takes us deeper into the musical language used throughout both works. The entire book is a wonderful way to introduce someone to Mozart or to reacquaint the seasoned reader/listener with his musical output.

ML410.M9 S377 2013

The Long Walk by Jeremy Howard Beck, 1985–

CD / DVD

Currently, no commercial CD or DVD releases are available, but you can listen to an aria from the opera on the composer's website: jeremyhowardbeck.com/thelongwalk or on Pittsburgh Opera's website: pittsburghopera.org/show/the-long-walk (click on Season Preview Audio).

Libretto

The libretto, written by Stephanie Fleischmann and based on *The Long Walk: A Story of War and the Life that Follows* by Brian Castner, has not been commercially published. A PDF of the libretto is available on the composer's website: jeremyhowardbeck.com/thelongwalk Look for the link under the heading "Perusal Materials."

For further reading

The Long Walk: A Story of War and the Life that Follows by Brian Castner. New York: Doubleday, 2012.

Castner's biography is the inspiration for the opera, including its title character. Castner talks about his experience in the Iraq War as an officer in an Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit and of his difficult transition to life after war. The "long walk" of the title refers to the solo walk Castner made in Iraq when disarming IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices) and his journey back to "normal" upon returning home.

DS79.766.C37 A3 2012x

[Shelved in Mezzanine Non-Fiction at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Main (Oakland).]

npr.org/sections/deceptivecadence/2013/07/20/203681940/a-veterans-true-story-leaps-from-page-to-stage

This story aired on NPR's *Weekend Edition Saturday* in 2013 when Beck and Fleischmann were developing the opera with American Lyric Theater in New York.

The Long Walk by Jeremy Howard Beck, 1985–

jeremyhowardbeck.com

The official website of the composer provides a biography, a works list, and a performance calendar. Within the works list, links for some of the works open up to pages with more information about the pieces, including audio clips, program notes, and press coverage.

nytimes.com/2015/07/10/magazine/an-iraq-veterans-homecoming-with-arias.html?

C.J. Chivers, a reporter for *The New York Times*, wrote this piece after attending a rehearsal leading up to the world premiere of *The Long Walk Home* by Opera Saratoga in 2015. Chivers also had the opportunity to speak with Brian Castner during the rehearsal, providing a unique account of a soldier watching his personal story unfold onstage.

Ashes & Snow by Douglas J. Cuomo, 1958–

CD / DVD

Currently, no commercial CD or DVD releases are available, but you can listen to excerpts on Pittsburgh Opera's website: pittsburghopera.org/show/ashes-snow (click on Season Preview Audio).

CD Schubert, Franz. *Winterreise*, EMI Classics, 2004.

Listen to Schubert's song cycle featuring the poems that inspired the opera. Tenor Ian Bostridge and pianist Leif Ove Andsnes are the artists. Texts of the poems are included in the liner notes.

Vo Schub 23174

DVD Schubert, Franz. *Winterreise*, C Major, 2017 (2014).

Baritone Matthias Goerne, pianist Markus Hinterhäuser and theatre artist William Kentridge join forces onstage to create an audio-visual experience. Kentridge's animated films accompany the Schubert song cycle.

(DVD) M1621.4.S32 W5 2017x

Libretto

The libretto, based on Wilhelm Müller's 24-poem cycle used for Franz Schubert's work, *Winterreise*, has not been published and is not available at this time.

For further reading

douglasjcuomo.com/index.html

The official website of the composer provides a biography, a works list (with links to some audio clips), video interviews and clips of performances, an events calendar, and press releases.

Ashes & Snow by Douglas J. Cuomo, 1958–

Schubert's Winter Journey: Anatomy of an Obsession by Ian Bostridge. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2015.

Tenor Ian Bostridge, who has performed Schubert's song cycle over 100 times, takes the reader on a journey through the text of each Müller poem as a way to explore Schubert's world and the composer's biography and psychological makeup. Bostridge talks about the musical language in each song and provides us with historical references to illustrate the creation of this vocal masterpiece, completed in the last few months of Schubert's life. An intriguing read.

ML410.S3 B57 2015

Alive and Composing: Douglas Cuomo

Philip Blackburn interviewed Cuomo as part of the American Composers' Forum podcast, *Alive and Composing*. Watch the 2013 interview here:

[youtube.com/watch?v=3wmQNE4HhOI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wmQNE4HhOI) or link from the composer's website:
douglasjcuomo.com/video.html

Moby-Dick by Jake Heggie, 1961–

CD / DVD

Currently, no commercial CD release of the opera is available.

DVD *Moby-Dick*, EuroArts Music International, 2013 (2012).

Morris, Costello, Smith, Lemalu, Trevigne; Summers, San Francisco Opera Orchestra, Chorus, and Dance Corps
(DVD) M1500.H445 M63 2013x

DVD *Moby Dick*, Kino Lorber Corp. 2015 (1956).

This classic film adaptation features Gregory Peck as Ahab, Richard Basehart as Ishmael, and the great Orson Welles in a smaller role.

DVD *Moby* [Shelved in feature films in the Music, Film & Audio Department of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Main (Oakland).]

Libretto

Moby-Dick: An Opera in Two Acts / music by Jake Heggie; libretto by Gene Scheer; based on the novel by Herman Melville. San Francisco, Calif.: Bent Pen Music; Brooklyn, N.Y.: Bill Holab Music [distributor], 2010. The piano-vocal score contains Gene Scheer's libretto.
q M1503.H456 M6 2010x

Moby-Dick by Jake Heggie, 1961–

For further reading

huffingtonpost.com/sean-martinfield/moby-dick-san-francisco-opera_b_1950385.html

Journalist Sean Martinfield interviewed composer Jake Heggie prior to opening night of the 2012 San Francisco Opera production of *Moby-Dick*. We learn how this opera changed Heggie's compositional style and of Heggie's struggle trying to flesh out the character of Ahab.

jakeheggie.com

The official website of the composer provides a biography, a works list, a recordings & media page (containing information about where to purchase recordings and DVDs), a performance calendar, and a list of Heggie's collaborators (tagged throughout website for easy access).

Moby-Dick, or The Whale by Herman Melville. New York: Penguin Books, 2001. [150th anniversary edition]

Re-read the novel that inspired the opera or read this American classic for the first time. It is man versus whale in this tale of revenge.

FICTION Melville

[Shelved in First Floor-Fiction at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Main (Oakland).]

Heggie and Scheer's Moby-Dick: A Grand Opera for the 21st Century by Robert K. Wallace. Denton, Texas: University of North Texas Press, 2013.

Wallace's book takes the reader through the creation of the world premiere production by Dallas Opera in 2010. Wallace interviews Jake Heggie (composer), Gene Scheer (librettist), Patrick Summers (conductor), other members of the creative team, the principal singers, and the production staff to show the process of an opera coming to life. Scheer's libretto is included in the book and gorgeous photographs of the production appear throughout the text.

ML410.H432 W35 2013

The Elixir of Love by Gaetano Donizetti, 1797-1848

CD / DVD

Are these items checked out? Not to worry, the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Main (Oakland) owns 3 other CD versions and 2 additional visual presentations of the opera!

CD *The Elixir of Love*, London, 1971 (1985).

Sutherland, Pavarotti, Cossa, Malas; Bonyngé, Ambrosian Opera Chorus and English Chamber Orchestra

Op Don #30611

The Elixir of Love by Gaetano Donizetti, 1797-1848

- CD *The Elixir of Love*, Glyndebourne, 2009 (1962).
Freni, Alva, Sordello, Bruscantini; Cillario, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Glyndebourne
Chorus
Op Don #44482
- DVD *The Elixir of Love*, EMI, 2006 (2005).
Netrebko, Villazón, Nucci, D'Arcangelo; Eschwé, Vienna State Opera Orchestra and
Chorus
(DVD) M1500.D68 E5 2006x
- DVD *The Elixir of Love*, Deutsche Grammophon, 2005 (1991).
Battle, Pavarotti, Pons, Dara; Levine, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and Chorus
(DVD) M1500.D68 E5 2005x

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

Libretto

The Elixir of Love; Libretto by Felice Romani, English translation by Ruth and Thomas Martin.
New York: G. Schirmer, 1960.
ML50.D683 E42 1960x

For further reading

- The New Grove Masters of Italian Opera*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1983.
William Ashbrook and Julian Budden share their knowledge of Donizetti's life and work
in one of the chapters. Musical examples are given and a works list is included.
ML390.N45 1983x
- The Bel Canto Operas of Rossini, Donizetti, and Bellini* by Charles Osborne. Portland, OR:
Amadeus Press, 1994.
Osborne's brief overview of *Elixir* gives the reader information about Felice Romani's
libretto and discusses musical structures, including the "showstopper" aria, "Una furtiva
lagrima." An interesting fact from the text: Donizetti wrote the opera in two weeks!
ML390.O82 1994
- Donizetti and the World of Opera in Italy, Paris and Vienna in the First Half of the Nineteenth
Century* by Herbert Weinstock. New York: Pantheon Books, 1963.
Weinstock's work is the first full-length Donizetti biography in English. Told in
chronological order, the book introduces the composer's life and the culture of nineteenth
century Europe through excerpts from Donizetti's letters and other archival documents.
ML410.D7 W4

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: carnegielibrary.org/research (Type Oxford Music into the keyword search box to get to the database.)

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 87,000 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.

Visit the Pittsburgh Opera website: www.pittsburghopera.org
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