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PITTSBURGH **OPERA** EDUCATION

2019–2020 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, CDs, and DVDs 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 and DVD. The items listed below constitute a small selection to whet your appetite as you look forward to the live performance. Enjoy!

Don Giovanni by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, 1756–1791

CD / DVD

Are these items checked out? Not to worry, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh—Main Library in Oakland owns 3 other CD versions of the opera!

- CD *Don Giovanni*, Harmonia Mundi, 2007.
Weisser, Regazzo, Pasichnyk, Pendatchanska, Tarver; Jacobs, RIAS Kammerchor, Freiburger Barockorchester.
COMPACT DISC Op Moz 32233

- CD *Don Giovanni*, London, 1997.
Terfel, Pertusi, Fleming, Murray, Lippert; Solti, London Voices and London Philharmonic Orchestra.
COMPACT DISC Op Moz 15195

Don Giovanni by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, 1756–1791

- DVD *Don Giovanni*, Decca, 2005 (1990).
Perry E., Perry H., Labelle, Hunt, Freeman; Smith, Arnold-Schönberg-Chor; Wiener Symphoniker.
(DVD) M1500.M84 D5 2005cx
- DVD *Don Giovanni*, Columbia Tristar Home Entertainment, 2013 (1979).
Raimondi, van Dam, Moser, Te Kanawa, Riegel; Maazel, Orchestra and Chorus of the Paris Opera. (Joseph Losey's film version.)
(DVD) M1500. M84 D5 2013bx
- DVD *Don Giovanni*, Decca, 2004 (1987).
Allen, Desderi, Gruberova, Murray, Araiza; Muti, Orchestra and Chorus of Teatro alla Scala.
(DVD) M1500.M84 D5 2004x

Libretto

- Seven Mozart librettos: a verse translation* by J.D. McClatchy.
(Libretto of *Don Giovanni* by Lorenzo da Ponte, inspired by a libretto by Giovanni Bertati.)
New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 2011.
ML49.M83 O64 2011

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 matures 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 *Don Giovanni* finds Mozart enjoying his success after the premiere of *The Marriage of Figaro*. A trip to Prague results in a commission, which becomes *Don Giovanni*. The commission is for a comedy but instead the company receives a work rich in comedy and drama.
ML410.M9 C253 2006
- The Don Giovanni moment: essays on the legacy of an opera*, edited by Lydia Goehr & Daniel Herwitz. New York: Columbia University Press, 2006.
This collection of essays treats *Don Giovanni* as an artistic work that had great impact on nineteenth-century philosophers, playwrights and composers from Goethe to Pushkin to Wagner. The various authors discuss how themes of romanticism in nineteenth century art were influenced by the characters and relationships that Mozart and da Ponte created in the previous century. A thought-provoking read.
ML410.M9 D63 2006

Don Giovanni by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, 1756–1791

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

W.A. Mozart: Don Giovanni by Julian Rushton. Cambridge [England]; New York: Cambridge University Press, 1981.

Rushton's 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 libretto and musical themes are presented, but the other essays are quite intriguing and include discussions about the Don Juan character in literature before and after Mozart's opera and Don Giovanni as a philosophical idea.

ML410.M9 R88 1981

Florencia en el Amazonas by Daniel Catán, 1949–2011

CD / DVD

CD *Florencia en el Amazonas*, Albany Records, 2002.

Schuman, Martinez, Doss, Guzmán, Vasquez, Shelton, Gradus; Summers, Houston Grand Opera
COMPACT DISC Op Cat 35845

Currently no commercial DVD release is available.

Libretto:

The CD recording of *Florencia en el Amazonas* in our collection contains the libretto (by Marcela Fuentes-Berain) in the program notes.

For further reading:

danielcatan.com

The official website of the composer provides his biography, a works list, a performance calendar and a list of recordings (CDs and DVDs). The Media section of the website contains over 40 hours of audio preserved at the Fonoteca Nacional de México, as well as links to Catán's YouTube channel, archived interviews and other video footage, including a fully staged production of *Florencia en el Amazonas* by Orquesta Sinfónica Mexiquense.

Florencia en el Amazonas by Daniel Catán, 1949–2011

Conversations with Gabriel García Márquez, edited by Gene H. Bell-Villada Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2006.

This collection of interviews spans over 40 years of García Márquez's career. The various interviewers capture the author's views on politics, literature, his own life and his writing style. Several interviews were conducted by Latin Americans and/or Colombians. A fascinating compilation.

PQ8180.17.A73 Z467 2006

[Shelved in Second Floor Non-Fiction at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Main.]

One Hundred Years of Solitude, by Gabriel García Márquez, translated from the Spanish by Gregory Rabassa. New York: Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2006

Though *Florencia en el Amazonas* is loosely inspired by García Márquez's *Love in the Time of Cholera*, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* is a landmark work of magic realism that influenced this opera's imagery. Marcela Fuentes-Berain, the librettist for *Florencia en el Amazonas*, was a course assistant and close collaborator of García Márquez for more than a decade at the International School of Film and Television of San Antonio de los Baños.

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

Alcina by George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759

CD / DVD

CD *Alcina*, Melodram, 1987 (1959).

Sutherland, van Dijck, Procter, Wunderlich, Monti, Hemsley; Leitner, Kölner Rundfunk-Chor, Cappella Coloniensis
COMPACT DISC Op Han 8848

CD *Alcina*, Erato, 1999.

Fleming, Graham, Dessay, Kuhlmann, Robinson, Naouri; Christie, Les Arts florissants
COMPACT DISC Op Han 15523

DVD *Alcina*, Arthaus Musik, 2011.

Harteros, Kasarova, Cangemi, Hammarström, Bruns, Plachetka; Minkoski, Musiciens du Louvre-Grenoble
(DVD) M1500.H13 A4 2011x

DVD *Alcina*, Arthaus Musik, 2000.

Naglestad, Coote, Smith, Schneidermann, Romei, Ebbecke; Hacker, Staatsorchester Stuttgart
(DVD) M1500.H13 A4 2000x

Alcina by George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759

Libretto:

Handel Opera Libretti with International Phonetic Alphabet Transcriptions, Word for Word Translations, Notes on the Italian Transcriptions by Nico Castel (Italian libretto by A. Marchi from Ariosto's *Orlando Furioso*). Geneseo, New York: Leyerle, ©12005-2007.
q ML49.H13 K4 2005x vol. 1

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 *Alcina's* musical language in detail and discusses the title role as one of opera's great tragic heroines. *Alcina* was Handel's last operatic success.

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. 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 book focuses on Handel's works for the stage. *Alcina* is discussed in the chapter "Growing Conflict." The author labels the work among the best of Handel's operas. His essay discusses several of the compositional techniques used by Handel in this work.

ML410 .H13 M5 1986

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

The Last American Hammer

by Peter Hilliard, 1975 – and Matt Boresi, 1975 –

CD / DVD

Currently, no commercial CD or DVD releases are available. Visit Pittsburgh Opera's website pittsburghopera.org/show/the-last-american-hammer to listen to excerpts from UrbanArias' 2018 world premiere (click on Audio Preview Excerpts).

Libretto:

The libretto, written by Matt Boresi, has not been commercially published.

For further reading:

The Paranoid Style in American Politics, and Other Essays by Richard Hofstadter. New York: Vintage Books, 2008.

The title essay of this collection first appeared in *Harper's Magazine* in November 1964, not long after Senator Barry Goldwater won the Republican presidential nomination over Nelson A. Rockefeller. Hofstadter explores the influence of conspiracy theory and similar political movements throughout American history. Recommended by the creative team of *The Last American Hammer*.

E743.H632 2008

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

hilliardandboresi.com/home.html

The official website for the creative team of Peter Hilliard and Matt Boresi provides biographical information, a works list, a media section with video footage and photos of performances and a calendar of upcoming and past performances of their works.

issuu.com/lfa_communications/docs/lfa_review_fall_2018_final_pdf_trim/22

This informational piece, "The Last American Hammer and the Art of Conversation," appeared in the Fall 2018 issue of LFA Review. Grace Kim's article talks about the creation of this opera as well as other works by Hilliard and Boresi. Matt Boresi is quoted throughout the piece.

urbanarias.org/about/our-past-work/the-last-american-hammer

UrbanArias commissioned *The Last American Hammer*, which premiered in 2018. Visit this link to find a synopsis of the opera, an early draft of the libretto and video logs that were created to introduce the three main characters in this work.

wqed.org/cultural-calendar/events/new-opera-workshop-performance-thirteenth

An interesting fact . . . before its world premiere at UrbanArias, *The Last American Hammer* was workshopped at Carnegie Mellon University's School of Music in February 2018 with the title, *The Thirteenth*. This link from WQED gives information about that performance.

Carmen by Georges Bizet, 1838–1875

CD / DVD

Are these items checked out? Not to worry, the Main Library in Oakland owns 7 other CD versions of the opera!

- CD *Carmen*, Deutsche Grammophon, 1983.
Baltza, Carreras, Ricciarelli, van Dam; Karajan, Chœur de l'Opéra de Paris, Berlin Philharmonic
COMPACT DISC Op Biz 20933
- CD *Carmen*, Deutsche Grammophon, 1998 (1978).
Berganza, Domingo, Cotrubas, Milnes; Abbado, The Ambrosian Singers, London Symphony Orchestra
COMPACT DISC Op Biz 20931
- DVD *Carmen*, Opera Australia, 2013.
Shaham, Popov, Car, Jones; Castles-Onion, Opera Australia Chorus, Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra
(DVD) M1500.B629 C4 2013x
- DVD *Carmen*, Deutsche Grammophon, 2010.
Garanča, Alagna, Frittoli, Rhodes; Nézet-Séquin, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and Chorus
(DVD) M1500.B629 C4 2010x
- DVD *Carmen*, TDK, 2004 (1978).
Obraztsova, Domingo, Buchanan, Mazurok; Kleiber, Chor der Wiener Staatsoper; Die Wiener Sängerknaben, Bühnenorchester & Orchester der Wiener Staatsoper
(DVD) M1500.B629C4 2004x

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

Carmen by Georges Bizet, 1838–1875

For further reading

Bizet and His World by Mina Kirsten Curtiss. New York: Knopf, 1958.

Curtiss' biography is one of the most complete biographical sketches 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 incorporates 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 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 the earlier edition. Dean's focus is 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.

ML410.B62 D355

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

Part of the Cambridge Opera Handbooks series. The essays allow the reader to dive into various aspects of this work. One essay highlights the original story by Prosper Mérimée which 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 and a final essay talks about film versions depicting this famous temptress.

ML410.B62 M25 1992

Georges Bizet: A Biography by Christoph Schwandt. Lanham, Maryland: Scarecrow Press, 2013.

Schwandt's biography is widely accepted as a definitive work. The author argues for Bizet's place among the composers of his time. His life's work is not just *Carmen*, as wonderful as the opera may be. Schwandt writes about Bizet's musical output and sheds light on the man behind some amazing music.

ML410.B62 S2813 2013

Norma by Vincenzo Bellini, 1801–1835

CD / DVD

Are these items checked out? Not to worry, the Main Library-Oakland owns 3 other CD versions of the opera!

- CD *Norma*, Decca, 2013.
Bartoli, Jo, Osborn, Pertusi, Nikiteanu, Macias; Antonini, International Chamber Vocalists, Orchestra La Scintilla (on period instruments)
COMPACT DISC Op Bel 42330
- CD *Norma*, RCA, 1987 (1972).
Caballé, Cossotto, Domingo, Raimondi, Bainbridge, Collins; Cillario, Ambrosian Opera Chorus, London Philharmonic Orchestra
COMPACT DISC Op Bel 9983
- DVD *Norma*, Video Artists International, 2003 (1975).
Caballé, Veasey, Vickers, Ferrin, Zotti, Sinimberghi; Patanè, Orchestre et choeurs du Teatro regio de Turin
(DVD) M1500.B44 N6 2003x
- DVD *Norma*, Video Artists International, 2001 (1981).
Sutherland, Troyanos, Ortiz, Diaz, Genzer, Shust; Bonyngé, Orchestra and Chorus of the Canadian Opera Company
(DVD) M1500.B44 N6 2001x

Libretto:

Italian Belcanto Opera Libretti with International Phonetic Alphabet Transcriptions and Word for Word Translations, Including a Guide to the I.P.A. and Notes on Italian Phonetics by Nico Castel (Italian libretto by Felice Romani, based on L.A. Soumet's tragedy, *Norma, ou L'Infanticide*). Geneseo, New York: Leyerle, 2000-2002.
qML48.I83 2000 vol. 1

For further reading:

The Bel Canto Operas of Rossini, Donizetti, and Bellini by Charles Osborne. Portland, OR: Amadeus Press, 1994.
Osborne's overview gives the reader information about the plot of the opera and its musical themes. At its premiere in 1831, *Norma* was greeted coldly by the audience but has since won its place in the opera canon. Bellini wrote, "If I were shipwrecked, I would leave all of my other operas and try to save *Norma*."
ML390.O82 1994

Norma by Vincenzo Bellini, 1801–1835

The Life of Bellini by John Rosselli. Cambridge [England], New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

Rosselli's biography, a volume in the Cambridge series Musical Lives, gives an interesting account of Bellini's life, his all too brief career, and his compositional style.

ML410.B44 R77 1996

Vincenzo Bellini: His Life and His Operas by Herbert Weinstock. New York, A.A. Knopf, 1971.

Weinstock completes his trilogy of opera biographies (Rossini and Donizetti being the other two) with this thorough account of Bellini, the first full-length biography in English of the composer. Weinstock again uses letters and other archival documents to create an intimate account of this young superstar of the opera world.

ML410.B44 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 thousands of operas, 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

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