

## GIUSEPPE VERDI RESOURCES

### Books

#### *The Cambridge Companion to Verdi*

Author: Scott L. Balthazar. Notes: Providing biographical, theatrical, and social-cultural background for Verdi's operas, this Companion examines important general aspects of their style and method of composition. Verdi's milieu, creative process, and critical reception are subsequently explored in essays by specialists who critically appraise his accomplishments. English. 364 pages. Cambridge University Press. 2004.

#### *The Complete Operas of Verdi*

Author: Charles Osborne. Notes: In this volume, every Verdi opera is explored from four points of view: Verdi's life at the time each was written; the story, and the way it links with the music; the libretto and librettist, and Verdi's relations with his publishers; and the music itself, analyzed with examples from the score. English. 486 pages. Da Capo Press. 1977.

#### *The Life and Times of Giuseppe Verdi: The World's Greatest Composers*

Author: Jim Whiting. Notes: Discusses the life of Verdi – born in obscurity in a tiny Italian village in 1813 to his death in 1901. Reading Level Ages 9-12. English. 48 pages. Mitchell Lane Publishers. 2004.

#### *The Verdi-Boito Correspondence*

Author: Giuseppe Verdi, Arrigo Boito. Notes: Italian poet/composer Boito was the librettist for Verdi's last and perhaps greatest operas, *Otello* and *Falstaff*. This collection is important for its size (301 letters) and themes (when two talented men collaborate with mutual loving respect). English. 386 pages. University of Chicago Press. 19994.

#### *Verdi: His Music, Life and Times*

Author: George Martin. Notes: This book relates the life and experiences of Verdi, from his birth in 1813 to his death in 1901. Besides documenting his life and the music he created, it also goes further in discussing the times and culture in which he was living in 19th century Italy, both socially and politically. English. 526 pages. Limelight Editions. 2004.

#### *Verdi's Middle Period*

Author: Martin Chusid. Notes: Verdi's Middle Period explores the operas composed during this period from three interlinked perspectives: studies of the original source material, cross-disciplinary analyses of musical and textual issues, and the relationship of performance practice to Verdi's musical and dramatic conception. Illustrated. English. 436 pages. University of Chicago Press. 1997.

#### *Verdi's Theater: Creating Drama through Music*

Author: Gilles de Van. Translator: Gilda Roberts. Notes: In this innovative study, Gilles de Van focuses on an often neglected aspect of Verdi's operas: their effectiveness as theater. De Van argues that two main aesthetic conceptions underlie all of Verdi's works: that of the "melodrama" and the "musical drama." English. 434 pages. University of Chicago Press, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. 1998.

## Film/DVDs

### *The Life of Verdi*

Director: Renato Castellani. Starring: Ronald Pickup, Carla Fracci. Notes: This elaborate cinematic biography blends documentary with drama to tell the story of a great artistic genius who became the musical voice of a nation. Filmed on location in Italy, Leningrad, London, and Paris, this mini-series took several years to create. This uncut version is filled with Verdi's glorious music, sung in the original Italian. English and Italian. 600 minutes. Kultur Video. 2003.

## CDs

### *Verdi: Greatest Hits*

Performers: Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Luciano Pavarotti, Jose Carreras et al. Conductor: Emerson Buckley, et al. Notes: This is a good CD for those looking to break in to operatic scores. It has large, haunting compositions for chorus, solos, duets, trios and a good mix of orchestrations with no vocals, perfectly showcasing Verdi's gift as a composer. Sony. 1994.

### *Verdi: Requiem and Operatic Choruses*

Performers: Paul Plishka, Diane Curry, et al. Conductor: Robert Shaw. Performed by: Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and chorus. Notes: Robert Shaw learned from Arturo Toscanini, and in this recording he manages to match the master. Excellent pacing and staging of climaxes. Telarc. 1990.

## Websites

Cosmopolis – Giuseppe Verdi

<http://www.cosmopolis.ch/english/cosmo13/verdi.htm>  
(Information on operas and CD suggestions)

Last.fm – Verdi

<http://www.last.fm/music/Giuseppe+Verdi/>  
(Play music, check out events, join groups, etc.)

Verdi Timeline (google)

[http://www.google.com/archivesearch?hl=en&q=verdi&um=1&ie=UTF-8&scoring=t&ei=R9PoSY7IKaestAPg74DhAQ&sa=X&oi=timeline\\_result&resnum=16&ct=title](http://www.google.com/archivesearch?hl=en&q=verdi&um=1&ie=UTF-8&scoring=t&ei=R9PoSY7IKaestAPg74DhAQ&sa=X&oi=timeline_result&resnum=16&ct=title)

Sources: *amazon.com, googlebooks.com*