



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.

Verdi for Kids: His Life and Music with 21 Activities (For Kids series)

Author: Helen Bauer. For grades 4 and up. A behind-the-scenes peek into the exciting world of opera and traces Verdi's path to fame, delving into the great composer's childhood, musical training, family tragedies, and professional setbacks and successes, includes a time line, glossary, hands-on activities and list of additional resources. English. 144 pages. Chicago Review Press. 2013.

Verdi: A Biography

Author: Mary Jane Phillips-Matz. Notes: Phillips-Matz, a cofounder of the American Institute for Verdi Studies at New York University, illuminates the life of Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901). English. 994 pages. Oxford University Press. 1993.

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, 2nd 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

BBC Radio Composer of the Week – Discovering Verdi

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01nrbn9>

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.)

Royal Opera House: Interactive Timeline: Giuseppe Verdi

<http://www.roh.org.uk/news/interactive-timeline-giuseppe-verdi>

Verdi 200: Verdi Bicentenary official website

<http://www.giuseppeverdi.it/en/index.html>