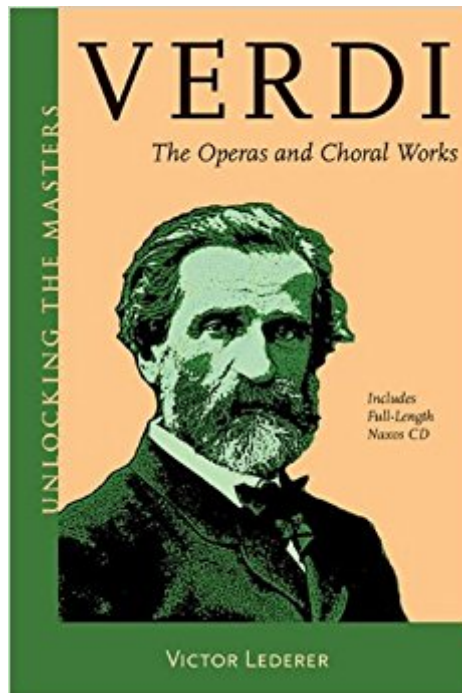




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Verdi: The Operas And Choral Works (Unlocking The Masters)



Synopsis

Giuseppe Verdi's career forms one of the loveliest arcs in musical history. The passion of his works resonates universally, while the sophistication of his middle and late operas satisfies demanding ears and tastes. In *Verdi: The Operas and Choral Works*, Victor Lederer surveys every one of the master's 28 operas and his greatest choral pieces, showing Verdi's growth as a musical dramatist who would revolutionize the hidebound conventions of 19th-century Italian opera and his single-minded pursuit of dramatic truth. After describing the chaotic milieu in which Verdi learned his craft, the book provides act-by-act analyses of the early masterpieces *Nabucco*, *Ernani*, and *Macbeth*. The neglected operas from the composer's self-described years in the galleys are covered together. Lederer then takes readers through the magnificent sequence of Verdi operas from *Luisa Miller* onward, including the fine but underrated *Stiffelio*. Each of the late operas *Don Carlo*, *Aida*, and *Otello* and *Falstaff*, the twin Shakespearean masterworks that crown Verdi's oeuvre is discussed at length in its own chapter. Lederer also examines Verdi's monumental *Requiem* along with the choral *Quattro pezzi sacri*, Verdi's sublime final achievement. The book comes with a Naxos CD of musical selections representing highlights from throughout Verdi's long, remarkable career.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If your grandfather droned on about the irreplaceable Claudia Muzio and Rosa Ponselle, you'll find out what he meant. If you've never heard a note of opera, you'll want to start with a different

overview of the art form. If you're already convinced that Verdi has no peer as a composer for the stage -- which I believe, Mozart fanatic though I am -- this will be a fine way to familiarize yourself quickly with Big Joe Green. --State of the Art

Victor Lederer is a writer on music and urban history. His books include Beethoven's Chamber Music: A Listener's Guide, Beethoven's Piano Music: A Listener's Guide, Bach's Keyboard Music: A Listener's Guide, Chopin: A Listener's Guide to the Master of the Piano, and Debussy: The Quiet Revolutionary, all for Amadeus Press's Unlocking the Masters series.

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