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Barber Of Seville (Black Dog Opera Library)



Synopsis

The Black Dog Opera Library is the most popular, informative, and budget-friendly way to enjoy all the great operas. Each book contains a history of the opera, a synopsis of the story, a complete libretto in its original language as well as in English, dozens of photos, and a world-class Angel/EMI recording of the entire opera on two CDs. All of this for under twenty dollars!

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Customer Reviews

When it comes to operas in which, for once, nobody dies, Gioacchino Rossini's great comedy *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* (the Barber of Seville) is perhaps the most popular of all time. It's got it all: funny plot, great tunes (including nine of the most immediately recognizable notes in Western music: "Figaro, Figaro, Figaro!"), irresistible characters, and an overture that provided Bugs Bunny with one of his greatest moments on screen. Have you ever wondered about the scoring of Lindoro's sweet first act aria, or the requirements for the boom in Basilio's celebration of calumny? Check it all out with this complete orchestral score from Dover Publications. As is standard with Dover, this score is a reprint of a German original, and because it offers the complete orchestration it will be more useful to the music student than to the working singer. (.com Review) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gioachino Antonio Rossini was an Italian composer who wrote 39 operas as well as sacred music,

chamber music, songs, and some instrumental and piano pieces.

This is a first rate Barber. Beverly Sills, upon whom the recording sinks or swims is a melodic and comic gem. James Levine's conducting is precise yet lush and captures the often rollicking brilliance of the score. Nicholi Gedda's Count is all mischief and Ruggero Raimondi is so expressive that you feel you can almost see him. The recording came in EMI's Black Dog Opera series. It's a tidy package, hardbound about the size of a paperback book. The text in the attached book is decidedly for the listener new to opera. However the photos and historical data are interesting and the libretto is convenient to follow while listening to the recording.

Maybe this goes without saying, but I don't think that the libretto and music combined are enough to bring this opera fully to life. In my opinion, the set, costuming, and possibilities for great comedic acting are what makes this opera special. There are tons of videos on youtube of this opera: watch them with this book in hand, but do not read this without watching the opera first or unless you plan on seeing the opera very soon. While humor can be derived solely from the libretto, it really sparkles when brought to life on stage. If you can see it with Peter Mattei and Juan Diego Florez, then all the better in my opinion (on youtube, search "barber of seville met": the one I'm referencing played at the Metropolitan Opera). While for many the advice in this review may seem rudimentary, I just wanted to point out to anyone who may be as inexperienced in the realm of opera as myself that there are many layers to an opera, visual as well as auditory, and that in order to do this magnificent opera justice you must see it as well as hear it and read about it. I do love this book though, and the recordings are excellent.

I should have read all of the reviews before purchasing, because based on the description, I believed this would contain the musical score and was disappointed that it did not. It is still a beautiful book, though, and worth the purchase for the words and translations, the history, and the 2-CD set... but I'll have to look again for the music.

This book provides you with a good background of this opera and the full libretto. The CD allows you to become familiar and learn to appreciate the opera (even if you already know this the composition). I specially recommend it to anyone who wants to learn about opera. It is ideal to read before watching the opera live or on a DVD for the first time.

I highly recommend the Black Dog opera books. They're the perfect way to learn about an opera: They include cd's of the opera by outstanding singers, photos of performances, historical and critical commentary, a scene-by-scene summary of the plot, and the complete libretto in both English and the original language, so you can play around with the translation if you're interested. They can't be beat.

This book and CD set are the perfect combination for those who are new to the world of opera and not fluent in foreign language. Better than just a synopsis, the libretto in English lets you read every word so you won't miss the humor or pathos. As a homeschooling mom, I really appreciated this set as a teaching tool. I hope to increase my collection of The Black Dog Opera Library series.

My first opera book. Makes you really appreciate the performance so much more than without text. Or going in "blind". Disc is well packaged inside book for easy storage.

Great seller, Shipped and arrived on time as described, doing business was a pleasure and I don't say this just because...I say it because you are a great person to buy from.

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