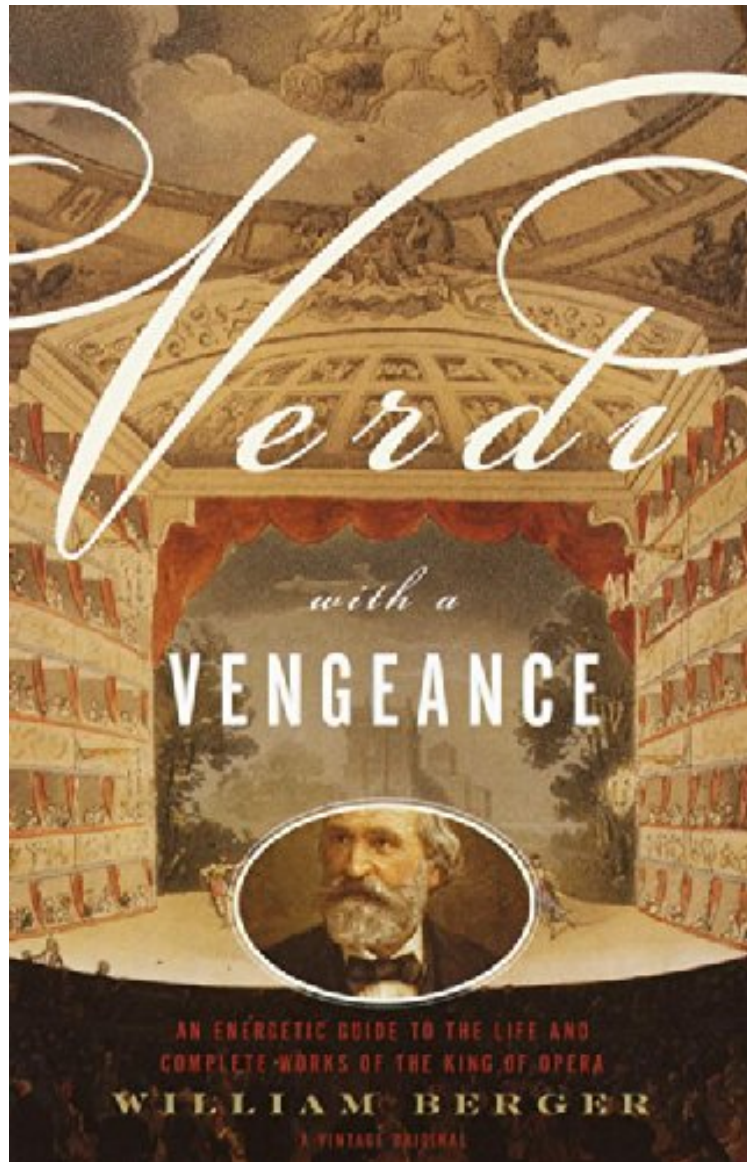


[Ebook free] Verdi With a Vengeance: An Energetic Guide to the Life and Complete Works of the King of Opera

## Verdi With a Vengeance: An Energetic Guide to the Life and Complete Works of the King of Opera

*William Berger*

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#285043 in Books William Berger 2000-09-12 2000-09-12 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.99 x 1.07 x 5.211, .92 #File Name: 037570518X512 pages Verdi with a Vengeance An Energetic Guide to the Life and Complete Works of the King of Opera | File size: 41.Mb

**William Berger : Verdi With a Vengeance: An Energetic Guide to the Life and Complete Works of the King of Opera** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Verdi With a Vengeance: An Energetic Guide to the Life and Complete Works of the King of Opera:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An Essential For The Verdi Lover By John G. Gleeson Sr. I have lived with this book for a little over a year; it rests on a table next to my chair so that I can access it frequently, as I do. I have referred to it in several reviews of Verdi on DVD and thought that in justice to this fine work, I should comment briefly on why it is so important to my enjoyment of Verdi's operas. First, there is an adequate biography. I have and consult the definitive biography by Ms. Phillips-Matz, but for the quick reference, Mr. Berger works very well: there is enough detail to answer most any question I have had. Second, all of the operas are outlined as to plot and discussed. No, this is not Budden's three volume tome of the 1970's (if memory serves), but again, unless one can sight read an orchestral score, Budden takes some effort to get through. Berger is much more easy on the attention span, but still with plenty of detail. When I came to opera, there were only four or five of Verdi's operas that had been recorded, and those were cut substantially (all those vulgar cabalettas!) It is gratifying to see all the early Verdi treated with affectionate respect. Third, there is a short, succinct guide to audio recordings with some absolutely delicious editorial remarks (he mentions Canadian tenor Richard Margison sounding like he was channeling Ethel Merman and notes that a well known soprano's high notes could kill goldfish in a bowl!) Sad to say, the book was written before the surge of DVDs. Fourth is the quality of writing: Berger has a crisp, grammatic style that maintains interest. Part of this, I am sure, reflects his obvious love of Verdi's output. So in sum, gentle reader, I recommend this book without reservation. It's a winner!!

19 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Bravo Berger and Viva Verdi! By C. M. Mills This short guide to Verdi's life and works is an indispensable gem for anyone wanting to learn more about Italy's greatest operatic composer! Berger gives a succinctly informative sketch of the complex composer's life. He adds chapters on Verdi books, CD's, Videos, staging of Verdi operas and a helpful glossary of operatic terms. The most helpful and longest part of the book deals with a brief synopsis of each opera in the Verdian canon from the obscure "Oberto" to the Master's final comic masterpiece "Falstaff." Berger lists the characters of each opera, makes witty comments on the big arias and scenes in each opera and also provides historical information on the production of each opera. I had earlier read Berger's excellent "Wagner Without Fear" and was so impressed with his writing that I eagerly turned to Berger's guide to Verdi. I understand he is now working on a similar guide to the life and operas of Puccini which will be received by this reviewer with gratitude. If you are a novice to operatic enjoyment or a seasoned Verdian this work will be a delight. I highly recommend it for your consideration!

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Bravo Berger for a Viva Verdi literary treat! By C. M. Mills Viva Verdi! William Berger provides a useful guide to all of the Verdi operas from the obscure "Oberto" to the classic comedic masterpiece "Falstaff" which closed the operatic master's oeuvre. Berger's book is similar to the treatment he earlier applied to Richard Wagner in his "Wagner Without Fear." This means:

- Succinct but on target plot summaries of all Verdi's operas including the Verdi Requiem.
- Brief chapters on the staging of Verdi's operas; Verdi's works on CD and outstanding books on the Busseto genius for anyone wanting to know more about the King of Italian lyrical opera.

Berger's work is worthwhile reading for the operatic novice or the veteran opera fan who wants to brush up on the labyrinthal plot of "Il Trovatore" or explore how Verdi's music has been used as soundtrack for motion pictures. Berger's book on Verdi is a treat for everyone enjoying opera who also relishes good writing done with wit, charm and panache! I eagerly await a similar guide on Puccini which I have learned is in the works from the pen of Berger! Highly recommended!

Everything you could possibly know about Verdi and his operas, from the brilliant and humorous author of Wagner Without Fear. If you want to know why *La traviata* was actually a flop at its premiere in 1853, it's in here. If you want to know why claiming to have heard Bjorling's Chicago performance of *Il trovatore* is the classic opera fan faux pas, it's in here. Even if you just want to know how to pronounce *Aida*, or what the plot of *Rigoletto* is all about, this is the place to look. From the composer's intense hatred of priests to synopses of the operas and a detailed discography of the best recordings to buy, it can all be found in *Verdi with a Vengeance*. William Berger has given another improbable performance, serving up a book as thorough as it is funny and as original as it is astute, an utterly indispensable guide for novice and expert alike.

From Library Journal Berger follows his successful *Wagner Without Fear: Learning To Love* and even enjoys Opera's Most Demanding Genius (LJ 10/15/98) with an equally engaging look at Giuseppe Verdi, the towering figure of Italian musical life in the 19th century. This overview of his life and work is not thorough but is thoroughly informed. Berger, a librettist and frequent commentator on National Public Radio's *At the Opera*, provides a brief overview of the composer's life and times and examines the connections between contemporary politics and Verdi's creative output. There are scene-by-scene plot descriptions along with witty commentary. He describes Nabucco's Abigaille as "one of opera's most outstanding bitches, not so much in what she says as in the number of octaves she takes to say it." A glossary and recommended recordings, films, and soundtracks are included. Informative and eminently readable for the novice and scholar alike, this book would not be out of place in academic libraries, yet its personal approach and accessibility make it an excellent choice for public libraries. DKate McCaffrey, Onondaga Cty. P.L., Syracuse Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. Praise for William Berger's *Wagner Without Fear*: "An engaging guide." --The New Yorker "Witty, knowledgeable, iconoclastic, and emphatically nonacademic...with a down-

to-earth, gossipy approach that belies a keen intelligence.... Often outrageously funny."--Library Journal

From the Inside Flap Everything you could possibly know about Verdi and his operas, from the brilliant and humorous author of *Wagner Without Fear*. If you want to know why *La traviata* was actually a flop at its premiere in 1853, it's in here. If you want to know why claiming to have heard Bjorling's Chicago performance of *Il trovatore* is the classic opera fan faux pas, it's in here. Even if you just want to know how to pronounce *Aida*, or what the plot of *Rigoletto* is all about, this is the place to look. From the composer's intense hatred of priests to synopses of the operas and a detailed discography of the best recordings to buy, it can all be found in *Verdi with a Vengeance*. William Berger has given another improbable performance, serving up a book as thorough as it is funny and as original as it is astute, an utterly indispensable guide for novice and expert alike.