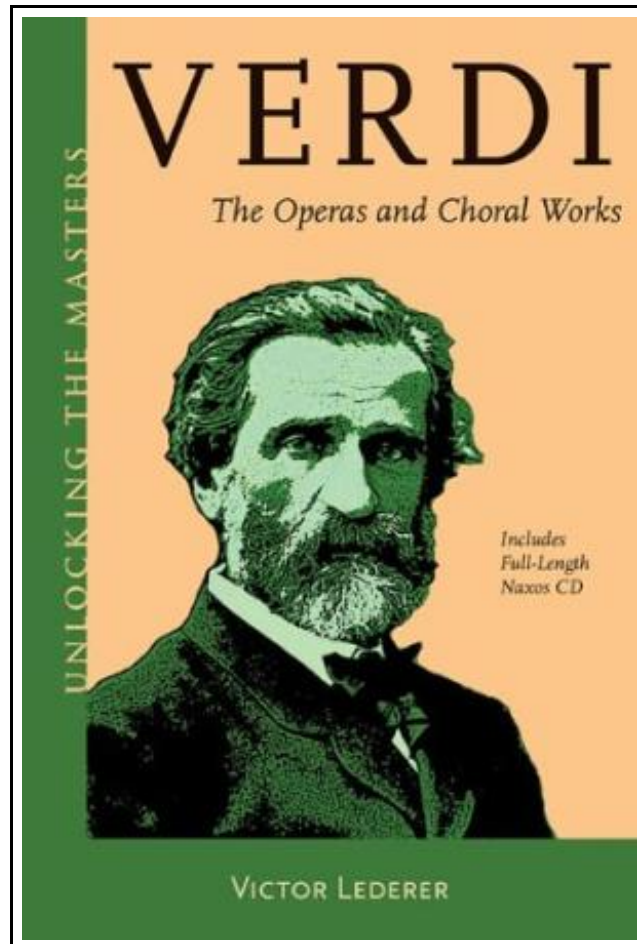


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Reviews

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VERDI: THE OPERAS AND CHORAL WORKS: UNLOCKING THE MASTERS



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Amadeus Press. 1 Paperback & CD(s), 2014. soft. Book Condition: New. Giuseppe Verdi's career forms one of the loveliest arcs in musical history, notes Victor Lederer; the passion of Verdi's works resonates universally, while the sophistication of his middle and late operas satisfies the most demanding ears and tastes. Lederer, also the author of several books in Amadeus Press's Listener's Guide series, surveys every one of the master's 28 operas and his greatest choral pieces, showing Verdi's growth as a musical dramatist in pursuit of authentic human truths. After describing the chaotic milieu in which Verdi learned his craft, Lederer offers act-by-act analyses of the early masterpieces Nabucco, Ernani, and Macbeth, while 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 operas from Luisa Miller onward, including the fine but underrated Stiffelio. The late operas Don Carlo, Aida, and Otello and Falstaff the twin Shakespearean masterworks that crown Verdi's oeuvre are discussed at length in their own chapters. Lederer also examines Verdi's monumental Requiem along with the choral Quattro pezzi sacri, his sublime final achievement. The book includes an album-length Naxos audio CD, with 19 key selections from such works as Rigoletto, Il Torovatore, La Traviata, Otello, Falstaff, and Aida. "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 247pp, 79'06/2014.



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