



**Carnegie  
Library of  
Pittsburgh**

# PITTSBURGH **OPERA** EDUCATION

## **2021–2022 Opera Season Recommended Listening and Reading List**

*A collaboration of Pittsburgh Opera and the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Music Department, with special thanks to Julie Hanify.*

*Please note that there are other books, CDs, and DVDs beyond this list available at the Carnegie Library and for purchase at your favorite store. Call numbers indicate holdings of the Music Department, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, unless otherwise indicated.*

*As we follow current COVID-19 protocols, we encourage you to call 412-622-3114 or visit the website, [www.carnegielibrary.org](http://www.carnegielibrary.org) for more information about borrowing materials. Items can be requested and delivered to your neighborhood library for in-person or curbside pick-up (check with your local library for this information).*

The Music Department at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh offers an extensive collection of materials pertaining to opera, from composer biographies, studies of operas, and histories of opera, to opera libretti, opera scores, and performances on CD and DVD. The items listed below constitute a small selection to whet your appetite as you look forward to the live performance. Enjoy!

## ***The Magic Flute***      Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, 1756–1791 Libretto by Emanuel Schikaneder, 1751–1812

### **CD / DVD**

**Are these items checked out? Not to worry, the Main Library-Oakland owns 3 other CD versions and 4 additional visual presentations of the opera!**

- CD    *The Magic Flute*, Chandos, 2005. (sung in English)  
Banks, Garrett, Vidal, Keenlyside, Tomlinson; Mackerras, Geoffrey Mitchell Choir,  
London Philharmonic Orchestra  
COMPACT DISC Op Moz 26447

# ***The Magic Flute*** Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, 1756–1791 Libretto by Emanuel Schikaneder, 1751–1812

- CD *The Magic Flute*, Deutsche Grammophon, 1997 (1964). (sung in German)  
Wunderlich, Lear, Peters, Fischer-Dieskau, Crass; Böhm, RIAS-Kammerchor, Berlin  
Philharmonic  
COMPACT DISC Op Moz 31216
- DVD *The Magic Flute*, Opus Arte, 2003. (sung in German)  
Hartmann, Röschmann, Damrau, Keenlyside, Selig; Davis, Orchestra and Chorus of the  
Royal Opera  
(DVD) M1500.M84 Z2 2003x
- DVD *The Magic Flute*, Metropolitan Opera, 2006. (abridged version of opera in English)  
Polenzani, Huang, Miklósa, Gunn, Pape; Levine, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and  
Chorus  
(DVD) M1505.M9 Z32 2006x

## **Libretto**

- Seven Mozart Librettos: A Verse Translation* by J.D. McClatchy. (Libretto of *The Magic Flute* by Emanuel Schikaneder)  
New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 2011.  
ML49.M83 O64 2011

## **For further reading**

- Magic Flutes & Enchanted Forests: The Supernatural in Eighteenth-Century Musical Theater* by David J. Buch. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008.  
Buch's work is an important addition to the canon of books about fairy tales and their manifestation in theater and musical dramas. The last chapter deals with supernatural elements in *The Magic Flute* and *Don Giovanni*. Buch discusses the good and evil characters, uses of magic and magical objects, and the role of the fairy tale as a commentary on society. Buch also provides a detailed analysis of the score to support his theories of how otherworldly elements are represented in Mozart's music.  
ML1720.3.B83 2008
- Mozart and His Operas* by David Cairns. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006.  
Cairns's unique biography traces Mozart's life and creative output through his operas. Cairns discusses how Mozart matures as an artist with each opera and writes about how his strength as a composer of great theater influences his instrumental works as well, particularly his piano concertos and string quartets. The chapter that highlights *The Magic Flute* describes Mozart's desire to fully express his love of Viennese popular theater by creating a theatrical work in German that is both funny and serious. Cairns also discusses how the opera serves as a vehicle to communicate Mozart's spiritual beliefs as a Freemason.  
ML410.M9 C253 2006

# ***The Magic Flute***      Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, 1756–1791 Libretto by Emanuel Schikaneder, 1751–1812

*The Magic Flute Unveiled: Esoteric Symbolism in Mozart's Masonic Opera: An Interpretation of the Libretto and the Music* by Jacques Chailley. Rochester, VT: Inner Traditions International, 1992.

Chailley's work presents the argument that Mozart's penultimate opera is essentially a Masonic ritual set to music. He first provides a background of the creation of the work, including information about Freemasonry in eighteenth-century Vienna. The latter two sections of the book detail the Masonic elements revealed in the libretto, the characters, and the music.

ML410.M9 C363 1992

*Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: A Biography* by Piero Melograni. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

Written during the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of Mozart's death, Melograni's biography is a wonderful addition to the many volumes written about the composer. Instead of in-depth musical analyses, Melograni weaves texts of Mozart's letters throughout his narrative to create a thoroughly enjoyable account of the artist's life. This biography is a great read for the music lover or novice.

ML410.M9 M4313 2007

*Mozart: The Man Revealed* by John Suchet. New York: Pegasus Books, 2017.

John Suchet presents Classic FM's flagship morning program in England but his career as a television journalist serves him well as the author of this biography. Suchet's warm and witty style creates an enjoyable portrait of the man as well as the composer. A perfect biography to introduce someone to Mozart and his works.

ML410.M9 S92 2017x

# ***The Rose Elf***

Music and Libretto by David Hertzberg, 1990–

Based on the fairy tale *The Elf of the Rose* by Hans Christian Andersen, ***The Rose Elf*** takes you to a world where a tiny elf lives happily and contently in the protective petals of a beautiful rose. When the flower closes one night before the Elf returns home, the Elf seeks shelter in some nearby honeysuckle. There, the Elf overhears the Girl and her Beloved exchange tender goodbyes, as the Beloved prepares for a lengthy journey. After the Beloved embarks, the Elf watches in horror as the Brother brutally murders the Beloved and buries him beneath a linden tree. The Elf whispers the truth to the Girl while she sleeps, leaving her a leaf from the linden tree to convince her that his message was not a dream. When she awakens, the Girl pursues the terrible truth, even though it could destroy her.

Developed through Opera Philadelphia's [Double Exposure](#) program in 2016 and 2018, *The Rose Elf* premiered on June 6, 2018 in the catacombs of Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, in a production by [R.B. Schlather](#).

David Hertzberg (b. 1990, Los Angeles) (<http://www.davidhertzbergmusic.com/>) began his musical studies at the Colburn School and received his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees with distinction from the Juilliard School.

## **Internet Resources**

<https://open.spotify.com/album/1JkzpgTxKpysXhf0CAeYbu>

Listen before you go

<https://youtu.be/3QgFzUaw5Fc>

David Hertzberg composer portrait

[https://www.pittsburghopera.org/uploads/Study\\_Guide\\_for\\_The\\_Rose\\_Elf.pdf](https://www.pittsburghopera.org/uploads/Study_Guide_for_The_Rose_Elf.pdf)

Study guide from Pittsburgh Opera

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/57f5ed0fff7c50936ae44355/t/5f9da951c0d9fd7d2f6991a3/1604168027706/The+Rose+Elf+-+Booklet.pdf>

Rose Elf CD booklet

## **Library resource for further reading**

<https://librarycatalog.einetwork.net/Record/.b39042984>

Fairy tales of Hans Christian Andersen on OverDrive

# ***In a Grove***

Music by Christopher Cerrone, 1984–  
Libretto by Stephanie Fleischmann, 1962–

Pittsburgh Opera will present the world premiere of *In a Grove*, a one act chamber opera in English, based on the short story by Ryūnosuke Akutagawa.

*In a Grove* is a meditation on subjectivity, innocence, empathy, and guilt, presenting the narrative of a fatal crime in the testimony of several witnesses whose differing stories make the truth impossible to discern.

Four singers play eight roles, each assuming the character of both witness and participant in the crime. Six instrumentalists also function as characters, each in concert with a different testimonial. Dispersed throughout the space and accompanied by electronics throughout, the instruments form the architecture of this world. As the testimonies unfold, singers and players shift the sonic terrain and the audience's relationship to the drama.

## **Internet Resources**

<https://christophercerrone.com/music/in-a-grove/>

*In a Grove* trailer and workshop performance

<https://christophercerrone.com/>

Composer Christopher Cerrone's website

<http://www.stephaniefleischmann.com/>

Librettist Stephanie Fleischmann's website

# *Carmen*

Music by Georges Bizet, 1838–1875  
Libretto by Henri Meilhac, 1830–1897  
and Ludovic Halévy, 1834–1908

## **CD / DVD**

**Are these items checked out? Not to worry, the Main Library in Oakland owns 7 other CD versions of the opera!**

- CD *Carmen*, Deutsche Grammophon, 1983.  
Baltza, Carreras, Ricciarelli, van Dam; Karajan, Chœur de l'Opéra de Paris, Berlin Philharmonic  
COMPACT DISC Op Biz 20933
- CD *Carmen*, Deutsche Grammophon, 1998 (1978).  
Berganza, Domingo, Cotrubas, Milnes; Abbado, The Ambrosian Singers, London Symphony Orchestra  
COMPACT DISC Op Biz 20931
- DVD *Carmen*, Opera Australia, 2013.  
Shaham, Popov, Car, Jones; Castles-Onion, Opera Australia Chorus, Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra  
(DVD) M1500.B629 C4 2013x
- DVD *Carmen*, Deutsche Grammophon, 2010.  
Garanča, Alagna, Frittoli, Rhodes; Nézet-Séquin, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and Chorus  
(DVD) M1500.B629 C4 2010x
- DVD *Carmen*, TDK, 2004 (1978).  
Obraztsova, Domingo, Buchanan, Mazurok; Kleiber, Chor der Wiener Staatsoper; Die Wiener Sängerknaben, Bühnenorchester & Orchester der Wiener Staatsoper  
(DVD) M1500.B629C4 2004x

## **Libretto**

*Carmen*; Libretto by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy with English translation by Nell and John Moody. London: J. Calder; New York: Riverrun Press, 1982.  
Includes several essays, a guide to musical themes in the opera, and a side-by-side French and English translation.  
ML50.B625 C22 1982

# ***Carmen***

Music by Georges Bizet, 1838–1875  
Libretto by Henri Meilhac, 1830–1897  
and Ludovic Halévy, 1834–1908

## **For further reading**

*Bizet and His World* by Mina Kirsten Curtiss. New York: Knopf, 1958.

Curtiss' biography is one of the most complete biographical sketches of Bizet, even after the first appearance of this work over 50 years ago. With the help of Bizet's family and friends, including the son of Ludovic Halévy, one of the librettists for *Carmen*, Curtiss incorporates personal remembrances, Bizet's letters, and other archival material to create her portrait. The final section of the book is solely dedicated to *Carmen*.

ML410.B62 C87

*Georges Bizet: His Life and Work* by Winton Dean. London: J. M. Dent, 1965.

This biography is a revision of Dean's 1948 work. Acknowledging Curtiss' book, he rewrote many sections of the earlier edition. Dean's focus is on the music rather than Bizet's life and he delves deeply into the libretto and musical motifs of *Carmen*. He also talks about the never-ending controversy of using the spoken dialogue versus the recitatives composed by Ernest Guiraud after Bizet's death.

ML410.B62 D355

*Georges Bizet, Carmen* by Susan McClary. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 1992.

Part of the Cambridge Opera Handbooks series. The essays allow the reader to dive into various aspects of this work. One essay highlights the original story by Prosper Mérimée, which first appeared in a French travel journal while another discusses race, class, and gender issues of nineteenth-century France. Bizet's musical language is discussed and analyzed, and a final essay talks about film versions depicting this famous temptress.

ML410.B62 M25 1992

*Georges Bizet: A Biography* by Christoph Schwandt. Lanham, Maryland: Scarecrow Press, 2013.

Schwandt's biography is widely accepted as a definitive work. The author argues for Bizet's place among the composers of his time. His life's work is not just *Carmen*, as wonderful as the opera may be. Schwandt writes about Bizet's musical output and sheds light on the man behind some amazing music.

ML410.B62 S2813 2013

# **Blue**

Music by Jeanine Tesori, 1961–  
Libretto by Tazewell Thompson, 1948–

*Blue* is a 2019 opera by Tony Award winning composer Jeanine Tesori and NAACP Theatre Award winning librettist Tazewell Thompson.

*Blue* is inspired by contemporary events and Black literature, including Ta-Nehisi Coates' *Between the World and Me* and James Baldwin's *The Fire Next Time*. Librettist Tazewell Thompson tells the story of a black family struck by tragedy. A police officer is torn apart when his son is killed at a protest by another officer.

*Blue* was commissioned by The Glimmerglass Festival and premiered July 14, 2019. *Blue* received the Music Critics Association of North America 2020 Award for Best New Opera

## **Internet Resources**

<http://www.tazewellthompson.com/>

Librettist Tazewell Thompson's website

<https://www.masterworksbroadway.com/artist/jeanine-tesori/>

About composer Jeanine Tesori

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMH4imgyHVw>

The Glimmerglass Festival: *Blue* by Jeanine Tesori and Tazewell Thompson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5dKK2isJwog>

Washington National Opera presents *Blue*

## **Material at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh**

### **CDs of other works by Jeanine Tesori**

- CD *Shrek the musical*  
With David Lindsay-Abaire, librettist, lyricist.  
COMPACT DISC Mc Tes 35506
  
- CD *Fun Home* - original cast recording  
With Lisa Kron, librettist, lyricist  
COMPACT DISC Mc Tes 43475
  
- CD *Thoroughly Modern Millie*  
With Dick Scanlan, lyricist, librettist  
COMPACT DISC Mc Tho 18170



# **Blue**

Music by Jeanine Tesori, 1961–  
Libretto by Tazewell Thompson, 1948–

- CD *Violet* - original Broadway cast recording  
With Brian Crawley, librettist, lyricist  
COMPACT DISC Mc Tes 43624
  
- CD *Caroline, or Change* - original Broadway cast recording  
With Tony Kushner, librettist, lyricist  
COMPACT DISC Mc Tes 21716

## **Internet Resources**

[\*Between the world and me\*](#) by Ta-Nehisi Coates

[\*The Fire Next Time\*](#) by James Baldwin

# Explore more about opera online!

## Oxford Music Online

This resource combines the content of *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, *The New Grove Dictionary of Opera*, *The New Grove Dictionary of Jazz*, *The Oxford Dictionary of Music*, and *The Oxford Companion to Music* in one place. A valid Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh card is required. This link will get you there: [carnegielibrary.org/research](https://www.carnegielibrary.org/research) (Type Oxford Music into the keyword search box to get to the database.)

## Operabase

<https://www.operabase.com/en>

This website allows you to search opera performance details of artists and international opera companies, including upcoming schedules. Operabase has documented operatic activity worldwide since 1996, with more than 500,000 performances on file. It records the work of artists in more than 900 theaters, and publishes season information to opera-goers in 23 languages.

## OperaGlass

[opera.stanford.edu/](http://opera.stanford.edu/)

A great resource for plot synopses of operas, libretti, discographies, and performance histories. Links to other opera websites are also listed.

## YouTube

[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

Though YouTube is not a specific site for opera research, it really does have everything and anything as far as video and sound clips. If you use the title of any opera in a search, you will find several archived performances from stage productions, concerts, and more.

Visit the Pittsburgh Opera website: [www.pittsburghopera.org](http://www.pittsburghopera.org)  
Visit the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh website: [www.carnegielibrary.org](http://www.carnegielibrary.org)