



Verdi and Puccini Heroines: Dramatic Characterization in Great Soprano Roles

Geoffrey Edwards, Ryan Edwards

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New in paperback! This book comes at a time when opera-lovers, singers, directors, and critics alike are taking a new look at the dramatic soprano heroines created by Giuseppe Verdi and Giacomo Puccini, endeavoring to delve beyond inherited scholarly interpretation and gain a richer understanding of these compelling female characters. Artistically limited by the *bel canto* musical tradition popular at the time, Verdi launched a new style *dramma per musica* which also demanded a new soprano archetype. This book illustrates the musical evolution of the Verdi and Puccini soprano while illuminating the dramatic scope and power of these great heroines.

Avoiding critical reductionism, *Verdi and Puccini Heroines* provides an unprecedented and probing discussion of how these great soprano roles were conceived and executed. Accordingly, the authors take a three-dimensional look at these heroines, examining seven operas: *Il Trovatore*, *La Forza del Destino*, *Aida*, *La Bohème*, *Tosca*, *Madama Butterfly*, and *Turandot*. The chapters, which are fully self-contained analyses, contain translations, illustrative musical examples, supplementary notes, and references to each opera's literary sources. The musical analysis, while thorough, is descriptive and accessible to all levels of readers.

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