



The Rough Guide to Opera

'This opera reference is essential'
(*Billboard Magazine on the 1st Edition*)

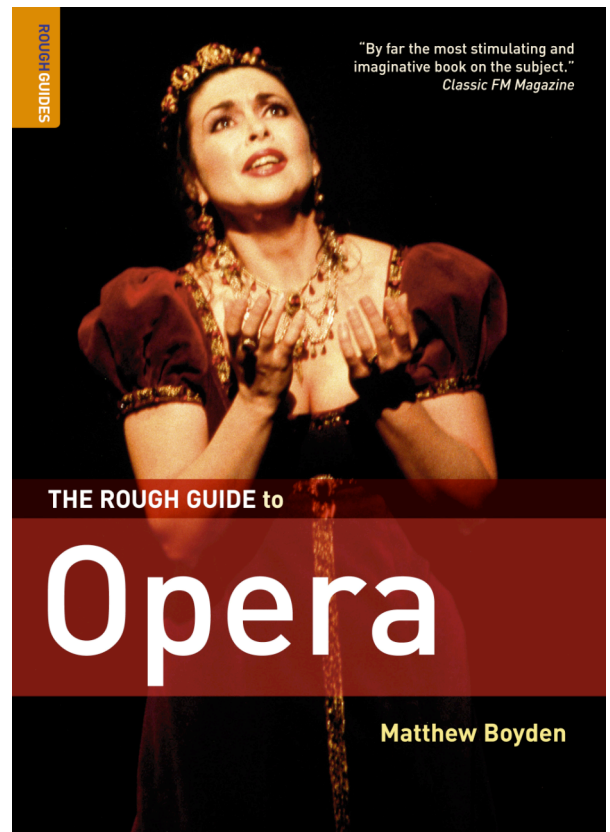
The combination of music and drama is a thrillingly potent mix, but opera remains off-putting for many people. Partly this is due to the social exclusivity cultivated by many opera houses, especially in the English-speaking world, but also due to the sheer diversity of the art.

Thousands of operas have been written since the pioneering efforts of Monteverdi and his colleagues some four hundred years ago, and though many of these are no longer performed, the repertoire can still seem daunting.

Whether you're new to opera, or are already familiar with many of its masterpieces, **The Rough Guide to Opera** is the essential guide through this mass of music, providing concise information to the composers, the operas and the recordings.

With detailed reviews of over 60 of the most influential operas dating back to the genre's roots in late-renaissance Italy, each section is followed by a series of recommended recordings and a directory of key singers and conductors.

Readers are guided chronologically through descriptions of eras with individual overviews of periods including biographical essentials and highlighted works. A glossary proves helpful when words such as "fioritura" and "Habanera" arise.



Notes for Editors:

The Rough Guide to Opera

NEW EDITION

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