

VIDEO
REVIEW



CLASSICAL MUSIC: BE AN
INSTANT EXPERT

About the Instant Expert Series

Many people think that learning about classical music and the people that create it would require so much time and energy that the prospect of diving in overwhelms them. Naxos, the world's leading classical label, has mined its vast catalog of recordings (and the brains of its global staff of classical music connoisseurs) to design a new series called "Instant Expert" which is available by download only. Each "Instant Expert" volume focuses on the music of one composer, featuring a curated collection of that composer's greatest hits as well as some unique or historically significant compositions. In addition, each download is accompanied by a podcast hosted by Raymond Bisha, Naxos of America Director of Media Relations, and a booklet containing track information and an abridged biography of the composer.

– Kelly M. Rach, National Publicist, Naxos of America



Verdi
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Giuseppe Verdi (10/10/1813 - 1/27/1901)

Verdi dominated the world of Italian opera from his first considerable success in 1842 with *Nabucco* until his final Shakespearean operas *Otello*, staged at La Scala, Milan in 1887, and *Falstaff*, mounted at the same opera house in 1893. His career coincided with the rise of Italian nationalism and the unification of the country, causes with which he was openly associated.

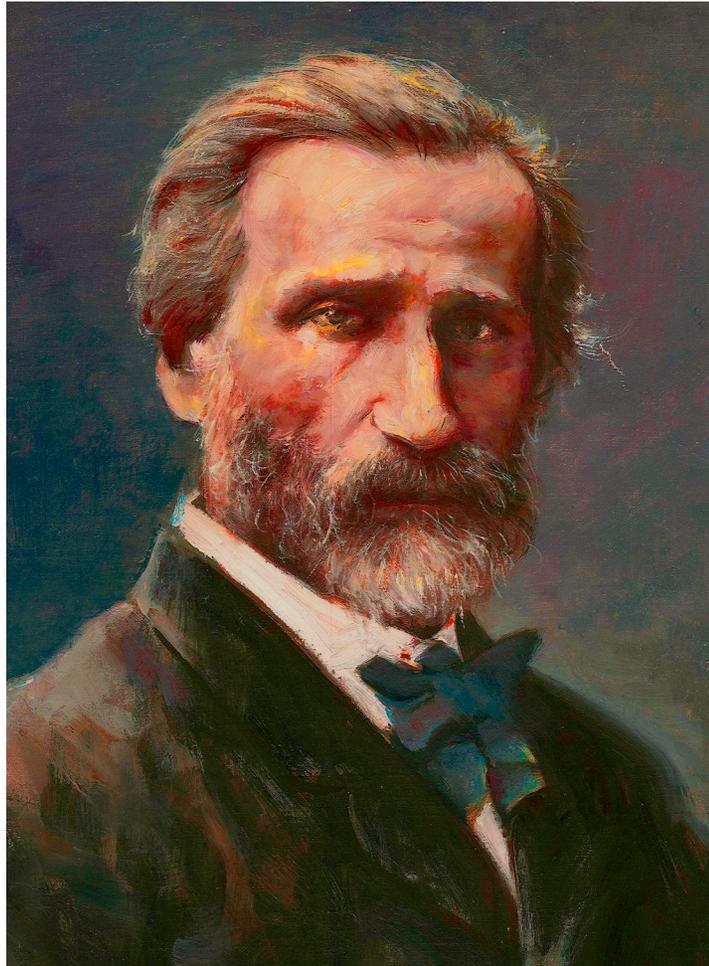
Operas

The best known of Verdi's 28 operas are *Nabucco* ('Nebuchadnezzar'), *Macbeth*, *Rigoletto*, *Il trovatore*, *La traviata*, *Les Vêpres siciliennes* ('The Sicilian Vespers'), *Simon Boccanegra*, *Un ballo in maschera* ('A Masked Ball'), *La forza del destino* ('The Force of Destiny'), *Don Carlo*, *Aida*, *Otello*, and *Falstaff*.

Church Music

In addition to settings of the Te Deum and the Stabat mater, Verdi wrote an impressive large-scale setting of the Requiem, its origin stemming from the death of Rossini in 1868 and the death of the writer Manzoni. The Requiem is a work of operatic magnificence, none the less moving for its theatrical elements.

The Quattro pezzi sacri ('Four Sacred Pieces') were written at various times in Verdi's later years. The first, Ave Maria sulla scala enigmatica, written in 1889, was followed on publication by a Stabat mater, the Laudi alla Vergine Maria (on a text from Dante), and a Te Deum for double chorus and orchestra. The Quattro pezzi sacri were published in 1898.



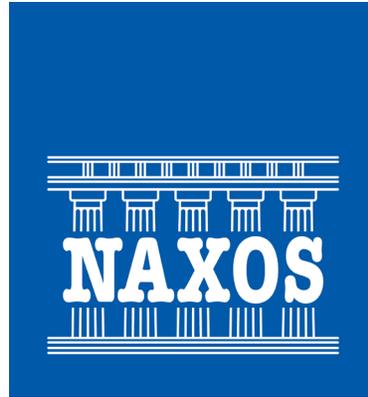
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Explore these and other key works by Verdi in their entirety:

Aida
Don Carlos
Ernani
Falstaff
Il trovatore
Jérusalem
La Forza del destino
La Traviata
Les vêpres siciliennes
Luisa Miller
Macbeth
Messa da Requiem
Nabucco
Otello
Rigoletto
Un ballo in maschera



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