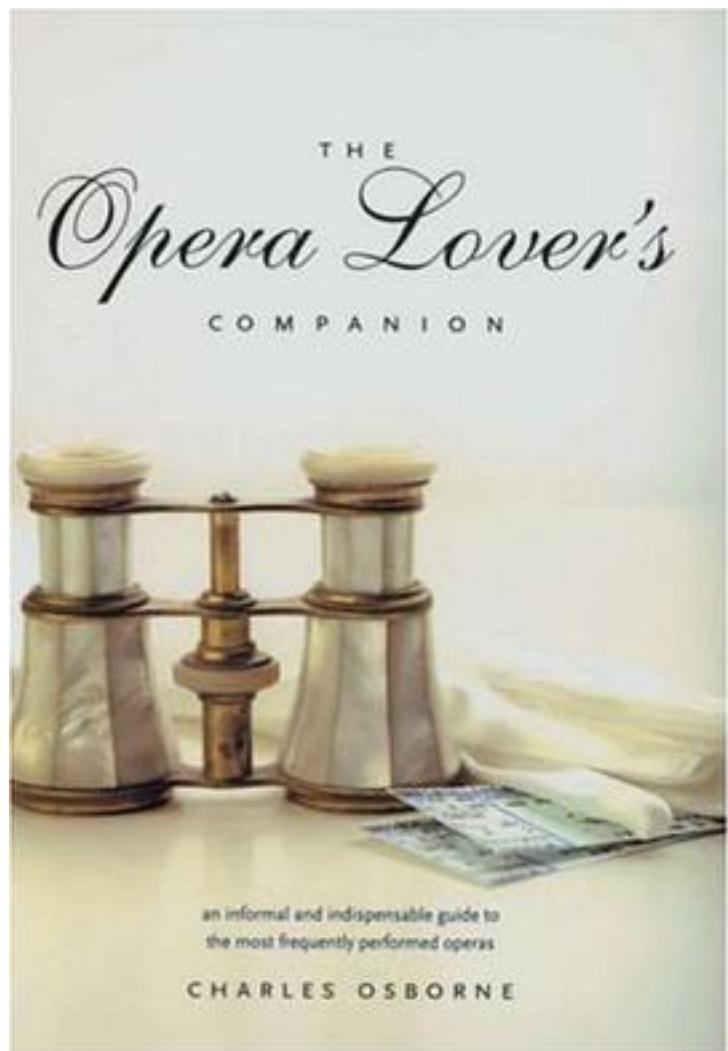


The Opera Lover's Companion



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Every opera lover enjoys a performance more when accompanied by a knowledgeable friend. In this indispensable guide, well-known opera critic Charles Osborne provides exactly that. Osborne fills in the details on 175 of the world's most frequently performed operas, including facts about the composer and the music, a plot outline, accounts of famous performers, and much more.

"This book is exactly what the title claims: an opera lover's companion. Reading it is like going to the opera with a knowledgeable friend who tells you enough to make you want to see the piece but not so much you're drowned in superfluous detail."—Richard Fawkes, *Opera Now*

"What this invaluable book contains is the ideal rundown on 175 operas from Auber's *Fra Diavolo* to Zimmerman's *Die Soldaten*, in each case putting the work in context within the composer's development, with a list of characters, a short synopsis and pointers towards the most important arias, duets and ensembles, all in a personal congenial tone, like unto an operatically wise and loving uncle."—Denby Richards, *Musical Opinion*

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