GIUSEPPE VERDI RESOURCES

Books

The Cambridge Companion to Verdi

The Complete Operas of Verdi
Author: Charles Osborne. Notes: In this volume, every Verdi opera is explored from four points of view: Verdi's life at the time each was written; the story, and the way it links with the music; the libretto and librettist, and Verdi's relations with his publishers; and the music itself, analyzed with examples from the score. English. 486 pages. Da Capo Press. 1977.

The Life and Times of Giuseppe Verdi: The World's Greatest Composers

The Verdi-Boito Correspondence
Author: Giuseppe Verdi, Arrigo Boito. Notes: Italian poet/composer Boito was the librettist for Verdi's last and perhaps greatest operas, Otello and Falstaff. This collection is important for its size (301 letters) and themes (when two talented men collaborate with mutual loving respect). English. 386 pages. University of Chicago Press. 1994.

Verdi: His Music, Life and Times
Author: George Martin. Notes: This book relates the life and experiences of Verdi, from his birth in 1813 to his death in 1901. Besides documenting his life and the music he created, it also goes further in discussing the times and culture in which he was living in 19th century Italy, both socially and politically. English. 526 pages. Limelight Editions. 2004.

Verdi's Middle Period

Verdi's Theater: Creating Drama through Music
Film/DVDs

*The Life of Verdi*
Director: Renato Castellani. Starring: Ronald Pickup, Carla Fracci. Notes: This elaborate cinematic biography blends documentary with drama to tell the story of a great artistic genius who became the musical voice of a nation. Filmed on location in Italy, Leningrad, London, and Paris, this mini-series took several years to create. This uncut version is filled with Verdi’s glorious music, sung in the original Italian. English and Italian. 600 minutes. Kultur Video. 2003.

CDs

*Verdi: Greatest Hits*
Performers: Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Luciano Pavarotti, Jose Carreras et al. Conductor: Emerson Buckley, et al. Notes: This is a good CD for those looking to break in to operatic scores. It has large, haunting compositions for chorus, solos, duets, trios and a good mix of orchestrations with no vocals, perfectly showcasing Verdi’s gift as a composer. Sony. 1994.

*Verdi: Requiem and Operatic Choruses*

Websites

Cosmopolis – Giuseppe Verdi
http://www.cosmopolis.ch/english/cosmo13/verdi.htm
(Information on operas and CD suggestions)

Last.fm – Verdi
http://www.last.fm/music/Giuseppe+Verdi/
(Play music, check out events, join groups, etc.)

Verdi Timeline (google)
http://www.google.com/archivesearch?hl=en&q=verdi&um=1&ie=UTF-8&scoring=t&ei=R9PoSY7IKaestAPg74DhAQ&sa=X&oi=timeline_result&resnum=16&ct=title

Sources: amazon.com, googlebooks.com