

The History of Classical Music, The History of Opera

By Richard Fawkes

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From Gregorian Chant to Henryk Gorecki, the first living classical composer to get into the pop album charts, here is the fascinating story of over a thousand years of Western classical music and the composers who have sought to express in music the deepest of human feelings and emotions. Polyphony, sonata form, serial music—many musical expressions are also explained—with the text illustrated by performances from some of the most highly praised recordings of recent years. Since its origins in the sixteenth century, opera has been an extravagant, costly affair, arousing great passions. It has also produced some of the most sublime works of art, from Monteverdi to Wagner. Richard Fawkes traces the history of opera up to the present day, including a history of operetta.

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The History of Classical Music, The History of Opera By Richard Fawkes Bibliography

- Rank: #9360726 in Books
- Published on: 2016-05-17
- Released on: 2016-05-17
- Formats: Audiobook, MP3 Audio, Unabridged
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.75" h x .50" w x 5.25" l,
- Running time: 11 Hours
- Binding: MP3 CD

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Editorial Review

About the Author

ROBERT POWELL is professor of biology at Avila University in Kansas City, Missouri, and a research associate at the University of Kansas Natural History Museum in Lawrence. He has written hundreds of scientific articles and notes (many with student coauthors) and is coauthor or coeditor of seven books, including *A Key to the Herpetofauna of the Continental United States and Canada* (1998, 2nd edition 2012; with Joseph T. Collins and Errol D. Hooper).

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