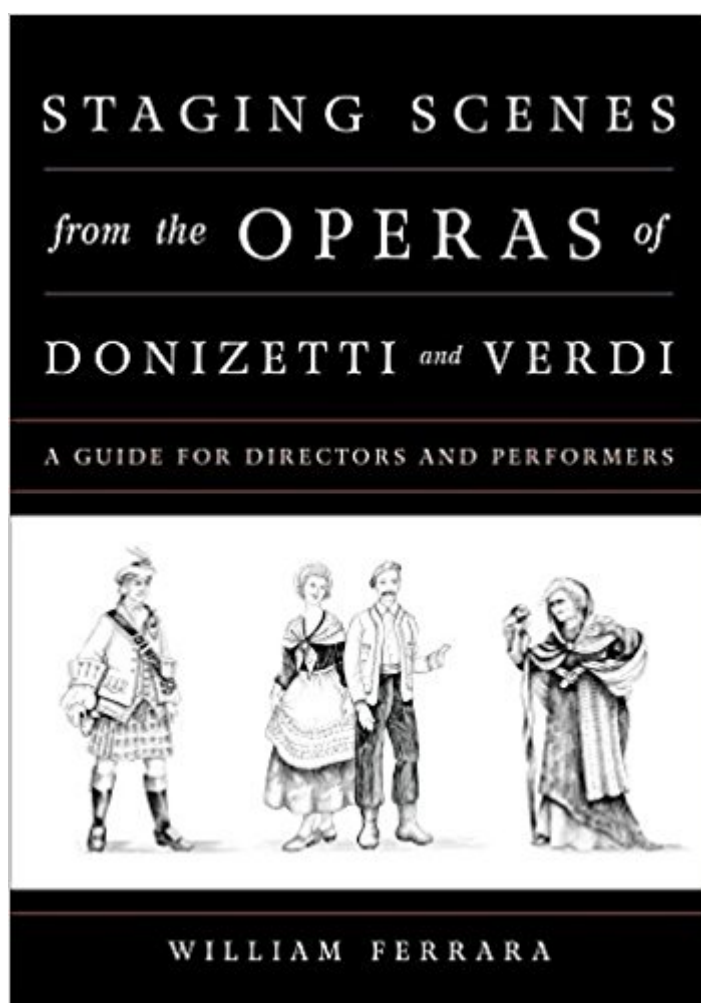


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# Staging Scenes From The Operas Of Donizetti And Verdi: A Guide For Directors And Performers



## Synopsis

In *Staging Scenes from the Operas of Donizetti and Verdi*, veteran opera director William Ferrara presents a detailed, practical exploration of the staging of twenty-one scenes from two of opera's most beloved composers. He brings to life Donizetti's delightful comedies, *L'elisir d'amore* and *Don Pasquale*, and guides us through the haunted world of *Lucia di Lammermoor*. He explores Verdi's dark themes and imagery in scenes from *Rigoletto*, and the heartbreaking choices of the characters in *La traviata*. With signature comic touches, vivid characters, and dynamic stage action, Ferrara brings tried-and-true techniques as well as lively new ideas to these favorite scenes. Topics include study and research, rehearsal planning, blocking, characterization, ideas for simplified sets and props, and costume design. The introduction to each of the five operas includes a brief description of the story and characters, and suggestions for several different approaches to staging—both traditional and modern. The heart of each chapter is the text and translation of the scene, embedded with line-by-line notes on character, movement, emotion, and interaction. This fresh approach to staging an opera scene by applying insights and ideas directly to the text sparks the student's dramatic imagination and inspires a deeper understanding of the connection between words and music. In addition, by exploring creative improvisations, exercises and contemporary parallels, young performers are encouraged to build more authentic and dynamic performances. Intended for college and university voice teachers seeking guidance for developing a scenes program or opera workshop class, this is also the perfect workbook for students studying opera stage direction, as well as graduate and undergraduate students performing opera scenes by Donizetti and Verdi.

## Book Information

File Size: 8004 KB

Print Length: 284 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1442257822

Publisher: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers (October 26, 2016)

Publication Date: October 26, 2016

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01MA4QNOX

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,222,418 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #25

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in [Kindle Store](#) > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Composers > Verdi #149

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