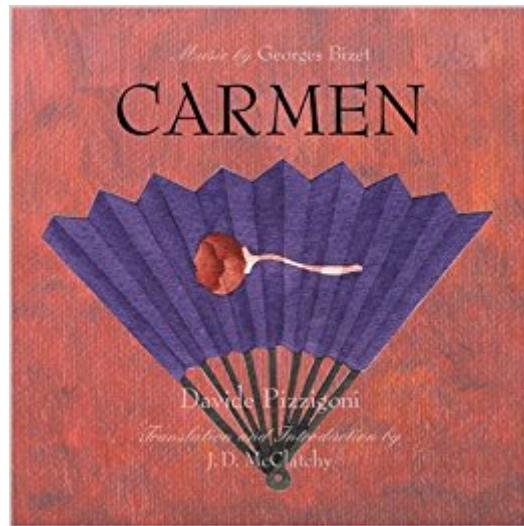


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Carmen



Synopsis

Georges Bizet's final opera, Carmen, has become one of the best-known plots with the most memorable of music, despite its initial rejection by Paris critics following its scandalous 1875 premiere at the Opera-Comique, a theatre known for works of a lighter flavour. Basing their work on Prosper Merimee's novella, librettists Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halevy have fashioned a timeless story of love, jealousy, and violence in the Spanish city of Seville, all set into motion by Carmen, a seductive, free-spirited femme fatale."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

David Pizzigoni is a Milan-based artist and designer whose opera credits include sets and costumes for productions in Zurich and Vienna. J.D. McClatchy, who lives in New York and Stonington, Connecticut, is editor of the Yale Review and author of four collections of poetry and four original opera libretti.

This book is enlightening for me in that it has a recording at the end that is unusual for Americans to hear. It says it is a rendition of the opera as first given at the Opera Comique. It is about half the length of the grand opera we mostly know now. It is led by the brilliant Clutens. This soprano performed this opera 500 times! The recording is from the early 1950's. According to my ear, it does not seem that her voice is suitable as it is small to very small. Her stage presence must surely have been a compensation. The sound is perhaps due to the microphones. However, the tenor is loud.

He is the well known Raul Jobin. I do not think he is trying to steal scenes. I am struck to hear these wonderful and famous melodies largely reduced to their barest minimums. There are exceptions, the Habenera, for example. The opera is amazingly fast paced because of this and it is a pleasure to run across the original version. The book is good, however it does not measure up to the same author's "Magic Flute."

An interesting and excellent book and CDs.

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