

"This book is remarkable because it has the whole story—the operas, a bio, the books about Wagner, the recordings, and even the movies. . . . It may be 'without fear' but it's not without laughter." —Tony Randall

WAGNER WITHOUT Fear



LEARNING TO LOVE—AND EVEN ENJOY—
OPERA'S MOST DEMANDING GENIUS

WILLIAM BERGER

Wagner Without Fear Learning To Love And Even Enjoy Operas Most Demanding Genius

Lauren Gardner



Wagner Without Fear Learning To Love And Even Enjoy Operas Most Demanding Genius:

Wagner Without Fear William Berger, 2010-06-16 Do you cringe when your opera loving friends start raving about the latest production of Tristan Do you feel faint just thinking about the six hour performance of Parsifal you were given tickets to Does your mate accuse you of having a Tannh user complex If you re baffled by the behavior of Wagner worshipers if you ve longed to fathom the mysteries of Wagner s ever increasing popularity or if you just want to better understand and enjoy the performances you re attending you ll find this delightful book indispensable William Berger is the most helpful guide one could hope to find for navigating the strange and beautiful world of the most controversial artist who ever lived He tells you all you need to know to become a true Wagnerite from story lines to historical background from when to visit the rest room to how to sound smart during intermission from the Jewish legend that possibly inspired Lohengrin to the tragic death of the first Tristan Funny informative and always a pleasure to read *Wagner Without Fear* proves that the art of Wagner can be accessible to everyone Includes The strange life of Richard Wagner German patriot and exile friend and enemy of Liszt and Nietzsche Essential opera lore and lobby talk A scene by scene analysis of each opera What to listen for to get the most from the music Recommended recordings films and sound tracks *Diversions and Animadversions* Alexander

Coleman, 2017-07-28 This volume contains nearly all the criticism that Alexander Coleman wrote for *The New Criterion* between 1994 and 2003 A specialist in Spanish Portuguese and Latin American literature Coleman was also a superb essayist on music and his wide erudition as revealed in these writings demonstrates an easy mastery of the entire modernist tradition *Diversions and Animadversions* is divided into three parts The first contains Coleman s literary essays including a lengthy piece on Eba de Queros the great master of Portuguese realism and shorter pieces on the Argentinian writer and Borges disciple Adolfo Bioy Casares as well as a review of the most recent translation of the poetry of Federico Garcia Lorca Coleman s greatest passion however was for music and part two contains essays concert and book reviews and reports on the cultural situation of music Among the subjects examined here are the operas of Schoenberg Berg Richard Strauss the recently published letters of Toscanini the music criticism of Virgil Thomson the fluctuating critical reputation of Jean Sibelius and the authentic performance practice movement along with considerations of such instrumentalists as Sviatoslav Richter and Alicia de Larrocha The book concludes with Coleman s travel writings which are both evocative mood pieces and incisive social and political commentary Graced with personal appreciations by Roger Kimball and Denis Donoghue this volume encapsulates the work of a writer of rare wit capacious learning and eager if gently ironical curiosity **Verdi With**

a Vengeance William Berger, 2010-06-23 Everything you could possibly know about Verdi and his operas from the brilliant and humorous author of *Wagner Without Fear* If you want to know why *La traviata* was actually a flop at its premiere in 1853 it s in here If you want to know why claiming to have heard Bjorling s Chicago performance of *Il trovatore* is the classic opera fan faux pas it s in here Even if you just want to know how to pronounce *Aida* or what the plot of *Rigoletto* is all about this is

the place to look From the composer s intense hatred of priests to synopses of the operas and a detailed discography of the best recordings to buy it can all be found in Verdi with a Vengeance William Berger has given another improbable performance serving up a book as thorough as it is funny and as original as it is astute an utterly indispensable guide for novice and expert alike *Vox Eurydice* Margaret Ann Mendenhall,2024-12-15 This book explores the emergence of female rescuers in the German language operas of Mozart Beethoven and Wagner **Wagner Without Fear** William Berger,1998-09-29 A witty and informative guide that tells readers all they need to know from storylines to historical background and from when to visit the rest room to how to sound smart during intermission Funny and a pleasure to read Wagner Without Fear proves that the art of Wagner can be accessible to everyone **The Holocaust** Paul R. Bartrop,Michael Dickerman,2017-09-15 This four volume set provides reference entries primary documents and personal accounts from individuals who lived through the Holocaust that allow readers to better understand the cultural political and economic motivations that spurred the Final Solution The Holocaust that occurred during World War II remains one of the deadliest genocides in human history with an estimated two thirds of the 9 million Jews in Europe at the time being killed as a result of the policies of Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany The Holocaust An Encyclopedia and Document Collection provides students with an all encompassing resource for learning about this tragic event a four book collection that provides detailed information as well as multidisciplinary perspectives that will serve as a gateway to meaningful discussion and further research The first two volumes present reference entries on significant individuals of the Holocaust both victims and perpetrators anti Semitic ideology and annihilationist policies advocated by the Nazi regime giving readers insight into the social political cultural military and economic aspects of the Holocaust while enabling them to better understand the Final Solution in Europe during World War II and its lasting legacy The third volume of the set presents memoirs and personal narratives that describe in their own words the experiences of survivors and resisters who lived through the chaos and horror of the Final Solution The last volume consists of primary documents including government decrees and military orders propaganda in the form of newspapers and pamphlets war crime trial transcripts and other items that provide a direct look at the causes and consequences of the Holocaust under the Nazi regime By examining these primary sources users can have a deeper understanding of the ideas and policies used by perpetrators to justify their actions in the annihilation of the Jews of Europe The set not only provides an invaluable and comprehensive research tool on the Holocaust but also offers historical perspective and examination of the origins of the discontent and cultural resentment that resulted in the Holocaust subject matter that remains highly relevant to key problems facing human society in the 21st century and beyond *Puccini Without Excuses* William Berger,2005-11-08 In this informative guide for beginners and fans alike William Berger sets the record straight reclaiming Puccini as a serious artist Combining his trademark irreverent humor with passionate enthusiasm Berger strikes just the right balance of introductory information and thought provoking analysis He includes a biography

discussions of each opera a glossary fun facts and anecdotes and above all keen insight into Puccini's enduring power Jacket

The Publishers Weekly, 1998 **Approaches to Teaching Pynchon's *The Crying of Lot 49* and Other Works**

Thomas Schaub, 2008-01-01 As teachers well know the elements that make Thomas Pynchon exciting to read and study the historical references the multilayered prose and the postmodern integration of high and low cultures and science and literature often constitute hurdles to undergraduate and graduate readers alike The essays gathered in this volume turn these classroom challenges into assets showing instructors how to make the narratives frustration of reader expectations not only intellectually rewarding but also part of the joy of reading *The Crying of Lot 49* Gravity's Rainbow Mason to use the texts to explore racial and gender politics and legacies of colonialism and to make Pynchon's elaborate prose style accessible to students Teachers will also find sample syllabi for courses solely on Pynchon as well as suggestions for incorporating his work into graduate and undergraduate classrooms at a range of institutions **Hi Fi/stereo Review**, 1998-07 **Home**

and School Reading and Study Guides Donna M. Lusardi, Rosemarie Kent, 2007 **Talking Book Topics**, 2001

American Book Publishing Record, 1998 *Notes* Music Library Association, 1999 **Cassette Books** Library of

Congress. National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, 1978 **The Library Journal**, 1998-10

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