

Giuseppe Verdi

An Italian Composer

Period: Romantic

Born: Saturday, October 10th, 1813 in Le Roncole, Italy

Died: Sunday, January 27, 1901 in Milan, Italy

Nation of Origin: Italy

Major Works:

Requiem (1874)

Opera:

Rigoletto (1850-1851)

Il Trovatore (1851-1852)

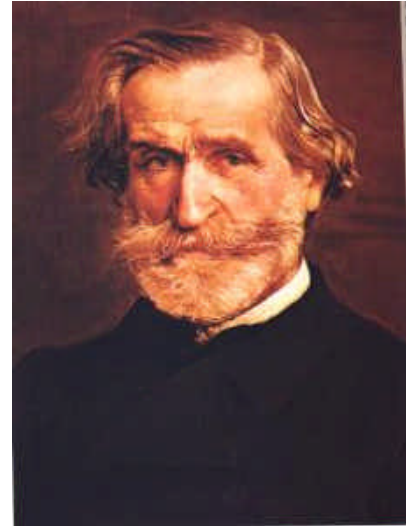
La forza del destino (1861-1862)

La Traviata (1852-1853)

Aida (1870)

Otello (1884-1886)

Falstaff (1889-1892)

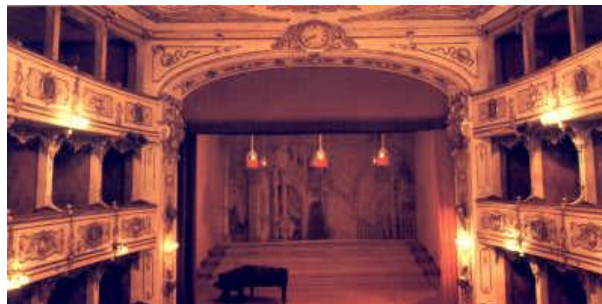


Giuseppe Verdi came of poor parents in Roncole di Busseto on the 10th of October 1813. He soon developed an inclination to music, his first teacher was the Roncole organist; he practised playing a modest spinet while helping his parents with their shop, a modest tavern; at twelve he went to Busseto and started working for the shop-keeper Barezzi, who then became his protector, while also studying music with the band teacher of the village. He went to Milan thanks to a pawnshop grant and Barezzi's financial support: at nineteen he tried to enter the conservatory,

but he was not admitted (!!!). He thus continued his studies with the teacher Lavigna.

When he came back to Busseto he was assigned music composer of the municipality and conductor of the band. In 1835 he married his protector's daughter Margherita Barezzi who died together with their two children during the 1838-1840 years in Milan, where the Verdi family had moved.

His first opera was "Oberto Conte di San Bonifacio" (1839) successfully performed at the La Scala Theatre in Milan.



La Scala Theatre

His second opera , "Un giorno di regno" (1840), a comic work, was a complete fiasco thus adding more pain to the family misfortune.

His extraordinary production of works began just at that time. His untiring and prodigious activity did not succumb even to old age, which he spent together with the

inseparable and faithful Giuseppina Strepponi, who had been living with him since 1849.

Giuseppe Verdi died in Milan on the 27th of the January 1901 and he was buried in the Home for Musicians he himself had founded.

Here's the plot of one of his most famous opera: **Rigoletto**

Rigoletto is a popular tragedy.

The story is set in Mantova. It tells of Rigoletto, the fool at the court of the duke of Mantova. During a party, a count charges the duke with having raped his daughter. Rigoletto laughs at the count, and he curses him. Rigoletto's daughter, Giada, is kidnapped by the duke. Her father wants her back, but Giada has fallen in love with the duke. Rigoletto revenges himself. He hires a killer to kill the duke and to send him the duke's body in a sack. But the killer's sister, who is also the duke's lover, persuades her brother not to kill the duke. Giada is killed in his place and her father will find her own body in the sack.

The most famous song in this opera is "La Donna è Mobile".

Sara Berretta IB