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Boris Godunov: English National Opera Guide 11



Synopsis

English National Opera Guides are ideal companions to the opera. They provide stimulating introductory articles together with the complete text of each opera in English and the original. This famous opera has had a chequered performance history, and Professor Laurel E. Fay points out that the interpretation of the opera depends on which edition is used. Robert Oldani introduces the "Boris problem": Pushkin's play was not an obvious choice for a young composer, since it had been banned for forty years, and it is the Russian people, rather than any single character, who is the protagonist. Alex de Jonge examines its uniquely Russian character and notes the unsettling parallels of the history of old Russia with today. Nigel Osborne's comparison of the Rimsky-Korsakov and Mussorgsky versions highlights their individual qualities.

Book Information

Series: Opera Guide

Paperback: 116 pages

Publisher: Oneworld Classics (February 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0714544159

ISBN-13: 978-0714544151

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.3 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #670,647 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Composers > Mussorgsky](#) #191 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Historical Period > Early Romantic](#) #1308 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Forms & Genres > Opera](#)

Customer Reviews

“Brilliantly produced and superb value.”
•The Sunday Times
“All these will provide the new opera-goer with food for thought.”
•Daily Telegraph
“Wholehearted recommendation of this valuable new series.”
•TLS

Modest Petrovich Mussorgsky (1839 - 1881) was a Russian composer during the romantic period. Many of his works, such as the opera Boris Godunov, were inspired by Russian history and folklore among other nationalist themes.

This slim volume offers excellent information about the development and revisions of this important opera. The full text is given but in a transliteration instead of the Cyrillic alphabet, and this is the only negative in my opinion.

Unlike some librettos in the English National Opera series (e.g. "Khovanshchina") which print the Russian text in Cyrillic, this one is transliterated to Roman characters.

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