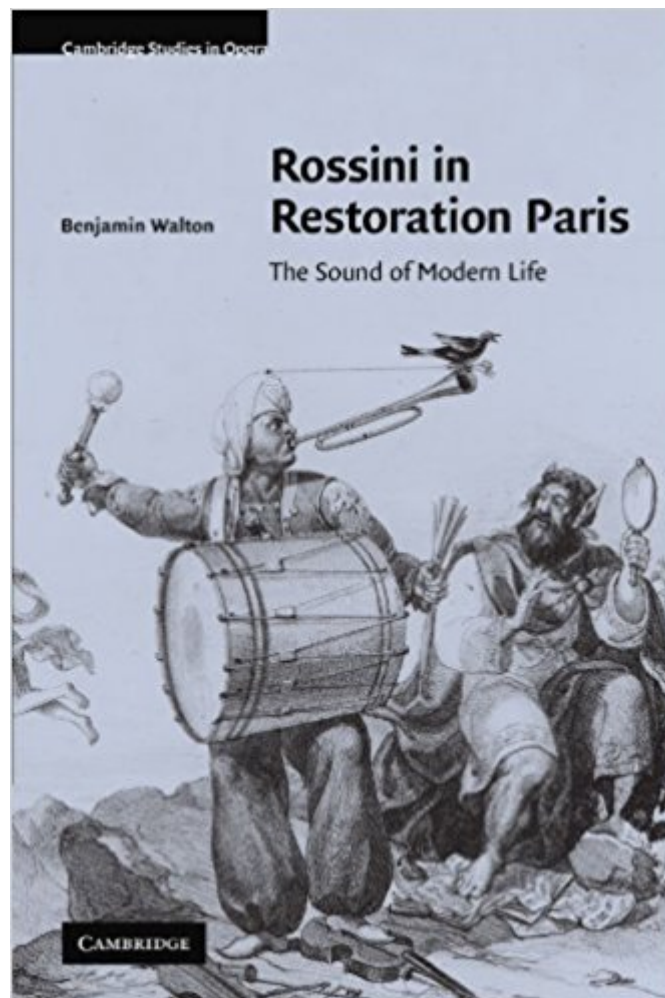




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Rossini In Restoration Paris: The Sound Of Modern Life (Cambridge Studies In Opera)



Synopsis

Best remembered for such light-hearted works as *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Gioachino Rossini produced a sequence of large-scale serious French operas after his move to Paris in 1824 which overwhelmed audiences with their musical power, and responded to the French Restoration. Rather than presenting a traditional account of Rossini's life and works, Benjamin Walton traces instead the shifting patterns of Rossinian criticism from before the composer's arrival in Paris to the end of the 1820s, outlining a type of musical history that uses immersion in a narrow time period as a way to reconceive the relationships between opera and the wider currents of life outside the opera house. In place of the comic Rossini of later memory, this book argues for a composer whose music resonated with the experience of contemporary life, and was integrally bound up in the struggle to define French romanticism at the time.

Book Information

Series: Cambridge Studies in Opera

Paperback: 366 pages

Publisher: Cambridge University Press; Reissue edition (February 17, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0521172373

ISBN-13: 978-0521172370

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,691,576 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #68 in Books > Humor &

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Customer Reviews

Review of the hardback: 'Rossini in Restoration Paris is an excellent essay in historical and stylistic defamiliarization, with contemporary evidence, solid musical analysis, insightful observations and an evocative writing style blending to create a Restoration resplendent in its contradictions.'

Nineteenth-Century Music Review

Best known for light-hearted works such as *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Gioachino Rossini produced a

sequence of large-scale serious works after moving to Paris in 1924. In place of the comic Rossini of later memory, this book portrays a composer whose powerful music resonated with the experience of contemporary life.

This is a wonderful book dealing with a period of Rossini's life that has not had much in depth coverage previously. Despite his fame and the perception of his musical impact on the city, it turns out that Rossini really only composed one "original" opera for Paris... and what an opera it was, the monumental work, Guillaume Tell. It was also to be the great composer's last opera, even though he was only 37 at the time. He lived for many more years without ever composing another opera. The Book provides an interesting insight into Paris, and its musical personalities at a period when the city was considered the most important musical center for opera in Europe. It was also a time when Paris was going through great changes politically and culturally. It was before the other great Italian composers, Donizetti, Bellini or Verdi emerged on the scene in Paris. All together an interesting book. Very well written, informative and educational for any scholar of the great operatic belcanto period in Europe. BASIL WALSH

Excellent scholarship probes the five active years of Rossini's Parisian residence. The reasoned background of each production is argued very well revealing much about the political and economic conditions of the times.

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