

# Rigoletto: An Opera in Three Acts Masterpiece of Verdi's Creative Genius



**Rigoletto, An Opera in Three Acts: For Solo, Chorus and Orchestra with Italian and English Text (Choral Score) (Kalmus Edition)** by Giuseppe Verdi

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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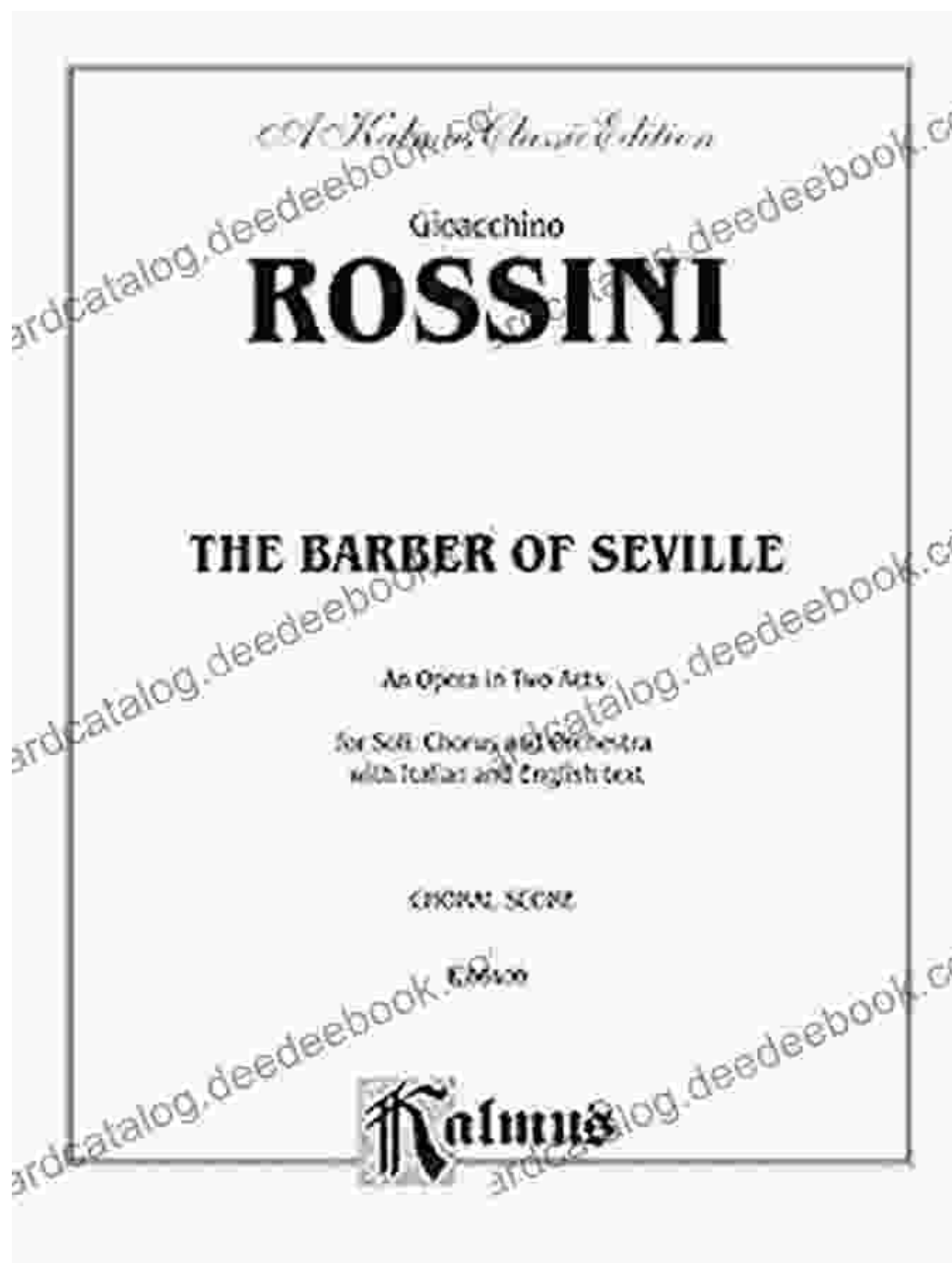
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Rigoletto is an opera in three acts by Giuseppe Verdi, with an Italian libretto by Francesco Maria Piave. It was first performed on 11 March 1851, at the Teatro La Fenice in Venice. The opera is based on the 1832 play *Le roi s'amuse* (The King Amuses Himself) by Victor Hugo.

Rigoletto is one of Verdi's most popular operas and is considered one of the greatest operas of all time. It is known for its compelling characters,

memorable melodies, and tragic plot. The opera has been praised for its realism, its exploration of human nature, and its powerful music.

## **Libretto**

The libretto of Rigoletto was written by Francesco Maria Piave, who had previously collaborated with Verdi on several other operas, including Nabucco and Ernani. Piave based his libretto on Victor Hugo's play *Le roi s'amuse*, which was banned in France due to its controversial subject matter.

The libretto tells the story of Rigoletto, the hunchbacked court jester to the Duke of Mantua. Rigoletto is a cruel and cynical man who takes pleasure in mocking others. However, he is also a loving father to his daughter, Gilda.

One day, Rigoletto insults the Duke of Mantua, who vows to take revenge. The Duke disguises himself as a student and seduces Gilda. Rigoletto, unaware of the Duke's true identity, helps the Duke to abduct his daughter.

When Rigoletto discovers the Duke's true identity, he is filled with rage and vows to kill him. He hires the assassin Sparafucile to murder the Duke. However, Sparafucile accidentally kills Gilda instead.

Rigoletto is devastated by his daughter's death and dies of a broken heart.

## **Musical Highlights**

Rigoletto is known for its beautiful and memorable melodies. Some of the most famous arias include:

\* "La donna è mobile" (The woman is fickle) - Sung by the Duke of Mantua in Act I \* "Caro nome" (Dear name) - Sung by Gilda in Act I \* "Questa o quella" (This one or that one) - Sung by the Duke of Mantua in Act I \* "Cortigiani, vil razza dannata" (Courtiers, vile race of the damned) - Sung by Rigoletto in Act II \* "Addio, addio" (Farewell, farewell) - Sung by Gilda in Act III

The opera also features several dramatic ensembles, including the famous "Quartet of the Assassins" in Act II.

## **Themes**

Rigoletto explores several important themes, including:

\* Revenge - Rigoletto's desire for revenge against the Duke of Mantua is a central theme of the opera. However, the opera ultimately shows that revenge is a destructive force. \* Love - Rigoletto's love for his daughter, Gilda, is a powerful force in the opera. However, his love is ultimately unable to save her from the Duke's schemes. \* Human nature - Rigoletto is a complex character who is capable of both great cruelty and great love. The opera explores the complexities of human nature and the ways in which our actions can have unforeseen consequences.

Rigoletto is a timeless masterpiece of opera. It is a powerful and moving story that explores the universal themes of revenge, love, and human nature. The opera's beautiful music and memorable characters have made it one of the most popular operas of all time.

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## Score) (Kalmus Edition) by Giuseppe Verdi

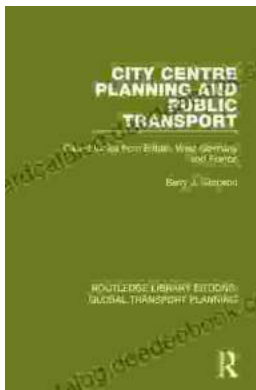
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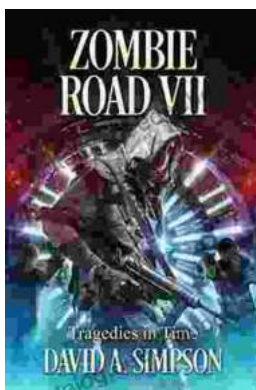
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