

HARGROVE ENTERTAINMENT INC.

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Great Operas Of The Silver Screen (14 x various)

Over a dozen theatrical features restored and available for the first time for broadcast.

Titles include:

La Cenerentola (Cinderella) –This elaborate and delightful production of Rossini's version of Cinderella was filmed in some of the most beautiful palaces of Italy. Performed with sensuous wit and charm, it is sung with coloratura fireworks by Fedora Barbieri, with Afro Poli as Dandini, and members of the Rome Opera under the direction of Oliviero de Fabritiis. Sung in Italian with English narration between the arias. A crisp new print of this 1948 feature film was created specially for this video. *"Fedora Barbieri is first rate"* – Opera Record (94 mins.)

La Favorita - Sophia Loren, in one of her first starring roles, is spectacular as La Favorita. Together with Lucia di Lammermoor, this underperformed gem ranks as Donizetti's greatest achievement in tragic opera. The sparkling new print reveals a picturesque 1955 feature film of the 4-act opera that is beautifully performed by La Scala and Rome Opera stars Paolo Silveri, Franca Tamantini and Gino Sinimberghi. Sung in Italian and punctuated with English narration. *"La Favorita is beautiful: the last act... every note a masterpiece."*- Arturo Toscanini (90 mins.)

Rigoletto – (a dramatic feature film adaptation) Giuseppe Verdi's first opera of the trilogy that includes Il Trovatore and La Traviata, is without a doubt one of the most popular operas of all time. The lavish costumes and settings for this romantic and melodramatic feature film version perfectly captures the period and style. The unforgettable vocal performances of the legendary Tito Gobbi, Mario Del Monaco and Pina Arnaldi highlight this Verdi masterpiece. *"Gobbi's Rigoletto...is for me the epitome of all that the opera is...his ringing tones provide a thrill...vocal plenitude and splendour"* – Opera (90 mins.)

Otello – Directed by Walter Felsenstein with the Berlin Komischen Opera conducted by Kurt Masur. Described as the "perfect" opera, Verdi's masterpiece equals the level of Shakespeare and is one of the finest tragedies ever written. In the Zeffirelli tradition of operatic film making, Felsenstein has directed this multi-million dollar film. It is a truly unique and spectacular presentation with a cast of hundreds, telling the legendary story of Othello, the jealous Moor, his wife Desdemona and the scheming Iago. Sung in German. Featuring Hans Nocker as Otello; Christa Noack-von Kamptz as Desdemona; Vladimir Bauer as Iago. (121 mins.)

The Legend Of Tsar Saltan - A sparkling tale of fantasy, this is Rimsky-Korsakov's most symphonic opera and contains the dazzling, world famous "Flight of the Bumble Bee," among other exciting melodies. Performed in German by the Dresden State Opera and directed by Sigfried Kurz, this highly imaginative and innovative production, with special effects animation, is a supremely original and entertaining spectacle. Featuring Rolf Wollrad, Barbara Hoene, Lidija Rushizkaja, Stephan Spiewok, Elenore Elstermann. (98 mins.)

Opera Features/Page 2

Julius Caesar (Giulio Cesare) - A remarkable performance by the great Theo Adam is the highlight of this production of the story of Julius Caesar, Cleopatra, and her brother, Ptolemy, the King of Egypt. A particularly successful interpretation, Caesar is seen not as the ideal leader, but rather as a man with normal faults and weaknesses. Handel's development of Cleopatra's eight arias represents one of his greatest achievements into the insight of human character. Sung in German. Berlin State Opera conducted by Peter Schreier. Featuring Theo Adam as Caesar; Celestina Casapietra as Cleopatra. "3 Star" – Video Times (124 mins.)

The Magic Flute (Die Zauberflöte) - Considered by many to be Mozart's finest opera, the glorious score brilliantly combines simple folk songs with classical operatic writing. Tamino meets Pamina and they fall in love. But the many evil forces of the forest will try to keep them apart. Thanks to love, generosity, and the Magic Flute, the lovers overcome all obstacles. This charming and lavish production is a delight from start to finish. The Gewandhaus Orchestra of Leipzig is conducted by Gert Bahner. Featuring Horst Gebhardt as Tamino; Dieter Sholz as Papageno; Magdalena Falewicz as Pamina; Heidrun Halk as Papagena; Inge Uibel as Queen of the Night; H. Polster as Sarastro. (156 mins.)

Abduction From The Seraglio - Mozart was barely 26 years old when he composed this opera. It was one of the happiest times of his short life, and this is reflected in the music, some of his finest and most highly expressive. With the creation of Osmin, one of the most memorable comic figures of opera, this merry song-play illustrates how profound human love, ideas and faith can overcome power and egotism. It is beautifully staged and perfectly sung in the original German by The Dresden State Opera, directed by Harry Kupfer. Featuring Armin Uhde as Belmonte; Carolyn Smith-Meyer as Konstanze; Barbara Sternberger as Blonde; Rolf Tomaszewski as Osmin. (129 mins.)

La Serva Padrona - The great Metropolitan Opera star Anna Moffo is at her peak. She and Paolo Montarsolo are charming, witty and musically perfect in this historic 1958 film of Pergolesi's masterpiece in the *opera buffa* tradition. This entertaining blend of pantomime, music and broad comedy is sung in the original Italian and performed by The Rome Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Franco Ferrara. A newly restored film print with enhanced digital audio captures the brilliance of this stylish production. Featuring Anna Moffo, Paolo Montarsolo. "*Sparkles with satirical, witty inventiveness.*" - The Book Of Opera (63 mins.)

La Sonnambula - A stunning historic 1948 feature film version of the delightful Bellini opera about a beautiful young country girl who sleepwalks her way into a love affair of mistaken intentions. The tuneful and lush musical score is given a fine presentation in this lively Rome Opera Company production. Featured are Gino Sinimberghi, Fiorella Ortis and Franco Tamantini. Sung in Italian with English narration between arias. (90 mins.)

Verdi: The King Of Melody - This colorfully filmed drama of the life and loves of the great composer, Giuseppe Verdi, is played against a background of the great operas of the 19th Century. A tender love story of Verdi's successful and turbulent life, we hear more than 20 excerpts from Rigoletto, La Traviata, Otello, Aida, Il Trovatore, Nabucco and many other operas. A theatrical and critical success when the feature film was released in the US in 1974, Verdi: The King of Melody, will touch your heart. "*A musical gem.*" – New York Daily News (118 mins.)

The Life Of Donizetti - This dramatic feature film tells the story of a great artist whose passionate love for his country comes into conflict with his love for a woman. With several arias by Tito Schipa, this tale of love, passion, rebellion and political intrigue is set to the music of one of the 19th Century's most celebrated artists and patriots. An elaborately produced film, dubbed in English, with arias in Italian. (90 mins.)

Opera Features/Page 3

Making Opera: The Creation of Verdi's La Forza Del Destino – Witness two stories: the making of an opera, and the opera itself. This film follows the day-to-day creative process of staging a grand opera during the 21-day rehearsal period and on to the final spectacular production Featuring Stefka Evstatieva, Allan Monk, Judith Frost and Ernesto Veronelli. “*You will find this backstage look a fascinating experience.*” – USA Today “*Quite simply, Making Opera is breathtaking.*” – Cinema Canada (88 mins.)

Hansel & Gretel: An Opera Fantasy - This may well be the definitive production of one of the greatest fairy tales ever told. With brilliant imagination and technical wizardry this 1954 feature used stop-action animation and hand-sculpted dolls and sets to create a fantasy land of unearthly beauty. Set to Englebert Humperdinck's classic 1893 opera, sung by some of the most acclaimed performers of the 1950s, this recording was nominated for a Grammy Award. (72 mins.)