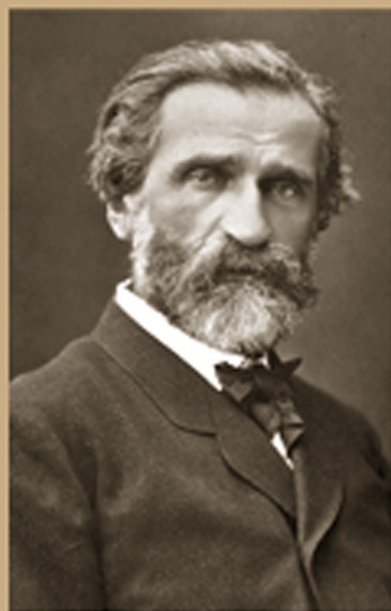


OVERTURE OPERA GUIDES

IN ASSOCIATION WITH EN



# Simon Boccanegra

Giuseppe Verdi

OVERTURE OPERA GUIDES

in association with



We are delighted to have the opportunity to work with Overture Publishing on this series of opera guides and to build on the work ENO did over twenty years ago on the Calder Opera Guide Series. As well as reworking and updating existing titles, Overture and ENO have commissioned new titles for the series and all of the guides will be published to coincide with repertoire being staged by the company at the London Coliseum.

This volume is the first of the Overture Opera Guides to be devoted to Verdi, and is issued to mark a major new production at ENO of *Simon Boccanegra*, staged by the acclaimed Russian director Dmitri Tcherniakov and conducted by ENO Music Director Edward Gardner. The stellar cast includes Bruno Caproni in the title role, soprano Rena Harms as Amelia, Brindley Sherratt as Fiesco and Peter Auty as Gabriele. This new staging marks the start a new co-production relationship with the Bayerische Staatsoper, Munich.

We hope that these guides will prove an invaluable resource now and for years to come, and that by delving deeper into the history of an opera, the poetry of the libretto and the nuances of the score, readers' understanding and appreciation of the opera and the art form in general will be enhanced.

John Berry  
Artistic Director, ENO  
June 2011

The publisher John Calder began the Opera Guides series under the editorship of the late Nicholas John in association with English National Opera in 1980. It ran until 1994 and eventually included forty-eight titles, covering fifty-eight operas. The books in the series were intended to be companions to the works that make up the core of the operatic repertory. They contained articles, illustrations, musical examples and a complete libretto and singing translation of each opera in the series, as well as bibliographies and discographies.

The aim of the present relaunched series is to make available again the guides already published in a redesigned format with new illustrations, some new articles, updated reference sections and a literal translation of the libretto that will enable the reader to get closer to the meaning of the original. New guides of operas not already covered will be published alongside the redesigned ones from the old series.

Gary Kahn  
Series Editor

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# *Simon Boccanegra*

Giuseppe Verdi

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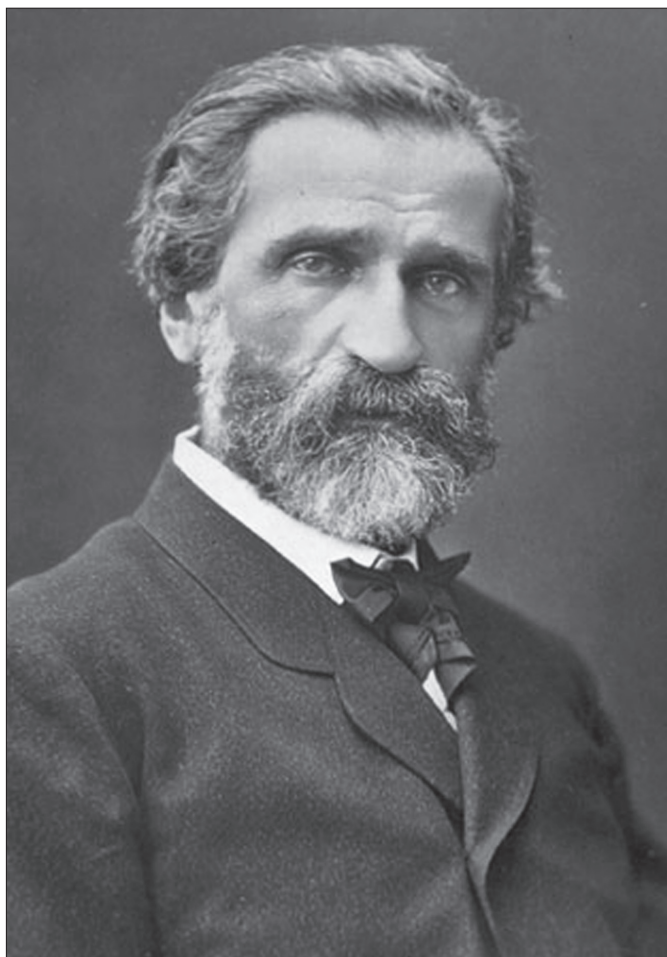
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1. Giuseppe Verdi in 1874,  
between the two versions of *Simon Boccanegra*.



2. Francesco Maria Piave, librettist of the 1857 version (top left).

3. Giulio Ricordi, Verdi's publisher (top right).

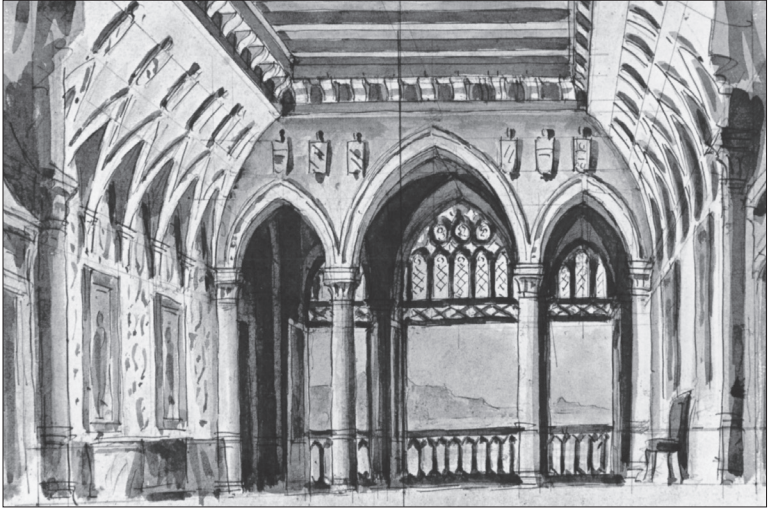
4. Arrigo Boito, librettist of the revised 1881 version, with Verdi (below).



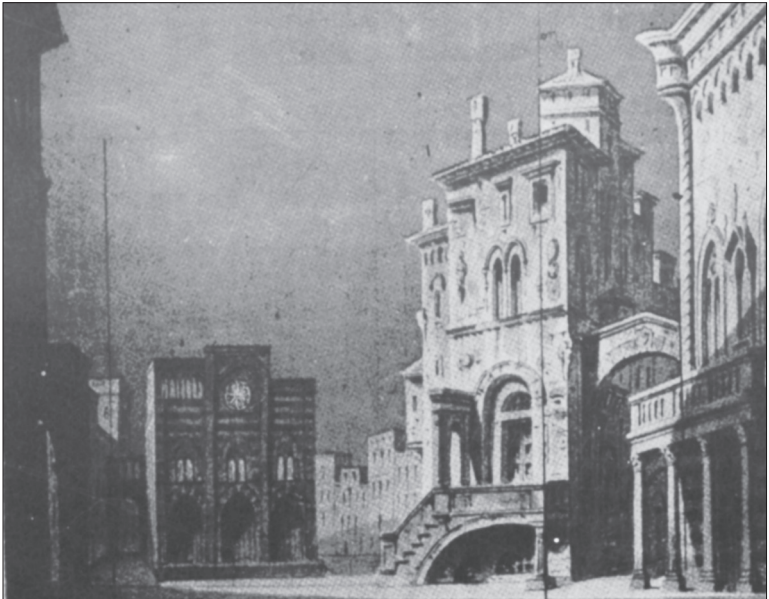


5. Verdi's study at Sant'Agata in Emilia-Romagna, where he lived and worked from 1849 (above). 6. Cartoon by Melchiorre Delfico of Verdi rehearsing the soprano Francesca Fioretti and tenor Gaetano Fraschini for the 1858 performances in Naples (below).





7. Set design by Giuseppe and Pietro Bertoja for the 1857 production in Venice (above). 8. Scenery sketch by Gerolamo Magnani for the 1881 production in Milan (below).





The cast of the revised 1881 version: 9. Victor Maurel (Simon Boccanegra) (top left).  
10. Francesco Tamagno (Gabriele Adorno) (top right). 11. Édouard De Reszke  
(Jacopo Fiesco) (bottom left). 12. Anna D'Ageri (Amelia) (bottom right).





13. Renata Tebaldi as Amelia and Tito Gobbi as Simon Boccanegra at the Lyric Opera of Chicago in 1960 (above).  
14. Giangiacoimo Guelfi as Simon Boccanegra and Nicolai Ghiaurov as Jacopo Fiesco at La Scala, Milan in 1964 (below).





15. Giorgio Strehler's production, designed by Ezio Frigerio, at La Scala, Milan, in 1971. Gianni Raimondi as Gabriele Adorno and Mirella Freni as Amelia.





16. Boris Christoff as Jacopo Fiesco and Ermanno Mauro as Gabriele Adorno at the Royal Opera House in 1973 (above).

17. Kiri Te Kanawa as Amelia and Sherrill Milnes as Simon Boccanegra at the Royal Opera House in 1980 (below).





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19. Renato Bruson as Simon Boccanegra and Mara Zampieri as Amelia at the Deutsche Oper, Berlin in 1984 (below).





20. David Alden's production, designed by David Fielding, at ENO in 1987. Janice Cairns as Amelia.



DE DVCE SIMON DOGGANI



21. Johannes Schaaf's production, designed by Alexander Lintl, at the Stuttgart Staatsoper in 1995 (above).
22. Tim Albery's production, designed by Hildegard Bechtler, at the Bayerische Staatsoper in 1995. Franz Grundheber as Simon Boccanegra (below).





23. David Pountney's production, set designed by Ralph Koltai and costumes by Sue Willmington, for Welsh National Opera in 1997. Nuccia Focile as Amelia and, above her, the body of her dead mother (above).

24. Peter Hall's production, designed by John Gunther, at the Glyndebourne Festival in 1998 and first seen in 1986. Elena Prokina as Amelia (below).





In 1997, productions of both versions of the opera were staged at the Royal Opera House in the same season: 25. Elijah Moshinsky's production of the 1881 version, designed by Michael Yeargan and first seen in 1991.

Alexandru Agache in the centre as Simon Boccanegra (above).

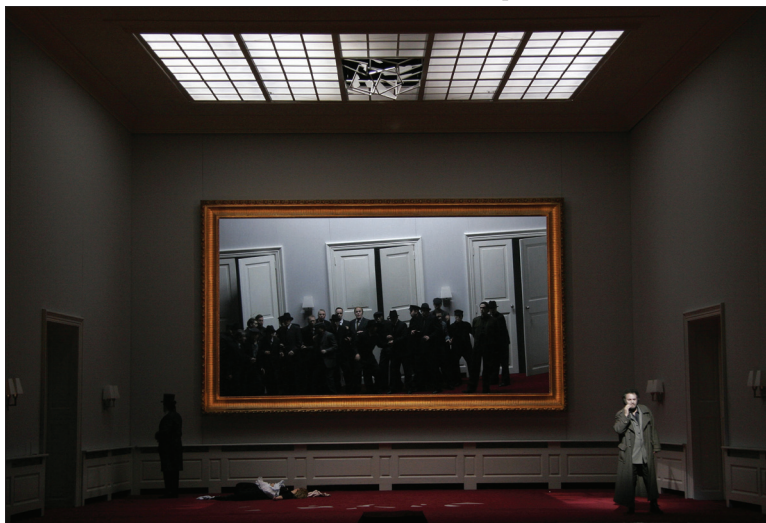
26. Ian Judge's production of the 1857 version, designed by John Gunter.

Plácido Domingo as Gabriele Adorno, Kallen Esperian as Amelia and Sergei Leiferkus as Simon Boccanegra (below).





27. Giancarlo del Monaco's production, designed by Michael Scott, at the Metropolitan Opera in 1995. Plácido Domingo as Gabriele Adorno, Vladimir Chernov as Simon Boccanegra and Kiri Te Kanawa as Amelia. (above). 28. Claus Guth's production, designed by Christian Schmidt, at the Hamburg Staatsoper in 2006 (below).







29. In 2010, Plácido Domingo sang the role of Simon Boccanegra in Berlin, Milan, London and New York. Here, in the final scene, with Marina Poplavskaya as Amelia, Ferruccio Furlanetto as Jacopo Fiesco and Joseph Calleja as Gabriele Adorno at the Royal Opera House.