12-1-1976

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Keywords
Giuseppe Verdi, opera, United States
Casts for the Verdi Premieres in the U.S. (1847-1976), Part 1
by Martin Chusid

Salvatore Patti (Arvino)
Giuseppe Federico del Bosco Beneventano (Pagano)
Boulard (Viclinda)
Clotilda Barili (Giselda)
A. Sanquirico (Pirro)
L. Martini (Acciano)
Sesto Benedetti (Oronte)
Antonio Barili, maestro
Michele Rapetti, leader of the orchestra, first violinist
Sanquirico and Patti, impresarios

1 libretto at New York Public Library, Library and Museum for the Performing Arts, Lincoln Center, US-NYp (Eng.)
2 husband of soprano Caterina Barili, father of Adelina, Amalia, Carlotta, and Carlo Patti; step-father of Clotilda, Antonio, Niccolò (Nicola), and Ettore Barili.
3 also sang in U.S. premiere of Nabucco (New York, 1848)
4 also performed U.S. premiere of Due Foscari (Boston, 1847)
5 later married the impresario Maurice Strakosch. For Strakosch, see also Aida

2. April 15, 1847, Ernani (Venice, 1844). New York, Park Theater. Marty's Havana Italian Opera Company
Luigi Vita (Francesco)
Natale Perelli (Jacopo)
Teresa Rainieri (Luzcrezia)
Luigi Battalini (Loredano)
Frederico Badiali (Barbarigo)
Theodolinda Gerli (Pisana)
Vicente Locatelli (Servant)
Giovanni Bottesini, leader of the orchestra, first contrabassist

1 libretto at US-NYP (Eng.)
2 also sang in U.S. premiere of Nabucco (New York, 1848)

Luigi Vita (Francesco)
Natale Perelli (Jacopo)
Teresa Rainieri (Luzcrezia)
Antonio Barili (Pirro)
Benetti Riese (Prior)
Sesto Benedetti (Oronte)
Antonio Barili, maestro
Michele Rapetti, leader of the orchestra, first violinist
Sanquirico and Patti, impresarios

1 cast taken from libretto for performance of Ernani, Boston, April 23, 1847; copy at US-NYp (Eng.). Same principals listed for performance of Ernani, Philadelphia, July 14, 1847
2 also performed U.S. premiere of Due Foscari (Boston, 1847)
3 also performed U.S. premiere of Attila (New York, 1850)
4 tenor; brother of baritone Cesare Badiali, who sang in U.S. premiere of Macbeth (New York, 1850). See also U.S. premiere of Due Foscari
6 conducted w.p. of Verdi's Inno delle Nazioni (London, 1862). See also U.S. premieres of Due Foscari, Attila, Macbeth and fn. 6

4. April 4, 1848, Nabucodonosor (Nabucco, Milan, 1842). New York, Astor Place Opera House
Giuseppe Federico del Bosco Beneventano (Nabucco)
Francesco Bailini (Ismaele)
Teresa Truffi [-Benedetti] (Abigaille)
Settimio Rossi (Zaccaria)
Amalia Patti (Fenena)
Lorenzo Biondi (Gran Sacerdote)
Giuseppe Piamontesi (Abdallo)
[Antonio Barili, maestro?] Avogadro (Anna)
Michele Rapetti, leader of the orchestra, first violinist

1 later married the impresario Maurice Strakosch. For Strakosch, see also Aida
2 also sang in the U.S. premiers of Rigoletto and Trovatore

Duluc (Gaston)
Corradi [-Setti] (Comte de Toulouse)
Bessin (Roger)
Rosa Devriès (Hélène)
Gal nier (Isaure)
Adhemar (Chaffary)
Un herault (Graat)
Eugène Prévost, cond.

I am grateful to Mr. Jack Belsom, Archivist of the New Orleans Opera Association and to Grace A. Fitzgerald of the Louisiana State University, for providing the corrected date and cast. Program including libretto at US-NOLS.

1 also sang Ezio in U.S. premiere of Attila (New York, 1850)

6. April 15, 1850, Attila (Venice, 1846). New York, Niblo’s Garden. Marty’s Havana Italian Opera Company
Ignazio Marini (Attila)
Corradi-Setti (Ezio)
Fortunata Tedesco (Odabella)
Domenico Lorini (Foresto)
L. Martinelli (Uldino)
Pietro Candi (Leone)
Luigi Arditi, cond., first violinist
Giovanni Bottesini, leader of the orchestra, first contrabassist

1 the bass for whom Verdi wrote the parts Oberto (w.p. Milan, 1839), Attila and Silva’s cabaletta “Infin che un brando vindice” in Ernani Act I

2 also sang in U.S. premieres of Macbeth and Forza

7. April 24, 1850, Macbeth (Florence, 1847). New York, Niblo’s Garden. Marty’s Havana Italian Opera Company
Cesare Badiali (Macbeth)
[Filippo?] Coletti (Colletti) (Banco)
Angiolino Bosio (Lady Macbeth)
Domenico Lorini (Macduff)
Barattini (Malcolm)
Luigi Arditi, cond., first violinist
Giovanni Bottesini, leader of the orchestra, first contrabassist

1 possibly the baritone for whom Verdi wrote the parts of Gusmano in Alzira (Naples, 1845), Francesco in Masnadieri (London, 1847), and Germont in the revised Traviata (Venice, 1854). He also sang in the U.S. premieres of Luisa Miller in Italian, Rigoletto, and Ballo.

8(a). October 27, 1852, Luisa Miller (Naples, 1849). Philadelphia, Walnut Street Theater; in English translation
Ph. Rohr (Count Walter)
Caroline Richings (Luisa)
Emeline Reed (Federica)
Thomas McKeon (Wurm)
Peter Richings (Miller)
Thomas Bishop (Rodolpho)
John Edwin McDonough (A Peasant)
W. P. Cunnington, cond.

(b) July 20, 1854, Luisa Miller. First performance in Italian. New York, Castle Garden

Coletti (Walter)
P. Neri Beraldì (Rodolfo)
Valerie Gomez (Luisa)
Martini-d’Ormy (Federica)
Müller (Wurm)
Francesco Graziani (Miller)
Max Maretzek, cond.

1 husband of Antonietta Fricci, who sang Eboli in the first Italian performances of Don Carlos (London, June 1, 1867, and Bologna, Oct. 27, 1867).
2 for whom Verdi wrote the part of Carlo in the original version of Forza (St Petersburg, 1862); also sang Posa in the first Italian performance of Don Carlo (London, 1867)

Biagio Bolcioni (Duca)
Ettore Barilli (Rigoletto)
Bertucca-Maretzek (Gilda)
Luigi Rocco (Sparafucile)
Amalia Patti-Strakosch (Maddalena)
Avogadro (Giovanna)
Coletti (Monterone)
Müller (Marullo)
Louis Quinto (Borsa)
Leonardi (Ceprano) (Ceprano)
Barattini (Contessa di Ceprano)
Max Maretzek, cond.
Ole Bull, impresario

1 half-brother to Adelina Patti, who called him her first and most important teacher
2 married to Max Maretzek, the conductor who also conducted the U.S. premieres of Trovatore, Traviata, Masnadieri, and Don Carlos. He was impresario for U.S. premiere of Aroldo and Forza (original version), and probably for works he conducted as well.
3 also sang in U.S. premieres of Trovatore, Vêpres, Aroldo, and premiere in Italian of Luisa Miller
4 also sang in U.S. premieres of Trovatore and Vêpres

10. May 2, 1855, Il trovatore (Rome, 1853). New York, Academy of Music
Allessandro Amodio (Luna)
Babina Steffanone (Leonora)
Felicità Vestvali (Azucena)
Pasquale (Brignolì) (Manrico)
Luigi Rocco (Ferrando)
Louis Quinto (Ruiz)
Avogadro (Ines)
Müller (an old gypsy)
Max Maretzek, cond.

1 also sang in U.S. premiere of Traviata
2 also sang in U.S. premieres of Traviata, Vêpres, and Ballo

11. December 3, 1856, La traviata (Venice, 1853). New York, Academy of Music
Anna [de] la Grange (Violetta)
Pasquale Brignoli (Alfredo)
Allessandro Amodio (Germont)
Gasparoni (Barone Douphol)
Siedenburg (Flora)
Max Maretzek, cond.

12. November 7, 1859, I Vespri Siciliani
(Paris, 1855). New York, Academy of Music; in Italian translation
Gaetano Nicola Ferri¹ (Monforte)
Pasquale Brignoli (Arrigo)
Marcel Junca² (Procida)
Pauline Colson³ (Elena)
also in cast: Morra, Müller, Louis Quinto,
Rubio, Crouza, Panfi
Emanuele Muzio⁴, cond.
Maurice Strakosch, impresario
¹baritone who sang Egberto in w.p. of
Aroldo (Rimini, 1857) and Nabucco in the second season of that work in Milan (summer, 1842). Also sang in U.S. premiere of
BALLO
²sang the Padre Guardiano in the premiere of the revised Forza (Milan, 1869)
³debut.
⁴pupil and close friend of Verdi. Also conducted U.S. premieres of BILLO and AIDA

Olivieri (Amalia)
Mirandola (Massimiliano)
Rossi Guerra (Carlo)
Luisia (Francesco)
Max Maretzek, cond.

14. February 11, 1861, Un ballo in maschera
(Rome, 1859). New York, Academy of Music
Pasquale Brignoli (Riccardo)
Gaetano Nicola Ferri (Renato)
Adelaide Phillips (Ulrica)
Isabella Hinckley (Oscar)
Pauline Colson (Amelia)
Coletti (Samuel)
Dubreuil¹ (Tom)
Emanuele Muzio, cond.
¹also sang in U.S. premiere of FORZA, original version

15. May 4, 1863, Aroldo (Rimini, 1857).
New York, Academy of Music¹
Francesco Mazzoleni (Aroldo)
Cortolani-Brignoli (Mina)
Domenico Bellini² (Egberto)
Müller (Briano)
Rubio (Godrino)
Alexandre B. Reichardt (Enrico)
Fischer [²Joanna Fischer?] (Elena)
J. Nuno, Cond.
Max Maretzek, impresario
¹cast derived from playbill for May 15 at US-NYP
²also sang in U.S. premiere of FORZA, original version

16(a). February 24, 1865, La forza del destino
(first version, St. Petersburg, 1862). New York, Academy of Music
Augustino Susini (Marchese and Padre Guardiano)
Carlotta Carozzi-Zucchi (Leonora)
Domenico Bellini (Carlo)
Bernardo Massimiliani (Alvaro)
Kate Duckworth Morensi (Preziosilla)
Debreuil (Melitone)
Domenico Lorini (Trabucco)
Carl Bergmann, cond.
Max Maretzek, impresario

16(b). November 18, 1918, La forza del destino (revised version, Milan, 1869). New York, Metropolitan Opera House
Louis d’Angelo¹ (Marchese)
Rosa Ponselle¹ (Leonora)
Giuseppe de Luca¹ (Carlo)
Enrico Caruso (Alvaro)
Alice Gentle (Preziosilla)
Jose Mardones (Padre Guardiano)
Thomas Chalmers (Melitone)
Marie Mattfeld (Curra)
Paulo Ananian (Mayor)
Giordano Paltrinieri (Trabucco)
Vincenzo Reschiglian (Surgeon)
Gennaro Papi², cond.
Giulio Gatti-Casazza,³ impresario
A page of the original program with cast reproduced in Opera News 29 (Feb 6, 1965)
¹also sang in U.S. premiere of DON CARLOS revised version; debuts
²also conducted U.S. premiere of DON CARLOS, revised version
³see also U.S. premiere of DON CARLOS, revised version

17. November 26, 1873, Aida (Cairo, 1871).
New York, Academy of Music. The Stra­
kosch Italian Opera
Ostava [Ottavia] Torriani (Aida)
Annie Louise Cary (Amneris)
Italo Campanini¹ (Radamès)
Victor Maurel² (Amonasro)
Giovanni Nannetti (Ramfis)
Giovanni Scolora (King)
Boy (Messenger)
Emanuele Muzio, cond.
Max and Maurice Strakosch, impresarios
A page of the original program with cast reproduced in Opera News 31 (Feb 25, 1967)
¹see U.S. premiere of OTELLO
²for whom Verdi wrote Boccanegra in the revised version (Milan, 1881), Iago and Falstaff; also sang in the chorus of w.p. of DON CARLOS (Paris, 1867) while still a student at the Conservatoire
(to be continued)