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## Casts for the Verdi Premieres in the U.S. (1847-1976) (Part 1)

### **Keywords**

Giuseppe Verdi, opera, United States

# *Casts for the Verdi Premieres in the U.S. (1847-1976), Part 1*

by Martin Chusid

1. March 3, 1847, *I lombardi alla prima crociata* (Milan, 1843). New York, Palmo's Opera House<sup>1</sup>

Salvatore Patti<sup>2</sup> (Arvino)  
Giuseppe Federico del Bosco Beneventano<sup>3</sup> (Pagano)

Boulard (Viclinda)  
Clotilda Barili (Giselda)  
A. Sanquirico<sup>3</sup> (Pirro)  
Benetti Riese (Prior)  
L. Martini (Acciano)  
Sesto Benedetti<sup>1</sup> (Oronte)  
Antonio Barili<sup>3</sup>, maestro  
Michele Rapetti<sup>3</sup>, leader of the orchestra, first violinist

Sanquirico and Patti, impresarios

<sup>1</sup>libretto at New York Public Library, Library and Museum for the Performing Arts, Lincoln Center, US-NYP (It.-Eng.)

<sup>2</sup>husband of soprano Caterina Barili, father of Adelina, Amalia, Carlotta, and Carlo Patti; step-father of Clotilda, Antonio, Niccolò (Nicola), and Ettore Barili. See also U.S. premiere of *Nabucco* (New York, 1848)

<sup>3</sup>see also U.S. premiere of *Nabucco*

<sup>4</sup>later, husband of Teresa Truffi

2. April 15, 1847, *Ernani* (Venice, 1844). New York, Park Theater. Marty's Havana Italian Opera Company<sup>1</sup>

Natale Perelli<sup>2</sup> (Ernani)  
Luigi Vita<sup>2</sup> (Carlo)  
Fortunata Tedesco<sup>3</sup> (Elvira)  
Theodolinda Gerli<sup>2</sup> (Giovanna)  
Pietro Novelli (Silva)  
Frederico Badiali<sup>4</sup> (Riccardo)  
Pietro Candi<sup>3</sup> (Jago)  
Luigi Arditi<sup>5</sup>, cond., first violinist  
Giovanni Bottesini<sup>6</sup>, leader of the orchestra, first contrabassist

<sup>1</sup>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

<sup>2</sup>also performed U.S. premiere of *Due Foscari* (Boston, 1847)

<sup>3</sup>also performed U.S. premiere of *Attila* (New York, 1850)

<sup>4</sup>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*

<sup>5</sup>conducted w.p. of Verdi's *Inno delle Na-*

*zioni* (London, 1862). See also U.S. premieres of *Due Foscari*, *Attila*, *Macbeth* and fn. 6

<sup>6</sup>conducted w.p. *Aida* (Cairo, 1871). See also U.S. premieres in note 5. Max Maretzek, *Crochets and Quavers* (1855), claims that Arditi was Bottesini's assistant. The most popular of all Verdi's early operas in the U.S. (1847-1976)

3. May 10, 1847, *I due Foscari* (w.p. Rome, 1844). Boston, Howard Atheneum.<sup>1</sup> Marty's Havana Italian Opera Company

Luigi Vita (Francesco)  
Natale Perelli (Jacopo)  
Teresa Rainieri (Luzcezia)  
Luigi Battalini (Loredano)  
Frederico Badiali (Barbarigo)  
Theodolinda Gerli (Pisana)  
Vicente Locatelli (Servant)  
Giuseppe Piamontesi<sup>2</sup> (Attendant)  
Luigi Arditi, cond., first violinist  
Giovanni Bottesini, leader of the orchestra, first contrabassist

<sup>1</sup>libretto at US-NYP (Eng.)

<sup>2</sup>also sang in U.S. premiere of *Nabucco* (New York, 1848)

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)  
Settimo Rossi (Zaccaria)  
Amalia Patti<sup>1</sup> (Fenena)  
Lorenzo Biondi (Gran Sacerdote)  
Giuseppe Piamontesi (Abdallo)  
[Antonio Barili, maestro?]  
Avogadro<sup>2</sup> (Anna)  
Michele Rapetti, leader of the orchestra, first violinist

<sup>1</sup>later married the impresario Maurice Strakosch. For Strakosch, see also *Aida*

<sup>2</sup>also sang in the U.S. premieres of *Rigoletto* and *Trovatore*

5. January 24, 1850, *Jerusalem* (Paris, 1847). New Orleans, Théâtre d'Orléans

Duluc (Gaston)  
Corradi [-Setti]<sup>1</sup> (Comte de Toulouse)  
Bessin (Roger)  
Rosa Devriès (Hélène)  
Galnier (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 library, for providing the corrected date and cast. Program including libretto at US-NOLsu

<sup>1</sup>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<sup>1</sup> (Attila)  
Corradi-Setti (Ezio)  
Fortunata Tedesco (Odabella)  
Domenico Lorini<sup>2</sup> (Foresto)  
L. Martinelli (Uldino)  
Pietro Candi (Leone)  
Luigi Arditi, cond., first violinist  
Giovanni Bottesini, leader of the orchestra, first contrabassist

<sup>1</sup>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

<sup>2</sup>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]<sup>1</sup> (Banco)  
Angiolino Bosio (Lady Macbeth)  
Domenico Lorini (Macduff)  
Barattini (Malcolm)  
Luigi Arditi, cond., first violinist  
Giovanni Bottesini, leader of the orchestra, first contrabassist

<sup>1</sup>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. Cunningham, cond.

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

Coletti (Walter)  
P. Neri Beraldi<sup>1</sup> (Rodolfo)  
Valerie Gomez (Luisa)  
Martini-d'Ormy (Federica)  
Müller (Wurm)  
Francesco Graziani<sup>2</sup> (Miller)  
Max Maretzek, cond.

<sup>1</sup>husband of Antonietta Fricci, who sang Eboli in the first Italian performances of *Don Carlos* (London, June 1, 1867, and Bologna, Oct. 27, 1867)

<sup>2</sup>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)

9. February 19, 1855, **Rigoletto** (Venice, 1851). New York, Academy of Music

Biagio Bolcioni (Duca)  
Ettore Barili<sup>1</sup> (Rigoletto)  
Bertucca-Maretzek<sup>2</sup> (Gilda)  
Luigi Rocco (Sparafucile)  
Amalia Patti-Strakosch (Maddalena)  
Avogadro (Giovanna)  
Coletti (Monterone)  
Müller<sup>3</sup> (Marullo)  
Louis Quinto<sup>4</sup> [Quint] (Borsa)  
Leonardi [Leonardo] (Ceprano)  
Barattini (Contessa di Ceprano)  
Max Maretzek, cond.  
Ole Bull, impresario

<sup>1</sup>half-brother to Adelina Patti, who called him her first and most important teacher  
<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>also sang in U.S. premieres of *Trovatore*, *Vêpres*, *Aroldo*, and premiere in Italian of *Luisa Miller*

<sup>4</sup>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<sup>1</sup> (Luna)  
Balbina Steffanone (Leonora)  
Felicità Vestvali (Azucena)  
Pasquale [Pasqualino] Brignoli<sup>2</sup> (Manrico)  
Luigi Rocco (Ferrando)  
Louis Quinto (Ruiz)  
Avogadro (Ines)  
Müller (an old gypsy)  
Max Maretzek, cond.

<sup>1</sup>also sang in U.S. premiere of *Traviata*

<sup>2</sup>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)  
Alessandro 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 Ferri<sup>1</sup> (Monforte)  
Pasquale Brignoli (Arrigo)  
Marcel Junca<sup>2</sup> (Procida)  
Pauline Colson<sup>3</sup> (Elena)  
also in cast: Morra, Müller, Louis Quinto,  
Rubio, Crouza, Panfi  
Emanuele Muzio<sup>4</sup>, cond.  
Maurice Strakosch, impresario

<sup>1</sup>baritone 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*

<sup>2</sup>sang the Padre Guardiano in the premiere of the revised *Forza* (Milan, 1869)

<sup>3</sup>debut.

<sup>4</sup>pupil and close friend of Verdi. Also conducted U.S. premieres of *Ballo* and *Aida*

13. May 31, 1860, **I masnadieri** (London, 1847). New York, Winter Garden

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)  
Dubreuil<sup>1</sup> (Tom)  
Emanuele Muzio, cond.

<sup>1</sup>also sang in U.S. premiere of *Forza*, original version

15. May 4, 1863, **Aroldo** (Rimini, 1857). New York, Academy of Music<sup>1</sup>

Francesco Mazzoleni (Aroldo)  
Cortolani-Brignoli (Mina)  
Domenico Bellini<sup>2</sup> (Egberto)  
Müller (Briano)  
Rubio (Godrino)  
Alexandre B. Reichardt (Enrico)  
Fischer [?Johanna Ficher?] (Elena)  
J. Nuno, Cond.  
Max Maretzek, impresario

<sup>1</sup>cast derived from playbill for May 15 at US-NYp

<sup>2</sup>also 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'Angelo<sup>1</sup> (Marchese)  
Rosa Ponselle<sup>1</sup> (Leonora)  
Giuseppe de Luca<sup>1</sup> (Carlo)  
Enrico Caruso (Alvaro)  
Alice Gentle (Preziosilla)  
Jose Mardones (Padre Guardiano)  
Thomas Chalmers (Melitone)  
Marie Mattfeld (Curra)  
Paolo Ananian (Mayor)  
Giordano Paltrinieri (Trabucco)  
Vincenzo Reschiglian (Surgeon)  
Gennaro Papi<sup>2</sup>, cond.  
Giulio Gatti-Casazza, <sup>3</sup> impresario

A page of the original program with cast reproduced in *Opera News* 29 (Feb 6, 1965)

<sup>1</sup>also sang in U.S. premiere of *Don Carlos* revised version; debuts

<sup>2</sup>also conducted U.S. premiere of *Don Carlos*, revised version

<sup>3</sup>see also U.S. premiere of *Don Carlos*, revised version

17. November 26, 1873, **Aida** (Cairo, 1871). New York, Academy of Music. The Strakosch Italian Opera

Ostava [Ottavia] Torriani (Aida)  
Annie Louise Cary (Amneris)  
Italo Campanini<sup>1</sup> (Radamès)  
Victor Maurel<sup>2</sup> (Amonasro)  
Giovanni Nannetti (Ramfis)  
Giovanni Scolara (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)

<sup>1</sup>see U.S. premiere of *Otello*

<sup>2</sup>for 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)