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Keywords

Verdi, opera, London

Casts for the Verdi Premieres in London (1845–1977), Part 1*

by Martin Chusid

1. March 8, 1845 *Ernani* (Venice, 1844). Her Majesty's; with ballet *Eoline*

Napoleone Moriani¹ (*Ernani*)
Botelli² (*Don Carlo*)
Fornasari² (*Silva*)
Rita [Basso-] Borio⁴ (*Elvira*)
Bellini³ (*Giovanna*)
Giubilei² (*Riccardo*)
Dai Fiori⁴ (*Iago*)

¹The tenor for whom Verdi wrote Foresto's romanza "Oh dolore! ed io vivea" (*Attila*, Act III), performed at La Scala during the Carnival season of 1846–47. Frank Walker (*The Man Verdi* [1962]) believed him to have been the father of Giuseppina Strepponi's illegitimate children.

²see also *I lombardi* and *Nabucco*

³see also *I lombardi*, *Nabucco* and *Trovatore*

⁴see also *I lombardi*, *Nabucco*, *I due Foscari* and *I masnadieri*

2. May 12, 1846. *I lombardi alla prima crociata*.¹ (Milan, 1843) Her Majesty's

Leone Corelli² (*Arvino*)
Fornasari (*Pagano*)
Corbari³ (*Viclinda*)
Giulia Grisi⁴ (*Giselda*)
Botelli (*Pirro*)
Dai Fiori (*Prior*)
Giubilei (*Acciano*)
Mario⁵ (*Oronte*)
Michael William Balfe⁶, cond.
Benjamin Lumley⁷, impresario

¹librettos at EThC, British Library (formerly British Museum), and the New York Public Library at Lincoln Center (It.-Eng.)

²see also *Nabucco* and *I masnadieri*

³see also *Nabucco*

⁴famous soprano, the companion of Mario

⁵Giovanni Matteo Mario, Conte di Candia, famous tenor for whom Verdi wrote Jacopo's cabaletta "Si lo sento" (*I due Foscari*, Act I). The new cabaletta was intended for the Théâtre-Italien, Paris; to the composer's displeasure, it was also sung at the London premiere (see no. 4)

⁶Irish composer of among other works, *The Bohemian Girl*. See also *Nabucco*

⁷see also *Nabucco*, *I due Foscari*, *I masnadieri*, *Attila*, *Traviata*, and *Luisa Miller*; the first edition of *Attila* was dedicated to Lumley by the publisher Lucca

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3. June 25, 1846, *Nabucco* (Milan, 1842) performed as *Nino* (Ninus, King of Assyria). Her Majesty's¹

Fornasari [Ninus (Nabucco)]
Leone Corelli [Idaspe (Ismaele)]
Giulia Sanchioli (Abigaille)
Botelli [Orotaspe (Zaccaria)]
Corbari (Fenena)
Giubilei (An Assyrian Priest)
Dai Fiori (Abdallo)
Bellini (Anna)
Michael William Balfe, cond.
Benjamin Lumley, impresario

¹libretto at EThC. The work was also performed in London as *Anato*, Covent Garden, May 30, 1850, with Giorgio Ronconi, for whom the part was originally written, in the title role. Ronconi also sang the London premiere of *Rigoletto*

4. April 10, 1847, *I due Foscari* (Rome, 1844), Her Majesty's¹

Filippo Coletti² (Francesco, the Doge)
Gaetano Fraschini³ (Jacopo)
Antonietta Montenegro (Lucrezia)
Stefano Bouche⁴ (Loredano)
Dai Fiori (Barbariga)
Solarì⁵ (Pisana)
Guidi⁵ (Fante)
Benjamin Lumley, impresario

¹program at EThC. The ballet *La Bacchante* was performed between the acts of the opera
²the baritone for whom Verdi wrote Gusmano in *Alzira*, Francesco in *I masnadieri* (see next entry) and Germont in the revised *La Traviata* (Venice, 1854)

³Verdi's favorite tenor, for whom he wrote Zamoro in *Alzira*, Corrado in *Il corsaro*, Arrigo in *La battaglia di Legnano*, Stiffelio, and Riccardo in *Ballo*. Sang 19 tenor leads in operas by Verdi

⁴see also *I masnadieri*

⁵see also *Attila*

5. July 22, 1847. *I masnadieri*. Her Majesty's¹

Jenny Lind (Amalia)
Luigi Lablache (Massimiliano)
Italo Severo Gardoni² (Carlo)
Filippo Coletti (Francesco)
Leone Corelli (Arminio)
Stefano Bouche (Moser)
Dai Fiori (Rolla)
Giuseppe Verdi, cond.
Benjamin Lumley, impresario

¹libretto at the Newberry Library, Chicago. Verdi's only operatic world premiere in England; *Inno delle Nazioni*, libretto by Arrigo Boito, also received its world premiere in London (Her Majesty's, May 24, 1862).

²see also *Attila*

6. Mar. 14, 1848, *Attila* (Venice, 1846). Her Majesty's¹

Giovanni Belletti (*Attila*)
Luigi Cuzzani² (*Ezio*)
Sophie Cruvelli³ [*Crüwell*] (*Odabella*)
Italo Severo Gardoni (*Foresto*)
Guidi (*Uldino*)
Solari (*Leone*)
Benjamin Lumley, impresario

¹libretto at the British Library

²a tenor for whom the part was apparently transposed. See Benjamin Lumley, *Reminiscences of the Opera* (London, 1864) pp. 213-214

³soprano for whom Verdi wrote *Hélène* in *Les Vêpres siciliennes*

7. May 14, 1853, *Rigoletto* (Venice, 1851). Covent Garden¹

Mario (*Duca*)
Giorgio Ronconi (*Rigoletto*)
Angelina Bosio², (*Gilda*)
Joseph Dieudonné Tagliafico³ (*Sparafucile*)
Constance Nantier-Didiée⁴ (*Maddalena*)
Temple (*Giovanna*)
Polonini (*Monterone*)
Gregorio⁵ (*Marullo*)
Soldi⁵ (*Borsa*)
Mei (*Ceprano*)
Smythson (*Contessa di Ceprano*)
(Michael) Costa⁶, cond.
designer: William Beverley
director: Augustus Harris⁷

¹libretto at the British Library

²sang *Lady Macbeth* at the U.S. premiere

³see also *Trovatore*

⁴sang *Preziosilla* in world premiere of *La forza del destino*

⁵see also *Trovatore*

⁶see also *Trovatore* and *Don Carlo I*

⁷father of the Augustus Harris who directed theatre in the last years of the century.

8. May 10, 1855, *Il trovatore* (Rome, 1853). Covent Garden¹

Francesco Graziani² (*Luna*)
Jenny Ney (*Leonora*)
Pauline Garcia Viardot³ (*Azucena*)
Enrico Tamberlick⁴ (*Manrico*)
Joseph Dieudonné Tagliafico (*Ferrando*)
Soldi (*Ruiz*)
Bellini (*Ines*)
Gregorio (an old gypsy)
Michele Costa, cond.

¹playbill at the EThC

²first season in London; sang *Carlo* in world premiere of *La forza del destino*. See also *Don Carlo I* and *Aida*; brother of tenor Lodovico who sang *Alfredo* at world premiere of *Traviata* and *Alvaro* at the Italian premiere of *Forza* in Rome, where it was called *Don Alvaro*.

³famous mezzo-soprano who sang—with omissions and transpositions—the part of the first *Lady Macbeth* in the British Isles (Dublin, 1859); daughter of Manuel Garcia and sister of Malibran

⁴sang *Alvaro* in world premiere of *La forza del destino*

9. May 24, 1856, *La traviata* (Venice, 1853). Her Majesty's¹

Maria Piccolomini² (Violetta)
Borgaro (Flora Bervoix)
R. Baillou (Annina)
Calzolari (Alfredo)
Beneventano³ (Germont)
Jacopi (Gastone)
Vairo (Barone Douphol)
Fortini (Marchese d'Obigny)
Baillou (Dottore Grenvil)
Kinni (Giuseppe)
Made (Domestico di Flora)
Bonetti⁴ cond.
Tolbeque⁴ leader of the orchestra
Benjamin Lumley⁴, impresario

¹libretto at the British Library. Performed with the ballet *Acalista*

²soprano famous for her acting for whom Verdi considered setting a number of roles; see also *Luisa Miller*

³Giuseppe Federico del Bosco Beneventano who sang in the U.S. premieres of *I lombardi* and *Nabucco*; first season in London; see also *Luisa Miller*

⁴from the season prospectus at the ETHC

10. June 8, 1858, *Luisa Miller* (Naples, 1849). Her Majesty's

Filippo Vialetti¹ (Conte di Walter)
Antonio Giuglini² (Rodolfo)
Marietta Alboni³ (Federica)
Castelli (Wurm)
Beneventano (Miller)
Maria Piccolomini (Luisa)
Bonetti, cond.
Benjamin Lumley, impresario

¹see also *I vespri siciliani*

²see also *Ballo*

³Mad. Alboni sang a "cavatina [that] does not belong to the opera . . . it stands in place of a very melodious duet for the contralto and tenor ["Dall'aule raggianti," Act I]"

11. July 27, 1859, *I vespri siciliani* (Paris, 1855). Drury Lane¹

Enrico Fagotti (Monforte)
Pietro Mongini² (Arrigo)
Filippo Vialetti (Procida)
Therese Tietjens³ [Titiens] (Elena)
Dinelli (Bethune)
Dall'Anese (Ninetta)
Mercuriali (Danieli)
Corsi (Tebaldo)
Castelli (Roberto)
Luigi Arditì⁴, cond.
E.T. Smith, impresario

¹season prospectus at ETHC

²sang Radamès at World premiere of *Aida*; see also *Forza I*

³sang premiere of *Inno delle Nazioni*; see also *Ballo* and *Forza I*

⁴conductor and violinist for U.S. premieres of *Ernani*, *I due Foscari*, *Attila*, and *Macbeth* as well as premiere of *Macbeth* in the British Isles and world premiere of *Inno delle Nazioni*; see also *Ballo* and *Forza I*

12. June 15, 1861, **Un ballo in maschera** (Rome, 1859). Lyceum

Antonio Giuglini (Riccardo)
Enrico delle Sedie (Renato)
Lemaire (Ulrica)
Josefa Fernandez Gassier (Oscar)
Theresa Tietjens (Amelia)
Luigi Arditi, cond.
James Henry Mapleson¹, impresario

¹see also *Forza I*

13. June 4, 1867, **Don Carlo** (first version, Paris, 1867). Covent Garden¹

Bilis Petit² (Filippo)
Emil Naudin (Don Carlo)
Francesco Graziani (Posa)
Cesare Bagagiolo (Grand Inquisitor)
Fallar (un Frate)
Pauline Lucca (Elisabetta)
Antonietta Fricci [Neri-Baraldi]³ (Eboli)
Ackermann (Tebaldo)
Rossi (un Araldo)
Michele Costa, cond.
Frederick Gye, impresario

¹libretto and season prospectus at EThC

²sang Banquo in world premiere of *Macbeth II*

³born Frietsche; also sang Eboli at the first Italian performance in Bologna later that year; replaced the second night by Helen Lemmens-Sherrington

14. June 22, 1867, **La forza del destino** (first version, St. Petersburg, 1862). Her Majesty's¹

Bossi (Marchese)
Theresa Tietjens (Leonora)
Pietro Mongini (Alvaro)
Charles Santley (Carlo)
Zelia [Gillibert] Trebelli-Bettini² (Preziosilla)
Rokitansky (Padre Guardiano)
Edouard Gassier (Melitone)
Tom Hohler (Trabucco)
Lyll (un Chirurgo)
Agretti (un Alcade)
Baumeister (Curra)
Luigi Arditi, cond.
James Henry Mapleson, impresario

¹secondary parts from the season prospectus at EThC

²married to the tenor Alessandro Bettini

(to be continued)

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

On Thursday, October 19, at 6 p.m., in Bruno Walter Hall (the auditorium in the Library and Museum of the Performing Arts, Lincoln Center), the Institute and the Musical Arts Studio will combine to present a recital of Verdi's songs. See program on p. 2. All members are urged to request tickets from AIVS headquarters (address on cover of this Newsletter) as soon as possible.