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Keywords

Giuseppe Verdi, opera, London

Casts for the Verdi Premieres in London (1845-1977), Part 2

by Martin Chusid

15. June 22, 1876 *Aida* (Cairo, 1871). Covent Garden¹

Adelina Patti (Aida)
Ernestina Gindele (Amneris)
Ernesto Nicolini² (Radames)
Francesco Graziani³ (Amonsaro)
Feitlinger (King)
Capponi⁴ (Ramphis)
Bianca Bianchi (High Priestess)
Enrico Bevignani, cond.

¹ cast from review in the *Illustrated London News* of July 1, 1876, and from *Figaro* as reported in *Dwight's Journal* of July 22, 1876

² second husband of Adelina Patti; sang Fenton at US premiere of *Falstaff*, February 4, 1895

³ see also *Trovatore* and *Don Carlo I*

⁴ probably Giovanni Capponi who sang Philip in the Italian premiere of *Don Carlos* (Bologna, 1867)

16. June 19, 1880 *La forza del destino* (revised version, Milan, 1869). Her Majesty's¹

Marie Louise Swift (Leonora)
Italo Campanini² (Alvaro)
Antonio Galassi³ (Carlo)
Behrens (Guardiano)
Zelia [Gillibert] Trebelli-Bettini⁴ (Preziosilla)
Giuseppe Del Puente (Melitone)
Luigi Arditì⁵, cond.
James Henry Mapleson⁶, impresario

¹ cast from review in *The Athenaeum* (June 26, 1880. I am indebted to Tom Kaufman for bringing this review to my attention as well as the *Dwight's Journal* citation in 15)

² sang role in US premiere of revised *Forza*, see also US premiere *Otello*

³ sang Iago in US premiere of *Otello*

⁴ sang role in premiere of first version also

⁵ see note *I vespri siciliani* (no. 11)

⁶ impresario for *Ballo* and *Forza I*

17. July 5, 1889 *Otello* (Milan, 1887). Lyceum¹

Francesco Tamagno² (Otello)
Victor Maurel³ (Iago)
Giovanni Paroli⁴ (Cassio)
Durini (Roderigo)
Alessandro Silvestri (Lodovico)
Marini (Montano)
Aurelia Catanéo (Desdemona)
Emilia Mattiuzzi (Emilia)
Franco Faccio⁵, cond.

¹ cast from program and libretto at EThC

² sang at world premieres of *Otello*, *Don Carlo II*, and *Simon II*

³ sang at world premieres of *Falstaff*, *Otello*, and *Simon II*, also *Falstaff* at US premiere

⁴ sang at world premieres of *Otello* and *Falstaff*

⁵ conducted European premiere of *Aida* and world premiere of *Otello*

18. May 19, 1894 **Falstaff** (Milan, 1893). Covent Garden¹

Antonio Pini-Corsi² (Ford)
Giulia Ravogli (Quickly)
Umberto Beduschi (Fenton)
Arturo Pessina (Falstaff)
Olga Olghina (Nannetta)
Emma Zilli² (Alice)
Aurelia Kitzu (Meg)
Paolo Pelagelli-Rossetti² (Bardolfo)
Vittorio Arimondi² (Pistola)
Luigi Mancinelli³, cond.
Sir Augustus Harris, impresario

¹ cast from program and review in *The Sketch* of May 30, 1894, both at EThC

² also sang role at world premiere

³ also conducted US premiere

19. June 1, 1933 **Don Carlos II** (Milan, 1884). Covent Garden¹. In Italian translation

Gina Cigna (Elisabetta)
Nini Giani (Eboli)
Ulisse Lappas (Carlo)
Giacomo Rimini (Posa)
Fernando Autori (Filippo)
Giulio Tomei (Il grande Inquisitore)
Samuel Worthington (Un frate)
Jennie Maude (Tibaldo)
Harold Wilton (Il Conte di Lerma)
Luigia Cilla (Un aroldo reale)
Sir Thomas Beecham, cond.

¹ cast from the program at EThC. Included Fontainebleau scene and ends with Philip handing over Carlo to the Grand Inquisitor. See article by Francis Toye in *The Morning Post*, Thursday, May 25, 1933

20. October 27, 1948 **Simon Boccanegra** (revised version, Milan, 1881). In English as *Simone Boccanegra* at Sadler's Wells¹

Frederick Sharp (Paolo)
Arnold Matters (Simone)
Howell Glynn (Fiesco)
Douglas Craig (Pietro)
Joyce Gartside (Amelia)
James Johnston (Gabriele)
Michael Mudie, cond.
John Moody, ² producer

¹ translation by Norman Tucker

² see also *La battaglia di Legnano* and *Macbeth I*

21. March 31, 1960 **Macbeth** (revised version, Paris, 1865).¹ Covent Garden²

Tito Gobbi (Macbeth)
Joseph Rouleau (Banquo)
Brian Wright (Fleance, mimed part)
Amy Shuard (Lady Macbeth)
Edgar Boniface (Servant)
Beaufoyo Milton (Duncan, mimed part)
André Turp (Macduff)
John Dobson (Malcolm)
Noreen Berry (Lady-in-waiting)
Glynne Thomas (1st Apparition)
Jean Holmes (2nd Apparition)
Celia Penney (3rd Apparition)
Rhydderch Davies (Doctor)
Francesco Molinari-Pradelli, cond.
Michael Benthall, producer

¹ first performance of *Macbeth II* in England at Glyndebourne, May 29, 1938 conducted by Fritz Busch. Program with cast at EThC. See also no. 29, *Macbeth I*

² cast from program at Archive, AIVS

22. March 21, 1961 **Un giorno di regno** or **Il finto Stanislao** (Milan, 1840). St. Pancras Town Hall by the Impresario Society¹

Eric Garrett (Barone di Kelbar)
James Atkins (La Rocca)
Patrick Costeloe (Delmonte)
John Hauxvell (Cavaliere di Belfiore)
Alfred Hallett (Edoardo di Sanval)
Bettina Jonic (Marchesa del Poggio)
Cynthia Jolly (Giulietta di Kelbar)
Dennis Catlin (Conte Ivrea)
Hans Ucko, cond.
Michael Geliot, producer

¹ cast from copy of program in Archive, AIVS

23. May 8, 1961 **La battaglia di Legnano** (Rome, 1849). In English as *The Battle at Sadler's Wells* by the Welsh National Opera¹

Hervey Alan (von Friedrich, orig. Barbarossa)
Ronald Dowd (Arrigo)
Ronald Lewis (Rolando)
Heather Harper (Lida)
Cecil Bridge (1st Resistance Leader, orig. I. Console di Milano)
Donald Campbell (2nd Resistance Leader, orig. II Console di Milano)
David Hartley (Mark, orig. Marcovaldo)
Jean Evans (Imelda)
David Harding (An Officer, orig. Scudiero &/or Araldo)
Glanville Davies (Meyer, orig. Il podestà di Como)
Charles Grove, cond. with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra
John Moody,² producer

¹ translation by Nell and John Moody. Cast from program at ETHC. First performance in Britain at Cardiff, October 3, 1960, same company

² see also *Simon Boccanegra* II and *Macbeth* I

24. February 25, 1964 **Aroldo** (Rimini, 1857).¹ St. Pancras Town Hall by Opera Concerts Ltd.²

Anne Edwards (Mina)
Nasco Petroff (Aroldo)
Michael Maurel (Egberto)
Joseph Beachus³ (Godvino)
Noel Mangin (Briano)
Jennifer Cox (Elena)
David Fisher (Jorg, mimed part)
Gerold Gover, cond.
John Cox, producer

¹ revision of *Stiffelio* (Trieste, 1850); first performance of *Aroldo* in the British Isles, Wexford, Eire, late 1959

² cast from program at Archive, AIVS

³ see *Il corsaro*

25. March 15, 1966 **Il corsaro** (Trieste, 1848). St. Pancras Town Hall by Opera Viva¹

Donald Smith (Corrado)
Noel Noble (Giovanni)
Jeannette Sinclair (Medora)
Pauline Tinsley (Gulnara)
Bryan Drake (Seid)
Joseph Beachus² (Selimo)
Dennis Conway (Eunuco)
Peter Lea (Servant to Seid)
Leslie Head, cond.
Tom Hawkes, producer³

¹ cast from Festival program at Archive, AIVS

² see *Aroldo*

³ see also *Alzira*

26. *May 20, 1966 Giovanna d'Arco* (Milan, 1845).¹ Royal Academy of Music²

Gene West (Carlo VII)
Alan Charles (Giacomo)
Donna-Faye Carr (Giovanna)
William Elvin (Delil)
Paul Sherrell³ (Talbot)
Graham Treacher, cond.
Pauline Stuart, producer

¹ concert performance November 4, 1963 at Kensington Town Hall by the Kensington Choir and Orchestra and the Opera Viva chorus, conducted by Leslie Head. Copy of program at Archive, AIVS claims this to be the "first performance in Britain"

² cast from copy of program at Archive, AIVS

³ sang part March 20 and 25; Anthony Feltham sang the part on March 23 and 27

27. February 10, 1970 *Alzira* (Naples, 1845). In English at the Collegiate Theatre by the University College Opera Society¹

Charles Kerry (Alvaro)
Christopher Bellamy (Gusmano)
Richard Holden (Ovando)
Gordon Wilcock (Zamoro)
Christopher Poll (Ataliba)
John Arom (Otumbo)
Catherine Duval (Alzira)
Audrey de Lema (Zuma)
George Badacsonyi,² cond.
Tom Hawkes, producer

¹ translation by Ewa Czaykowska; cast from copy of program at Archive, AIVS

² see also *Stiffelio* and *Macbeth I*

28. February 14, 1973 *Stiffelio* (Trieste, 1850). In English at the Collegiate Theatre by the University College Music Society¹

Anne Conoley (Lina)
Jill Thomas (Dorotea)
Stuart Kale (Stiffelio)
Peter Lyon (Stankar)
James Anderson (Raffaello di Leuthold)
Ralph Seed (Jorg)
Stephen Dean² (Federico di Frenkel)
George Badacsonyi³, cond.

¹ translation by Sarah Leftwich

² see also *Macbeth I*

³ see also *Alzira* and *Macbeth I*

29. February 18, 1976 *Macbeth* (first version, Florence, 1847).¹ In English² at the Collegiate Theatre by the University College London Opera³

Jonathan Summers (Macbeth)
Bud Lawrence (Banquo)
Janet Jacques (Lady Macbeth)

Derek Blackwell (Macduff)
 Stephen Dean⁴ (Malcolm)
 Josi Gros (Lady-in-waiting)
 Martin Weightman (Doctor)
 Ian Wintersgill (Murderer)
 David Phillips
 Lisa Otten-Barry } (Apparitions)
 Nicola Jenkins }
 Marc Hutchinson (Duncan, mimed part)
 Sue Whittingham (Fleance, mimed part)
 Michael Donnell (Servant to Lady Macbeth)
 David Phillips (3rd Lord)
 Stan Krol (1st Soldier)
 George Badacsonyi,⁵ cond.
 John Moody, producer⁶

¹ first performance in the British Isles, Dublin, Theatre Royal, March 30, 1859, and in England, Manchester, Theatre Royal, September 1859, with Pauline Viardot-Garcia as Lady Macbeth in both

² Translation by Nell and John Moody

³ cast from program at EThC

⁴ see also *Stiffelio*

⁵ see also *Alzira* and *Stiffelio*

⁶ see also *Simon II* and *La Battaglia di Legnano*

Additional Notes

The first performance in England of an opera by Verdi in English was sung to J. Wrey Mould's translation of *Ernani* at the Surrey Theatre, November 1, 1851. This translation was published in a piano-vocal score by T. Boosey & Co., London, preface dated October 23, 1851. Other English translations sung in England during Verdi's lifetime as follows:

Il trovatore, Drury Lane, 1856, transl. by Charles Jefferys

La traviata, Surrey Theatre, 1857, transl. by T. H. Reynoldson

Luisa Miller, see below

Aida, Her Majesty's, 1880, transl. by H. Hersee

Otello, Manchester, 1892, transl. by Francis Hueffer

Falstaff, Lyceum Theatre, 1896, transl. by W. B. Kingston, rev. F. Hart; Royal College of Music performance

most of the above information from Edward J. Dent's article, "Verdi in inglese," *Rassegna Musicale* (1951). *Rigoletto* was performed in French at Her Majesty's in 1853.

Additions to Part I

10. The first performance of *Luisa Miller* or *Love and Intrigue* in London took place on June 3, 1858, at Sadler's Wells, and therefore preceded the Her Majesty's performance previously listed by five days. English translation by Charles Jeffreys. Cast from a playbill at EThC: Miss Dyer (Luisa), Else Poma (Duchess Frederica), Annie Leng (Laura), Borrani (Count de Walter), Bartleman (Wurm), Edmund Rosenthal (Miller), F. Morrow (Anselmo), Henry Haigh (Rodolpho), J. H. Tully (impresario). Also on the program was the operetta *Swiss Swains*, music by Alex Lee.
12. **Ballo.** Edourd Gassier (Sam), apparently the husband of Josefa Fernandez Gassier (Oscar), see also *Forza I*; Patey (Tom). Additions to the cast from a review in *The Athenaeum* (June 22, 1861), courtesy of Tom Kaufman.

In addition to Institute member Tom Kaufman, mentioned above, I should like to thank the following for providing materials or information: Andrew Porter, Harold Rosenthal of *Opera* magazine, Kensington Davison of the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, Helen Salomon of the English National Opera (formerly Sadler's Wells), Mr Langden of the St. Pancras Library, and Robin Golding of the Royal Academy of Music.