

**OPERA SYNOPSES. A
GUIDE TO THE PLOTS
AND CHARACTERS OF
THE STANDARD OPERAS**

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Opera Synopses. A Guide to the Plots and Characters of the Standard Operas by J. Walker
McSpadden

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J. WALKER MCSPADDEN

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BOOKS BY J. WALKER McSPADEN

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New York

OPERA SYNOPSES

A GUIDE TO THE PLOTS AND CHARACTERS
OF THE STANDARD OPERAS

BY

J. WALKER McSPADDEN

AUTHOR OF "SHAKESPERIAN SYNOPSES," ETC.



NEW YORK
THOMAS Y. CROWELL COMPANY
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PREFACE

THE fourth volume of the present series of "Synopsis" is devoted, as its title indicates, to standard operas. The preceding three, dealing respectively with Shakespeare, Dickens, and Scott, have apparently met a popular need, and readers have asked from time to time for a similar work presenting the casts and plots of the best-known operas. This volume is an answer to their request, and is issued with the aim of making it as serviceable as possible both to opera-goers and to that still larger class outside the great cities, who wish to be readily conversant with all such works.

Indeed, a knowledge of the standard operas is as essential nowadays as a knowledge of the classics of literature. Each sheds its influence upon the other, and the line is continually being crossed between the adjacent fields. Plays of Shakespeare, like "Othello" and "Merry Wives"; novels like Scott's "Bride of Lammermoor"; and the latest Broadway success, all reappear in musical setting. The general reader,

therefore, whether he frequents the opera, or not, cannot overlook this phase of artistic expression.

"Opera Synopses" will be found to include a careful selection of the "grand," "romantic," and "light" operas. It is not all-inclusive, as a list anywhere near complete would require a book four or five times the present dimensions. But it does endeavor to include all the operas actively in the repertoire of the producing managers within the last few years, and those which are most frequently cited and consulted.

For ease of reference, titles are given in alphabetical order, rather than by authors. For the same reason, preference has been given to the English title, except in such instances (for example, "Il Trovatore") where the opera is best known under its foreign title.

J. W. M.

MONTCLAIR, N. J.

June 1, 1911.

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AIDA

Romantic Opera in Four Acts. Music by Giuseppe Verdi. Book by Antonio Ghislanzoni. Written for the Khedive of Egypt, and first produced at Cairo, December 24, 1871.

SCENE: Memphis and Thebes.

TIME: Rule of the Pharaohs.

CAST

THE KING OF EGYPT (Basso).
AMNERIS, *his daughter* (Contralto).
RHADAMES, *a General* (Tenor).
RAMFIS, *the High Priest* (Basso).
AMONASRO, *the King of Ethiopia* (Baritone).
AIDA, *his Daughter, a Slave* (Soprano).
Soldiers, Courtiers, Citizens, Tire-women,
Dancers, etc.