

## DISCOVER

*Opera*Written and compiled by **Nick Kimberley**

For 400 years, opera has illuminated the innermost recesses of human existence. Once the sport of kings and princes, it now provides the soundtrack of our lives, its best-loved tunes heard on football terraces, in films and advertisements, and even at the opera house. From Monteverdi's *Orfeo* to Harrison Birtwistle's *The Mask of Orpheus*, by way of Handel and Mozart, Verdi and Wagner, Puccini and Stravinsky, Discover Opera surveys the entire history of this extravagant yet intimate art form. Along the way we encounter duelling composers, superstar castratos, abandoned heroines driven mad by passion and swashbuckling heroes striving for elusive high notes. There is love, there is murder, there are shepherds and nymphs, gypsies and queens, an earthquake and a poisonous snake. All play their part in the history of opera, the art form that brings together all the arts in a lavish combination of emotion and spectacle.

**Includes music by Monteverdi, Purcell, Gluck, Mozart, Wagner, Rossini, Donizetti, Verdi, Puccini, Debussy, Berg, Britten, Birtwistle, Adams and others.**

- **2 CDs of music**
- **25,000-word essay**
- **Timeline of events in opera, history, art and literature**
- **Richly illustrated with photographs**

*The DISCOVER series opens the door to key areas of classical music. Through a combination of illustrative music tracks and a richly filled booklet, the exploration is both revealing and enjoyable.*



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