

## Charles Mackerras: Opera performances in Paris

(Palais Garnier, Salle Favart, Châtelet, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées)

1973, May 2, 5, 10, 20, 23, 26; June 18, 22, 27, 30 Palais Garnier

Verdi: *Il Trovatore*

d. Tito Capobianco, d. David Mitchell

Orianna Santunione (Leonora), Gwynneth Jones (Leonora, May 20, 23, 26),  
Martina Arroyo (Leonora, June 18, 22, 27, 30), Shirley Verrett (Azucena, May 2, 5,  
10), Mignon Dunn (Azucena, May 20, 23, 26), Fiorenza Cossotto (Azucena, June  
18, 22, 27, 30), Carlo Cossutta (Manrico), Plácido Domingo (Manrico, May 20, 23,  
26), Gilbert Py (Manrico, June 27), Piero Cappuccilli (Conte di Luna)

'Un éclatant Trouvère à l'Opéra' (Jacques Lonchamp, *Le Monde*, 8 May)

*Opera*, July 1973:

The scheduled conductor, Riccardo Muti, withdrew for health reasons, and Charles Mackerras came to the rescue, if not at the eleventh hour, certainly rather late in the proceedings. The result was a postponed first night and some juggling with dates of performances. Mackerras, of course, had to inherit a production planned by a team of which he was not originally a member, and a musical edition of which he probably did not approve one hundred per cent. I am sure, however, that he was glad to have the ending that Verdi wrote for Paris in which the sound of the 'Miserere' is again heard as Manrico is lead to his execution, which takes place on stage in full view of the audience. The Paris ballet, of which we had a little at the Coliseum, was completely omitted, as was Leonora's last-act cabaletta; and there were other traditional cuts. The Opera's new orchestra and chorus are both of a very high level; indeed, the chorus sounds young and fresh, much as Covent Garden's first post-war chorus did in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Mackerras started the opera in a rather subdued manner, and it was not until the first Azucena scene that the excitement really began; the tension was maintained from then onwards, especially as we had only one interval (would that Covent Garden could do the same). The chief contributor to the evening's excitement was Shirley Verrett's truly magnificent Azucena, which was musically and dramatically one of the most exciting performances I can remember. Miss Verrett's voice is silky and beautiful, and in the last scene her part in the 'Ai nostri monti' duet was memorable.

1973, April 13, May 11, 14, 16, 19, Palais Garnier

Mozart: *Le nozze di Figaro*

p. Giorgio Strehler, d. Ezio Frigerio

Mirella Freni (Susanna), Margaret Price (Countess), Gundula Janowitz (Countess,  
April 13), Teresa Berganza (Cherubino), Frederica von Stade (Cherubino, April  
13), José Van Dam (Figaro), Tom Krause (Count)

1974, February 20, 23, 26, March 1, 6, 9, 12, 15, Palais Garnier

Puccini: *Tosca*

Orianna Santunione (Tosca, February perfs), Arlene Saunders (Tosca, March  
perfs), Carolo Cossutta (Cavaradossi, February perfs), Plácido Domingo  
(Cavaradossi, March perfs), Gabriel Bacquier (Scarpia)

1975, July 9, 13, 15, Palais Garnier

Mozart: Don Giovanni

p. August Everding, d. Toni Businger

Edda Moser (Donna Anna), Kiri Te Kanawa (Donna Elvira), Jane Berbié (Zerlina), Roger Soyer (Don Giovanni), Geraint Evans (Leporello), Kurt Moll (Commendatore), Richard Van Allan (Masetto), Stuart Burrows (Don Ottavio)

1975, September 24, 27, 30; October 4; November 28, December 1, 3, 6, Palais Garnier

Mozart: Don Giovanni

August Everding, Toni Businger

Edda Moser (Donna Anna), Margaret Price (Donna Anna, September 30, October 4, November 28, December 1, 3), Kiri Te Kanawa (Donna Elvira), Julia Varady (Donna Elvira, November 28, December 1, 3, 6), Jane Berbié (Zerlina), Ruggero Raimondi (Don Giovanni), Geraint Evans (Leoporello), Robert Lloyd (Commendatore), John Macurdy (Commendatore, December perfs), Richard Van Allan (Masetto), Stuart Burrows (Don Ottavio)

1975, October 2, 6, 10, 14, 18, 23, Palais Garnier

Strauss: Elektra

p. August Everding, d. Andrzej Majewski

Astrid Varnay (Klytemnestra), Ursula Schröder-Feinen (Elektra), Arlene Saunders (Chrysothemis), Richard Lewis (Aegisth), Hans Sotin (Orest)

1976, March 27, 30 (televised); April 2, 10, 13, 16, 19, 24, 28, 30, Palais Garnier

Gounod: Faust

p. Jorge Lavelli, d. Max Bignens

Nicolai Gedda (Faust), Alain Vanzo (Faust, April 24, 28, 30, Roger Soyer (Méphistophélès), José Van Dam (Méphistophélès, April 2), Nicolai Ghiaurov (Méphistophélès, April 10, 13, 16, 19), Jacques Mars (Méphistophélès, last two acts on April 24, April 30), Mirella Freni (Margarite), Tom Krause (Valentin), Renée Auphan (Siebel), Jocelyne Taillon (Marthe), Jean-Louis Soumagnas (Wagner)

1976, July 23, 26, 29 [took over run from Julius Rudel], Palais Garnier

Mozart: Così fan tutte

p. and d. Jean-Pierre Ponnelle

Kiri Te Kanawa (Fiordiligi), Jane Berbié (Dorabella), Danièle Perriers (Despina), Horst Laubenthal (Ferrando), Tom Krause (Guglielmo), Richard Van Allan (Don Alfonso)

1978, November 1, 4, 8, 11; 1979, January 23, 26, 30, Palais Garnier

Mozart: Die Entführung aus dem Serail

p. Gunther Rennert, d. Bernard Dayde and Jose Varona

Christiane Eda-Pierre (Konstanze), Valerie Masterson (Konstanze, November 11; January 23, 26, 30), Danièle Perriers (Blonde), Ryland Davies (Belmonte), Heinz Kruse (Pedrillo), Norbert Orth (Pedrillo, January 23, 26, 30), Peter Meven (Osmin), Kurt Moll (Osmin, January perfs), Paul-Emile Deiber (Selim Pasha)

1979, April 6, 9, 12, 14, 17, Palais Garnier

Mozart: *Così fan tutte*

p. and d. Jean-Pierre Ponnelle

Teresa Zylis-Gara (Fiordiligi), Jane Berbié (Dorabella), Danièle Perriers (Despina), Horst Laubenthal (Ferrando), Tom Krause (Guglielmo), Roger Soyer (Don Alfonso)

1980, February 12, 15, 20, 23, Palais Garnier

Mozart: *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*

p. Gunther Rennert, d. Bernard Dayde and Jose Varona

Christiane Eda-Pierre (Konstanze), Danièle Perriers (Blonde), Ryland Davies (Belmonte), Norbert Orth (Pedrillo), Kurt Moll (Osmin), Paul-Emile Deiber (Selim Pasha)

1980, June 21, 25, 28; July 1, Palais Garnier

Mozart: *Le nozze di Figaro*

p. Giorgio Strehler, d. Ezio Frigerio

Mirella Freni (Susanna), Gundula Janowitz (Countess), Frederica von Stade (Cherubino), José Van Dam (Figaro), Gabriel Bacquier (Count)

1980, November 14 (first night), Palais Garnier

Janáček: *Jenůfa*

p. Götz Friedrich, d. Reinhard Zimmermann

Jane Berbié (Grandmother Buryjovka), Nadine Denize (Kostelnicka), Rachel Yakar (Jenůfa), Guy Chauvet (Laca), Jean Dupouy (Steva)

[The first Janáček opera produced at the Paris Opéra. One performance was broadcast on French television]

1985, June 11, Théâtre du Châtelet

Handel: *Rinaldo*

p. and d. Pier Luigi Pizzi

*Opera*, Nov 1985: The great disappointment was that Teresa Berganza did not appear as announced and was replaced by Zehava Gal (Rinaldo, replacing indisposed Teresa Berganza), Jeannette Scovotti (Armida, replacing indisposed Valerie Masterson), Gianna Rolandi (Almirena), James Bowman a fine, theatrical Goffredo)

1988, February 23, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées

Gluck: *Orphée et Eurydice* arr. Berlioz

Marilyn Horne (Orphée), Ruth Ann Swenson (Euridice), Sophie Marin-Degor (Amour)

1988, March 10 (first night), Salle Favart

Janáček: *From the House of the Dead*

p. Volker Schloendorff, d. Jennifer Bartlett

Dalibor Jedlička (Gorjanchikov), Miroslav Kopp (Aljeia), František Livora (Filka/Luka), Robert Dumé (Large Prisoner), Ivan Kusnjer (Small Prisoner), Antonin Švorc (Commandant), Vaclav Zitek (Šiškov), Peter Straka (Skuratov), Josef Hajna (Kedril/Šapkin), Orchestre de l'Opéra de Paris

1995, May 29; June 4, 6, 8, 11, 14, Théâtre du Châtelet

Janáček: *The Cunning Little Vixen*

p. Nicholas Hytner, d. Bob Crowley

Eva Jenis (Vixen), Hana Minutillo (Fox), Thomas Allen (Forester), Josef Hajna (Schoolmaster/Mosquito), Richard Novák (Priest/Badger), Jean-Philippe Marlière (Innkeeper/Lapák), Libuše Márová (Forester's /Owl), ) Sarah Connolly (Innkeeper's Wife/Cock/Jay), Florence Bonnafous (Hen), Ivan Kusnjer (Harašta), Françoise Martinaud (Woodpecker), Maîtrise des Hauts-de-Seine, Orchestre de Paris

2000, January 17 (first night), Palais Garnier

Mozart: *Così fan tutte*

p. and d. Ezio Toffolutti

Barbara Frittoli (Fiordiligi), Katarina Karnéus (Dorabella), Russell Braun (Guglielmo), Michael Schade (Ferrando), Nuccia Focile (Despina), Rolando Panerai ( Don Alfonso)