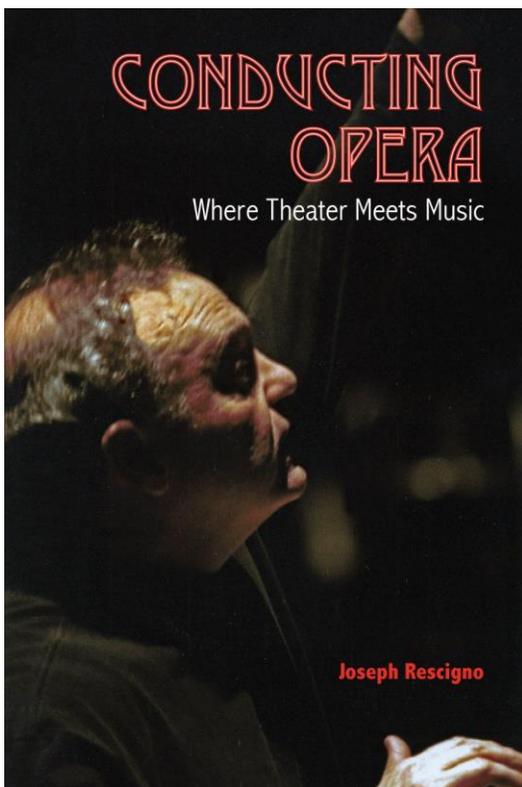


Conducting Opera: Where Theater Meets Music

by Joseph Rescigno

University of North Texas Press, 2020
<https://untpress.unt.edu/catalog/3885>

Commentary



Benjamin Ivry in *OperaNow!* March-April 2021:

Rescigno's observations are informative for fans who merely listen to operas as well as those who try to perform them. ... For pointed, experienced and plainspoken advice about opera, this is one of the most sagacious books to have been published in recent years...

Rémy Franck at *Pizzicato*, October 2020:

American conductor Joseph Rescigno, 75, has published a stunning book about 'Conducting Opera'. His analyses ... contain so many details and so many thoughts that the reader, be it a conductor[,], a singer looking for advice or just an opera lover, will be fascinated by such a profound knowledge.

Justine Nguyen in *LIMELIGHT*, June 18, 2021:

His explications are neither too technical or too accommodating to the layman, achieving a difficult middle path that more or less answers any question that you may have about the medium. ... Perhaps what's most enjoyable about *Conducting Opera* is the sheer passion Rescigno

brings to bear on his robust consideration of close to 30 operas.

Joshua Rosenblum in *Opera News*, March 2021:

Although readers who do not have actual opera conducting engagements on their calendars will probably skip some of the exhaustive analytical detail, there's enough valuable insight and generous sharing of knowledge on a less specialized level to make this an enjoyable excursion for anyone who knows and loves the repertoire, or wants to know more about what an opera conductor actually does.

Robert Matthew-Walker in *Musical Opinion Quarterly*, October-December 2021:

Joseph Rescigno's wide experience in that repertoire infuses his text with many insightful gems...

Andrew Desiderio in *Fanfare*, March-April 2021:

Conducting Opera should be read by any laymen, students, or professionals who wish to deepen their knowledge and appreciation of the craft. ... Rescigno displays such a breadth of knowledge and a genuine passion for opera as to make Conducting Opera an engaging, informative, and articulate read. This book shows what a great opera performance could be, and how it is within the reach of any industrious conductor with technique and imagination.

Maria Nockin in *Fanfare*, November-December 2020:

At some points the reader feels as though he is sitting directly behind Maestro as he conducts. Rescigno concludes with invaluable comments based on his own experience with the music, the libretto, most especially with the people who sing the characters on stage and play the music.

Roger Hecht in the *American Record Guide*, January-February 2021:

Many of Rescigno's comments about various passages are subjective—conductors are interpreters, after all—but his ideas are often compelling. The book should appeal to any young opera conductor and to a devoted opera lover.

George Hall in *Opera*, June 2021:

His is clearly an eminently pragmatic approach, borne of considerable experience and years of deliberation. ...this is a valuable book, intended for a particular group of interpreters while offering wider insights to any musician who happens to be interested in how operatic performances can be made to work.

Brian Manternach in *Classical Singer*, Fall 2022:

...it is not intended to be a work of history or musicology. However, this does not diminish the tremendous value his perspectives offer to opera performers and enthusiasts alike. Singers in particular will be well served to study Rescigno's thoughts before stepping on stage in one of the masterworks he profiles. Considering the *Gesamtkunstwerk* that is opera, the more singers understand their roles within the greater overall picture, the better enabled each participant will be to deliver effective, collaborative performances.

Dennis Rooney in the *ARSC Journal (Association for Recorded Sound Collections)*, Fall 2020:

Rescigno's book is more pragmatic than philosophical, as his primary concern is providing practical solutions to problems related to music, staging, and casting, all of which distill his extensive experience.

Marco del Vaglio at *Critica Classica*, March 2021:

... un libro probabilmente unico nel suo genere, ricco di osservazioni, consigli, paragoni originali e molto calzanti, dove passaggi tecnici si alternano a paragrafi meramente divulgativi. [...] Ma anche gli appassionati melomani troveranno il volume di loro gradimento, grazie allo stile piacevole ed accessibile che contraddistingue i numerosi paragrafi non strettamente tecnici.

December 6, 2022