

Lesser Known French Opera

Lesser known does not imply lesser quality. As we have seen, there are many reasons that could account for an opera to be lesser known. They may include random circumstances which occurred early in the history of a particular work such as disputes with publishers, initial bad reviews, misplaced scores, initial censorship, or other legal matters.

During most of the 19th century Paris was the center of the opera world. A brief chronology of the development of French opera will provide a background for the more detailed exploration of the composers and works which may be considered to be lesser known. The following operas will be shown: *Damnation of Faust*, *Les Troyens* (both by Berlioz), *La Juive* (Halevy), *Robert Le Diable*, *Les Huguenots*, and *L'Africaine*, (all by Meyerbeer).

All performances will be edited to allow sufficient time for discussion of both the operas viewed and any general observations of French Opera as compared to other forms. It will be the responsibility of class participants to be familiar with the libretti of the operas shown. Please note that each session will run 2 and ¼ hours including a short break.

Leader: Irwin Rosenblum has a BS in Accounting, an MBA in Finance, a BA in Music and a BA in History.

Tuesdays: 10:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., 8 weeks: September 26 through November 14.

Location: PSRC