

Bizet	<i>Les pêcheurs de perles</i>	Ruse Opera, 1957 Liuben Pintev; Nikolai Zdravkov, Penka Marinova, Kiril Krastev, Boris Dimitrov
Boito	<i>Mefistofele</i>	Sofia National Opera, 10 June 1983 Ivan Marinov; Nikola Ghiuselev, Kaludi Kaludov, Stefka Evstatieva, Rumiana Bareva
Gounod	<i>Faust</i>	Sofia National Opera, 7 March 1959 Atanas Margaritov; Ilija Jossifov, Katia Popova, Nikolai Ghiaurov, Georgi Genov
Ponchielli	<i>La Gioconda</i>	Ruse Opera, 1958 Romeo Raichev; Maria Bohachek, Yurgo Stefanov, Ana Georgieva, Kiril Krastev, Evgenia Babacheva, Nedeicho Pavlov
Puccini	<i>Turandot</i>	Sofia National Opera, 27 June 1961 Asen Naidenov; Julia Wiener, Nikola Nikolov, Katia Popova, Nikola Ghiuselev
Verdi	<i>Don Carlo</i>	Sofia National Opera, 16 November 1960 Atanas Margaritov; Liubomir Bodurov, Radka Konforti, Jordanka Dimcheva, Nikolai Ghiaurov, Asen Selimski, Pavel Manolov
	<i>Macbeth</i>	Sofia National Opera, 3 June 1974 Asen Naidenov; Nikola Smochevski, Julia Wiener, Liubomir Bodurov, Stefan Elenkov
	<i>Nabucco</i>	Sofia National Opera, 28 May 1968 Ruslan Raichev; Stoyan Popov, Ghena Dimitrova, Nikolai Ghiaurov, Adriana Stamenova, Jordan Znamenov
	<i>Rigoletto</i>	Ruse Opera, 1957 Konstantin Iliev; Kiril Krastev, Penka Marinova, Nikolai Zdravkov, Liliana Tocheva, Boris Dimitrov
Wagner	<i>Der fliegende Holländer</i>	Sofia National Opera, 19 July 1959 Atanas Margaritov; Ivan Popov, Radka Konforti, Boris I. Christov, Liubomir Bodurov

Audio Encyclopedia



Bulgarian National Radio Italian, French and German Opera

Native artists dominated the performances at all the Bulgarian opera houses and inevitably (considering the era), the Bulgarian language was chosen to communicate with the audience. Where major artists had achieved international standing, they would use the language in which they were most prepared, so that we have a curious combination of tongues on some of these recordings. Admittedly, the language itself takes some acclimatization and the mix is even stranger to modern ears, but it was quite common in Europe until recent days.

Many of the finest basses associated with Russian opera were, in fact, Bulgarian. Boris Christov, Nikolai Ghiaurov and Nikolai Ghiuselev have been among the great interpreters of the roles of Mussorgsky in particular. Bulgarian houses programmed a great deal of Russian opera, yet we have chosen to hold off on those works here and to concentrate on reasonably standard repertoire displaying the high quality of Bulgarian operatic art in works familiar to the general audience.

Bulgarian National Radio served to spread the performances beyond the bounds of the cities in which the performances were heard. Similarly, its recordings here spread those experiences to the rest of the world. Through their cooperation, we can offer a cross-section of the programming heard there over more than a quarter of a century, from 1957 through 1983. Needless to say, the ten titles selected for this disc are only a fraction of Bulgarian National Radio's broadcasts and an even smaller sampling of the productions of the seven companies, but they do represent a fair cross-section of Western operas performed in Bulgaria in that period.

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