

In the later years of his tenure as General Director, Kurt Herbert Adler broadened the San Francisco Opera's appeal in complementary ways. The repertoire was expanded from the bread and butter of Verdi, Wagner, Puccini, Strauss and a few others to embrace Janacek, Britten and true contemporaries such as Reimann.

The Opera's broadcasts had been occasional in the 1930's and 40's; the next two decades saw none at all. The 1970 Tosca, celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of Dorothy Kirsten's debut with the company, began thirteen years of radio coverage of complete seasons. (That historic broadcast initiates this collection.) Thereafter, broadcasts again became occasional and were taken from tape. Since the early 1990's, there have been none. Initially, the broadcasts were local to the Bay Area; from the late 1970's, national distribution over public radio expanded awareness of the Company.

The broadcast schedule had grown to include all productions each season, fewer than from the Met but matching the older house's artistic standards while presenting material little known or unknown to the opera lovers of the U.S. The San Francisco's reputation in the Bay Area was spread to the rest of the nation and to the world: it was not merely the *seconda donna* of U.S. opera companies. For innovative programming, for bringing the best artists to the country and for sheer enthusiasm, the Left Coast was the first place to go for American opera. The recordings on these discs illustrate the properties of the Company. They are drawn from productions of the last dozen years of the Adler era. San Francisco had not given up the core repertoire while Adler was in charge, nor would it turn to novelty for its own sake during the later years.

# *Audio Encyclopedia*

## **San Francisco Opera**

**A celebration of the city,  
the company and the  
War Memorial Opera House  
during the regime of  
Kurt Herbert Adler**

## **Volume 2**

Berg	LULU	19-11-1971
Massenet	MANON	8-11-1971
Meyerbeer	L'AFRICAINNE	3-11-1972
Monteverdi	L'INCORONAZIONE DI POPPEA	19-9-1975
Mozart	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	22-9-1972
Puccini	TOSCA	28-11-1970
Puccini	MADAMA BUTTERFLY	18-10-1974
Puccini	IL TABARRO	26-11-1971
Rossini	LA CENERENTOLA	1-11-1974
Strauss, J.	DIE FLEDERMAUS	14-9-1973
Strauss, R.	SALOME	4-10-1974
Tchaikovsky	EUGENE ONEGIN	22-10-1971
Tchaikovsky	PIQUE DAME	24-10-1975
Verdi	LUISA MILLER	29-9-1974
Verdi	SIMON BOCCANEGRA	14-11-1975
Wagner	TANNHAEUSER	12-10-1973
Wagner	DIE WALKUERE	20-10-1972
Wagner	DIE MEISTERSING VON NUERNBERG	1-10-1971
Wagner	PARSIFAL	20-9-1974

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