

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 McEwen 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 3

Bellini	NORMA	15-9-1978
Britten	PETER GRIMES	22-10-1976
Britten	BILLY BUDD	29-9-1978
Janacek	JENUFA	10-10-1980
Janacek	KATYA KABANOVA	30-9-1977
Janacek	MAKROPOULOS CASE	29-10-1976
Leoncavallo	PAGLIACCI	28-11-1980
Mascagni	CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA	28-11-1980
Massenet	WERTHER	3-11-1978
Poulenc	LA VOIX HUMAINE	19-10-1979
Puccini	TOSCA	20-10-1978
Puccini	TURANDOT	4-11-1977
Reimann	LEAR	12-6-1981
Rossini	SEMIRAMIDE	26-9-1981
Shostakovich	LADY MACBETH OF MTSSENSK	17-10-1981
Strauss	ELEKTRA	28-9-1979
Strauss	ARIADNE AUF NAXOS	28-10-1977
Strauss	DIE FRAU OHNE SCHATTEN	15-10-1976
Strauss	ARABELLA	14-11-1980
Verdi	RIGOLETTO	14-7-1981
Verdi	UN BALLO IN MASCHERA	25-11-1977
Verdi	DON CARLO	5-10-1979

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