

*A Season of Opera:
From Orpheus
to Ariadne*

M. OWEN LEE

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO PRESS
Toronto Buffalo London

Contents

Preface ix

- 1 The Birth of Opera from the Spirit of Orpheus 3
- 2 Du Musst dein Leben Ändern: *Orfeo ed Euridice* 13
- 3 The Opera of All Operas: *Don Giovanni* 19
- 4 The Music of Intuitive Angels: *The Magic Flute* 27
- 5 Music to Set the Spirit Free: *Fidelio* 41
- 6 Show Business Sense: *L'Elisir d'Amore* 54
- 7 Oh, Sweet Music of Donizetti! *Lucia di Lammermoor* 60
- 8 Elemental, Furious, Wholly True: *Il Trovatore* 67
- 9 The Requisite Miracle: *La Traviata* 78
- 10 The Whole Checkered Play of Life: *La Forza del Destino* 84
- 11 Melt Egypt into Nile: *Aida* 90
- 12 A Figure as Old as Comedy: *Falstaff* 97

viii Contents

- 13 The Exasperated Eagle and the Stoic Saint: *Les Troyens* 101
- 14 The Sins of Wagner's Youth: *Rienzi* 111
- 15 Long Day's Journey into Night: *Tristan und Isolde* 118
- 16 The Making of a Musical Legend: *Palestrina* 139
- 17 The Moon Is Like the Moon: *Salome* 147
- 18 Genius and *Morbidezza*: *Manon Lescaut* 153
- 19 Mists, Sails, Sounds, and Impressions: *Pelléas et Mélisande* 158
- 20 It Is Your Turn to Speak: *Dialogues des Carmélites* 170
- 21 An Opera Made of Songs: *Porgy and Bess* 182
- 22 The Music Wrote Itself: *Oklahoma!* 191
- 23 HURRY UP PLEASE ITS TIME 197
- Further Reading 217
- Recordings and Videos 221
- Index 231