Operatic works by Italian composers of the nineteenth century have undergone countless transformations since their premieres, shifting shape in response to a variety of new geographic, temporal, technological, and performative contexts. These enduring works by Rossini, Donizetti, Bellini, Verdi, Puccini, and their contemporaries have myriad stories to tell. Fashions and Legacies reconstructs a selection of these stories, exploring ways in which operatic works have been reshaped and revived throughout the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries. While focusing on how these works have been altered, the twelve contributors in this book also respond to fundamental questions: how has this music retained – or sacrificed – its powerful messages in the face of deconstruction and recontextualization over time and place? What happens to these operas once they have escaped control of their authors? The contributions of singers, stage directors, conductors, and other theatrical personalities stand front and center of the volume.

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Fashions and Legacies of Nineteenth-Century Italian Opera

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A note about translations

The chapters in this volume employ a variety of non-English sources, primarily Italian and French. In cases where this material is not easily accessible and where the translations are the authors' own, the original text is normally included in the notes. When authors rely on easily accessible, published translations by others, the sources are identified in the notes, but the original text is not included. With a few exceptions, decisions have been made on a case-by-case basis.