

# The Works of Giuseppe Verdi

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## Who was Giuseppe Verdi?

Giuseppe Verdi was an Italian composer who lived from 1813 to 1901. His most famous works include *Rigoletto* (1851), *Il Trovatore* (1853), *La Traviata* (1853), and *Aida* (1871). These works are performed all over the world. People enjoy his works because of their interesting characters and fun music.



A drawing of  
Giuseppe Verdi



*Aida* is an opera  
set in Egypt.



Verdi lived in this house as a child.

When he was a child, Verdi and his family lived in a small town in the north of Italy. At the age of seven, Verdi joined the choir at the town church and began to learn how to play the organ.



Verdi was a talented musician, and at the age of eight, he became the church organist. At thirteen, he performed music that he wrote himself in a concert. Everyone loved it. It was clear that Verdi belonged in the world of music.



This choir is singing in front of an organ.



A map showing where Verdi lived



There are many beautiful buildings in Milan.

After Verdi finished school, he moved to the big city of Milan, which many Italians believe is the home of Italian opera. The Teatro alla Scala (La Scala) in Milan is one of the most famous opera houses in the world. In Milan, Verdi got to know important people in the world of music. He joined a singing group, and with the support of the man who ran the singing group, he started to write his first opera.

Milan is famous for fashion and shopping. ➡



In 1834, Verdi found work teaching music at his old school. In 1835, he got married, and by 1838, he had two children. Sadly, both children died young. While he was writing his second opera, his wife Margherita also died. Although Verdi was very sad, he finished his opera, but no one liked it. Because of this, Verdi declared that he would never write music again.

Maybe Verdi used  
a piano like this one  
to write music!



A music teacher  
at work



Luckily for music lovers, Verdi changed his mind. A friend asked him to write another opera, *Nabucco*. It was first performed in Milan in 1842 and was a great success. It was also performed in Austria, Spain, France, and Germany.

Inside La Scala, a famous opera house in Milan



A scene from the opera *Nabucco*





Verdi dreamed of becoming a farmer.

After the success of *Nabucco*, Verdi moved back to Milan.

From 1843 to 1849, Verdi wrote two operas a year. His plan was to become rich from his music, and then become a farmer.

Although he did not achieve this goal during his life, Verdi wrote over twenty-five operas.

Toward the end of his life, Verdi worked to help others. He built retirement homes and hospitals for old musicians.



↑ This statue helps people remember Verdi.



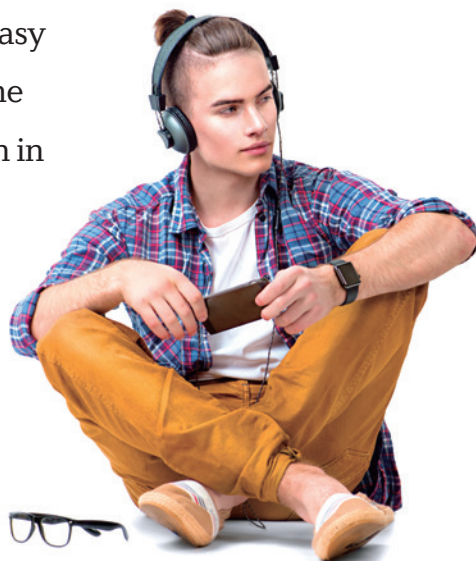


Verdi wanted old musicians to have places to live, like this former hospital in Italy.

Verdi's operas are full of catchy music. You probably know some of his music, even if you do not know about opera. After hearing one of Verdi's operas, you will have the music stuck in your head!

For Verdi, the characters in an opera are all important. Even the bad guys are easy to like. We can feel sorry for both the good and the bad guys. The women in Verdi's operas are strong. In Verdi's time, women were often seen as weak. But Verdi's women don't just sit around waiting for men to save them.

Listening to opera is a good way to relax.





In a play the actors speak; in an opera, the actors sing.

There is a star for Verdi on the Opera Walk of Fame.



The themes in Verdi's operas also make them popular.

Even though his works are now old, the themes are relevant today. His characters struggle to balance their personal lives with work. Some characters are forced into positions of power that they don't want. Another common theme is the parent-child relationship. These are themes that we can all relate to.

Verdi loved the English writer, William Shakespeare.  
He wrote several operas that were based on plays by  
Shakespeare: *Macbeth*  
(1847), *Otello* (1887),  
and *Falstaff* (1893).



Verdi used to be on Italian money.

Some say Shakespeare is one of the most famous writers in the world!

