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Television Opera: The Fall of Opera Commissioned for Television (Hardback)

By Jennifer Barnes

Boydell Brewer Ltd, United Kingdom, 2003. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Television opera - that is, opera commissioned for television - was one of the earliest attempts by television to bridge the distinction between high culture and popular culture: between 1951 and 2002, in Britain and the United States, over fifty operas were commissioned for television. This book discusses three case studies, the first a live broadcast, the second a video recording, and the third a filmed opera made for television: Gian Carlo Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (NBC, 1951); Benjamin Britten's *Owen Wingrave* (BBC, 1971), taking into account Britten's earlier television experiences with *The Turn of the Screw* (Associated Rediffusion, 1959) and *Billy Budd* (NBC, 1952 and BBC 1966); and Gerald Barry's *The Triumph of Beauty and Deceit* (1995), part of Channel 4's decision in 1989 to embark upon a series of six hour-long television operas. In each case, the composer's response to the demands of television, and his place within the production's hierarchy, are examined; and the effect of the formats and techniques peculiar to television on the process of composing are discussed. JENNIFER BARNES is...


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