

## The Cambridge Companion to Opera Studies

With its powerful combination of music and theatre, opera is one of the most complex and yet immediate of all art forms. Once opera was studied only as ‘a stepchild of musicology’, but in the past two decades opera studies has experienced an explosion of energy with the introduction of new approaches drawn from disciplines such as social anthropology and performance studies to media theory, genre theory, gender studies and reception history. Written by leading scholars in opera studies today, this *Companion* offers a wide-ranging guide to a rapidly expanding field of study, and new ways of thinking about a rich and intriguing art form, placing opera back at the centre of our understanding of Western culture over the past 400 years. This book gives lovers of opera as well as those studying the subject a comprehensive approach to the many facets of opera in the past and today.

NICHOLAS TILL is Professor of Opera and Music Theatre and Leverhulme Research Fellow at the University of Sussex.

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