

Time: 10:30-noon

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## **Donizetti's Three Queens: An Operatic Mount Everest**

### **I. Announcements**

- A. No summer sessions: This series will resume in September 2024
- B. Blawenburg Band website: Summer concerts available at [www.blawenburgband.org](http://www.blawenburgband.org)

### **II. Gaetano Donizetti (1797-1848)**

- A. One of the great composers of Bel Canto opera, along with Bellini and Rossini
- B. Composed 71 operas, 16 symphonies, 19 string quartets, 193 songs and much other music
- C. Sources for his operas: Romantic literature (Lucia di Lammermoor), from a novel by Sir Walter Scott, Classical history (Poliuto, a story set in ancient Rome), British history (his 3 Tudor Queens operas, the subject of today's session) and stories from contemporary librettists (for example, his comedies L'Elisir d' Amore and Don Pasquale)
- D. His personal life combined triumph with tragedy—he was renowned in Italy and Paris for his music, but he and his wife lost three children in infancy and Donizetti contracted syphilis, which eventually led to his institutionalization for mental illness and death.

### **III. The Three Tudor Queens Operas**

- A. Anna Bolena, tragic opera in 2 acts (1830), libretto by Felice Romani
- B. Maria Stuarda (1834), opera in 2 acts, libretto by Giuseppe Bardari
- C. Roberto Devereux (1837), opera in 3 acts, libretto by Salvatore Cammarano

#### Internet:

- 1. Anna Bolena: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anna\\_Bolena](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anna_Bolena)
- 2. Maria Stuarda: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maria\\_Stuarda](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maria_Stuarda)
- 3. Roberto Devereux: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roberto\\_Devereux](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roberto_Devereux)

#### YouTube Videos

- 1. Anna Bolena, finale of Act 1: Metropolitan Opera, with Anna Netrebko as Anna Bolena [https://youtu.be/69atpi\\_K5zA?feature=shared](https://youtu.be/69atpi_K5zA?feature=shared)
- 2. Anna Bolena, Act 1 Excerpt: Dutch Naational Opera, with Maria Rebeka as Anna Bolena [https://youtu.be/TBeOQ\\_P6kVA?feature=shared](https://youtu.be/TBeOQ_P6kVA?feature=shared)

3. Anna Bolena, Act 1 Finale: 1957 from La Scala, Milan (audio only) with Maria Callas Anna Bolena [https://youtu.be/cH\\_Fw\\_MOxjM?feature=shared](https://youtu.be/cH_Fw_MOxjM?feature=shared)
4. Maria Stuarda: Final Scene, with Joyce DiDonato as Maria Stuarda <https://youtu.be/71v3kzCyRH8?feature=shared>
5. Maria Stuarda: Act 1 Finale, with Joyce DiDonato as Maria Stuarda and Elza van den Heever as Elizabeth 1: [https://youtu.be/aKmOVN5\\_BOo?feature=shared](https://youtu.be/aKmOVN5_BOo?feature=shared)
6. Maria Stuarda: Confrontation Scene with Ashley Putnam as Maria Stuarda and Beverly Sills as Elizabeth I: <https://youtu.be/P2mOHVHmsFE?feature=shared>
7. Roberto Devereux: Act 3 finale, Sondra Radvanovsky as Queen Elizabeth: <https://youtu.be/PW8HcBt3ryg?feature=shared>
8. Roberto Devereux: Excerpt from Ac3 Finale, Beverly Sills as Queen Elizabeth: <https://youtu.be/KnmivlmQA2Y?feature=shared>
9. Roberto Devereux: Act 1 Aria for Sara, romantic rival of Queen Elizabeth, Elina Garanca as Sara: <https://youtu.be/DK2JDQMGv9Q?feature=shared>

### Recordings

Tudor Queens-Diana Damrau (Excerpts from all 3 operas)	Erato 0190295280932
Maria Stuarda (Edita Gruberova as Maria) Complete opera recording	Nightingale Classics NC 190209-2
Anna Bolena (Elena Suliotis as Anna) Complete opera recording	Decca Eloquence 4828779
Anna Bolena (Maria Callas as Anna) Complete opera recording (Live, 1957)	EMI Classics CMS 7 64941 2
Maria Stuarda (Beverly Sills as Maria) Complete opera recording	DG 289 465 961-2
Anna Bolena (Beverly Sills as Anna) Complete opera recording	DG 289 465 957-2
Roberto Devereux (Beverly Sills as Queen Eliz. I) Complete opera recording	DG 289 465 964-2