

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910452819103321
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Titolo	French opera [[electronic resource] ] : a short history // Vincent Giroud
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven [Conn.], : Yale University Press, c2010
ISBN	0-300-16821-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource : illustrations
Disciplina	782.10944
Soggetti	Opera - France Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [340]-346) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- CONTENTS -- ILLUSTRATIONS -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- INTRODUCTION -- CHAPTER 1: FROM THE ORIGINS TO LULLY -- CHAPTER 2: FROM LULLY TO RAMEAU -- CHAPTER 3: THE AGE OF RAMEAU -- CHAPTER 4: GLUCK TO REVOLUTION -- CHAPTER 5: REVOLUTION TO ROMANTICISM -- CHAPTER 6: THE AGE OF GRAND OPÉRA -- CHAPTER 7: FRENCH OPERA UNDER THE SECOND EMPIRE -- CHAPTER 8: FROM CARMEN TO PELLÉAS -- CHAPTER 9: FROM THE BELLE ÉPOQUE TO THE ANNÉES FOLLES -- CHAPTER 10: CRISIS AND RENEWAL -- NOTES -- BIBLIOGRAPHY -- INDEX
Sommario/riassunto	French opera is second only to Italian opera in the length, breadth, and diversity of its history. Yet most people, if asked to come up with titles, could mention only a handful of titles-Carmen, Faust, Pelleas et Melisande, Samson et Dalila-a small list for an operatic tradition that began in the seventeenth century and is still very much alive. This book provides a full, single-volume account of opera in France from its origins to the present day. Vincent Giroud looks at the leading composers, from Lully to Messiaen and beyond; at the development of French operatic form and style; at performance, performers, and audience; and at the impact of French opera beyond France's borders. Lovers of opera will find this an ideal companion to their appreciation of the form.