

April 1st, 2019, Moscow

On Doctors and their Operas: A critical and lyrical analysis



THE DOCTOR
AS A HUMANIST



DR. ANTONI ESTEVE
FOUNDATION

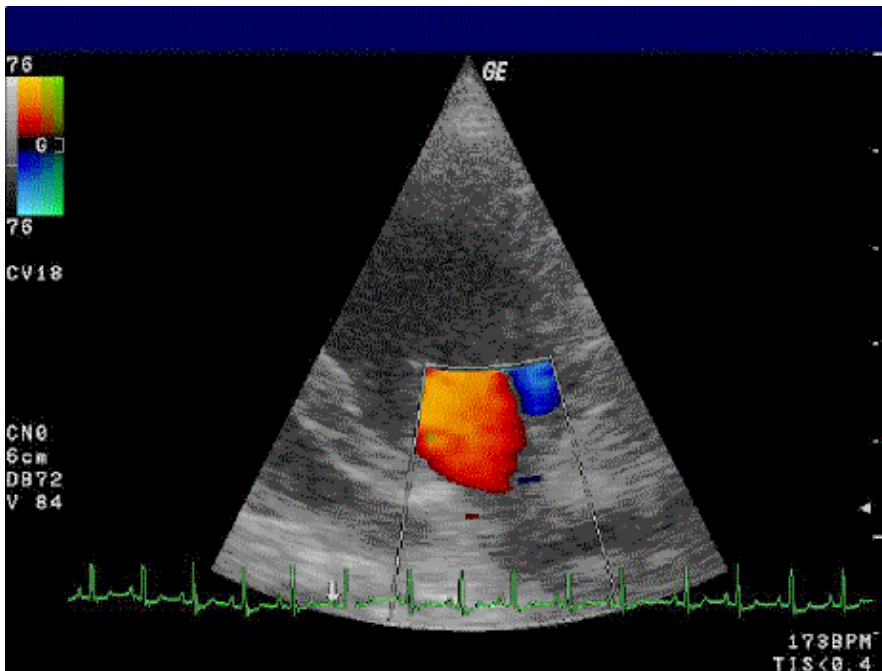
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Universitat
de les Illes Balears





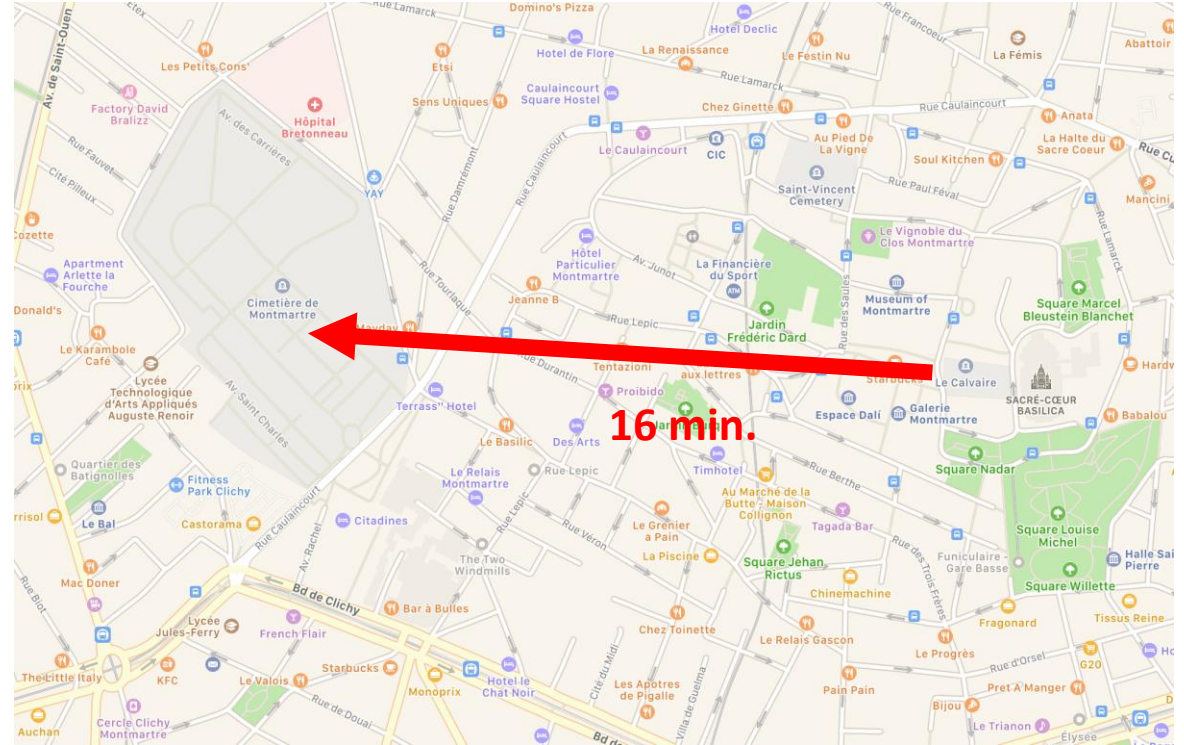


Animato.

and quick - ly. That's not a good symp - - - tom! Now
et viv. *Mes vers symp - to - me!* Chan -

Animato.

Les Contes d'Hoffmann, Offenbach. 1881.



ERS International Congress in Paris, September 2018.

A voyage of 400 years ...



**PROLOGO
LA TRAGEDIA.**

O che d'altri sospir vago e di pianti Sparsi hor di
doglia hor di manacce al volto Fei negliampa se arial popol folto scolor di purà vol
e e fombanti. Ritornello Ricomincia l'Azia medesima su le parole scguenti.

Daphne, Jacopo Peri. 1597.

L'ORFEO
FAVOLA IN MUSICA
CLAUDIO MONTEVERDI

TAVERNER CONSORT & PLAYERS - ANDREW PARKOTT

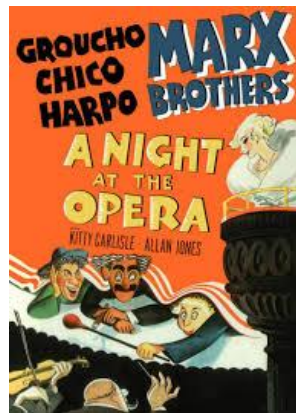
L'Orfeo, Claudio Monteverdi. 1607.

Gesamtkunstwerk?

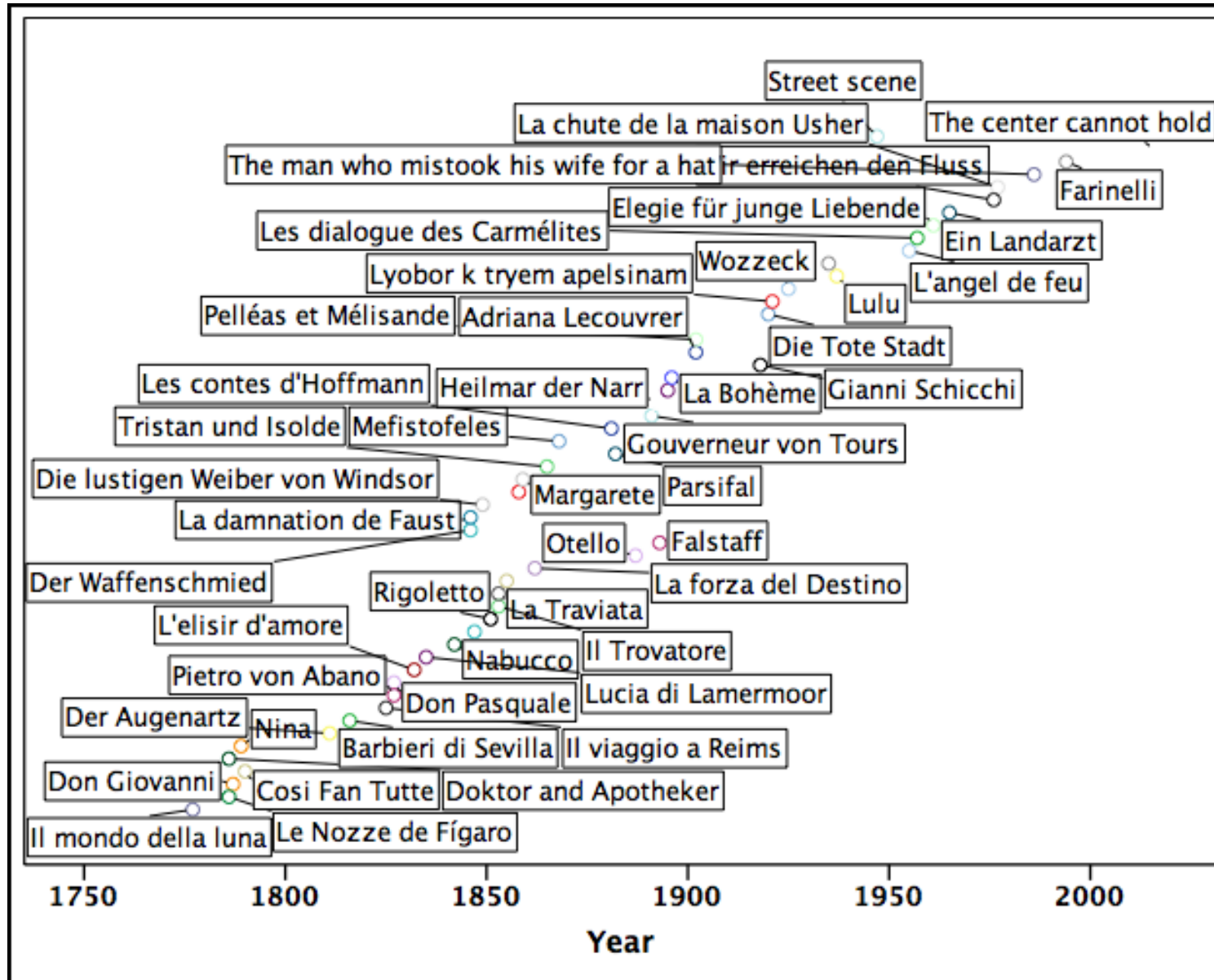


5 Reasons to go/NOT TO GO to the opera

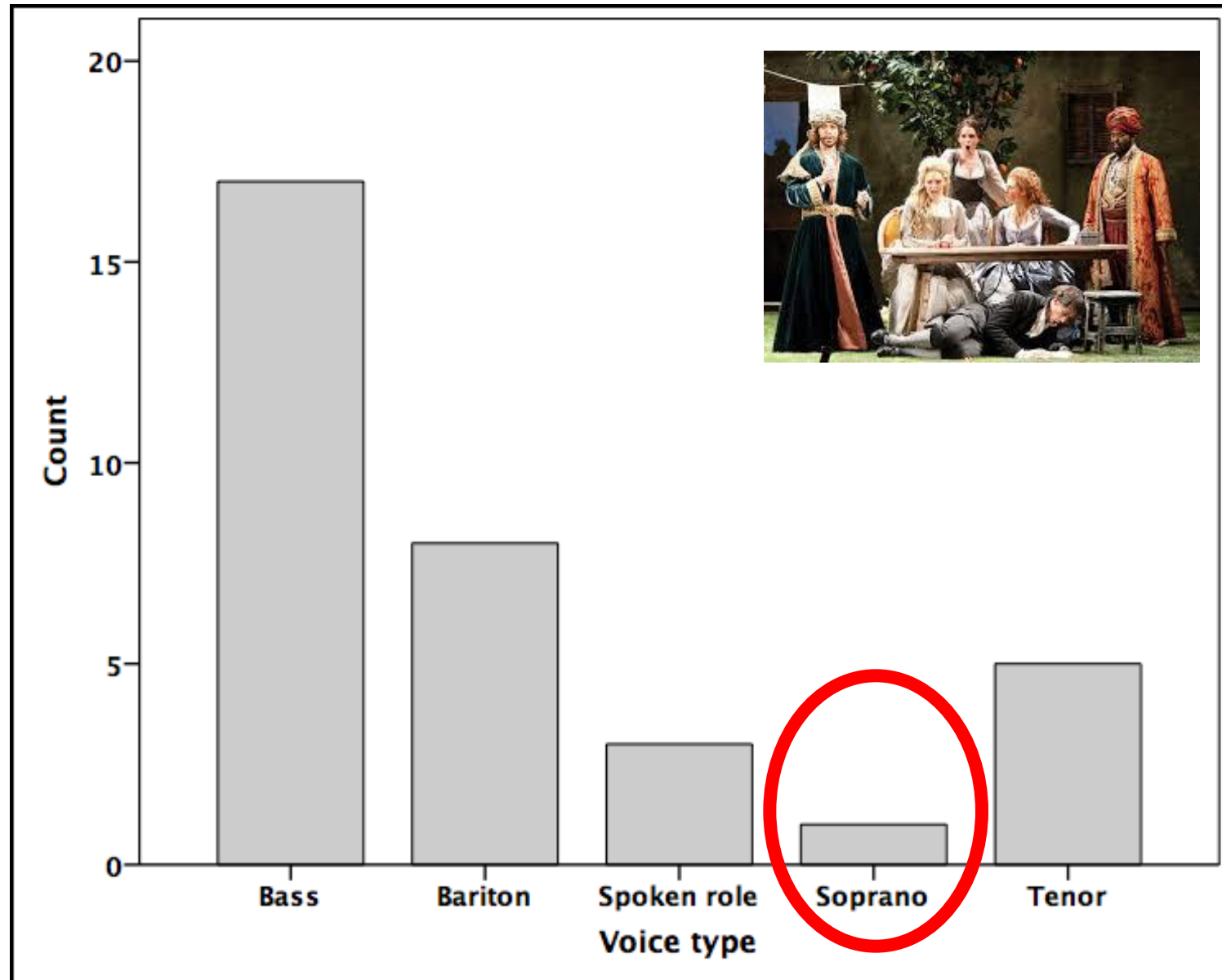
- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. It is boring | 1. You can experience pure emotions |
| 2. I don't understand | 2. Living a full artistic experience |
| 3. It is for the elite | 3. Cultivate yourself |
| 4. It is for oldies | 4. Perfect excuse for traveling |
| 5. Singers are ## ... | 5. Help to protect a unique art show |



Many patients and diseases



All physician characters in Opera are... male!



Languid beauty ...







Aria de Bartolo "Vendetta"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qa1hFDtRF7Q>



Le nozze di Figaro, de WA Mozart. 1786.



Aria de Bartolo "A un dottor della mia sorte"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T1L2J9Iz7a0>

Il barbiere di Siviglia, Gioachino Rossini. 1816.



Il Barbiere di Siviglia - Aria de Bartolo "A un dottor della mia sorte"





L'Elisir d'Amore" Aria di Doctor Dulcamara

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KxgSlc_B7xQ

L'elisir d'amore, Donizetti. 1832.



L'Elisir d'Amore" Aria di Doctor Dulcamara, Donizetti. 1832.



Aria de

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OdinmIldnY24'23''>

Wozzeck, Alan Berg. 1925.

The Center Cannot Hold
Medicine, Music, and the Mind

Stefan N. Willich, MD, MPH, MBA



<https://jamanetwork.com/learning/video-player/14377801>

The Center Cannot Hold, Kenneth B. Wells. 2016.

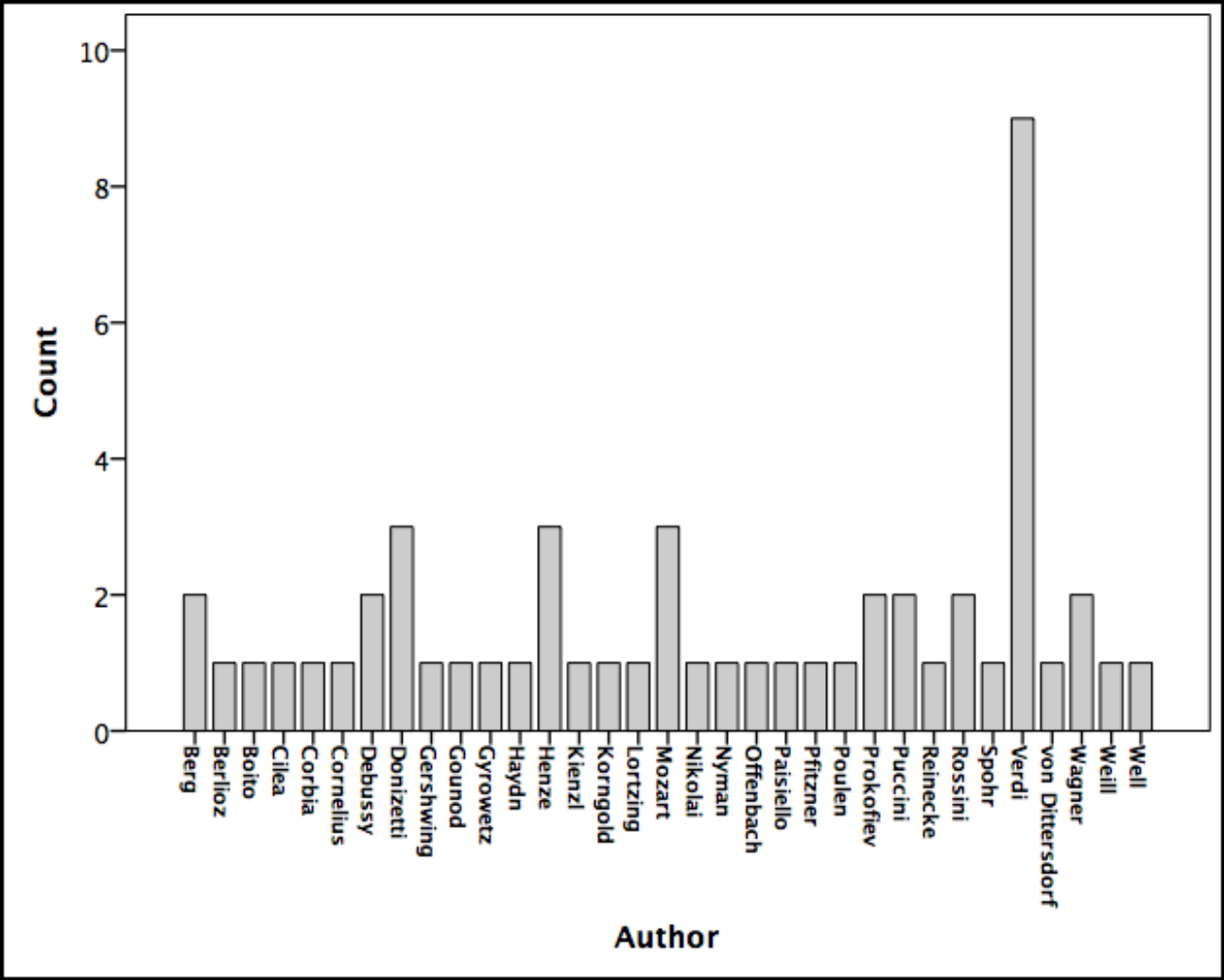




Physicians in Opera: A changing perception ...

Century	Role	Character	Knowledge	Social class	Example
XVIII	Minor	Comical	Popular wisdom/ Magical/ Trum	Low	1786 <i>Le nozze di Figaro</i> 1816 <i>Il barbiere di Siviglia</i> 1832 <i>L'elisir d'amore</i>
XIX	Minor /Major	Compassion/ Evil	Authority	Medium	1853 <i>La Traviata</i> 1881 <i>Les contes d'Hoffmann</i>
XX	Major	Epic	Rational	High	1925 <i>Wozzeck</i>
XXI	Variable	Professional	Technical	Medium/High	2016 <i>The Center Cannot Hold</i>

The “Best in class” award goes to ...





[La Traviata: Dr. Grenvil visits Violetta](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNf8LvATuh0)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNf8LvATuh0> 0' 10''

La Traviata, Giuseppe Verdi. 1853.





Opera and
Ballet Season

**Teatre
Principal**

Mozart's [*Don Giovanni*](#) 6, 8 & 10 March
Puccini's [*Madama Butterfly*](#) 3, 5 & 7 April
Donizetti's [*L'Elisir d'Amore*](#) 28 April, & 1, 3 and 5 May

<https://www.teatreprincipal.com/>

Teatre Principal, Palma de Mallorca, Spain



On Doctors and Their Operas

A Critical (and Lyrical) Analysis of Medicine in Opera



Joan B. Soriano, MD

The goal of this research was to analyze the opera repertoire in terms of contents of physician roles. An additional goal was to pinpoint significant characters and passages that exemplify the changing role and perception of medicine in society over five centuries. A systematic search was performed. Musical characteristics and performing roles, and their determinants, were tabulated and formally analyzed. Of 493 operas listed, 53 (10.7%) were identified as having either a patient and/or doctor as characters. These operas span 239 years, from 1777 to 2016. Beyond unspecified Family Medicine and Generalists, some operas could be attributed to medical specialties, including 3 (5.7%) to Respiratory. Most interestingly, the 34 operas (6.9%) with physician roles are all represented by male characters, distributed by voice register mostly in the grave chords. Overall, the composer that appears with the highest interest in reporting disease is Giuseppe Verdi, with nine operas that include medical doctors. Finally, a trend can be observed regarding the evolving role of doctors, from mostly minor, buffa roles, either with magical or comical components in the 18th century, to a professional/technical physician more recently. Opera depicts a changing perception of the roles of doctors throughout history, with a blatant gender bias that still persists. CHEST 2018; 154(2):409-415

KEY WORDS: doctor; humanistic medicine; opera; voice; women

Many consider there is an urgent need to rehumanize medicine.^{1,2} Clinical practice must include non-technical care to further relieve suffering and sustain a partnership of patients and doctors against disease.³

Although physicians train extensively to relieve suffering via pathophysiology, other basic human needs are often neglected. Re-humanizing the doctor-patient framework should help to support human connections of doctors and patients, and the arts may help.^{4,5}

Music has been considered a complementary medical treatment for the management of many ailments, as reviewed elsewhere.⁶⁻⁸ In particular, opera is a genre of theatrical

music in which a scenic action is harmonized, sung, and has instrumental accompaniment. It is an art form in which singers and musicians perform a dramatic work combining text (libretto) and musical score, usually in a theatrical setting. Indeed, the German opera composer Richard Wagner coined the term *Gesamtkunstwerk* (translatable to English as a total work of art), to refer to a type of entertainment that integrated the six arts: music, dance, poetry, painting, sculpture, and architecture.⁹

Since the origins of opera in the 16th century (with *Dafne* by Jacopo Peri in 1597), death and disease have been a topic in many

Chest. 2018 Aug;154(2):409-415.

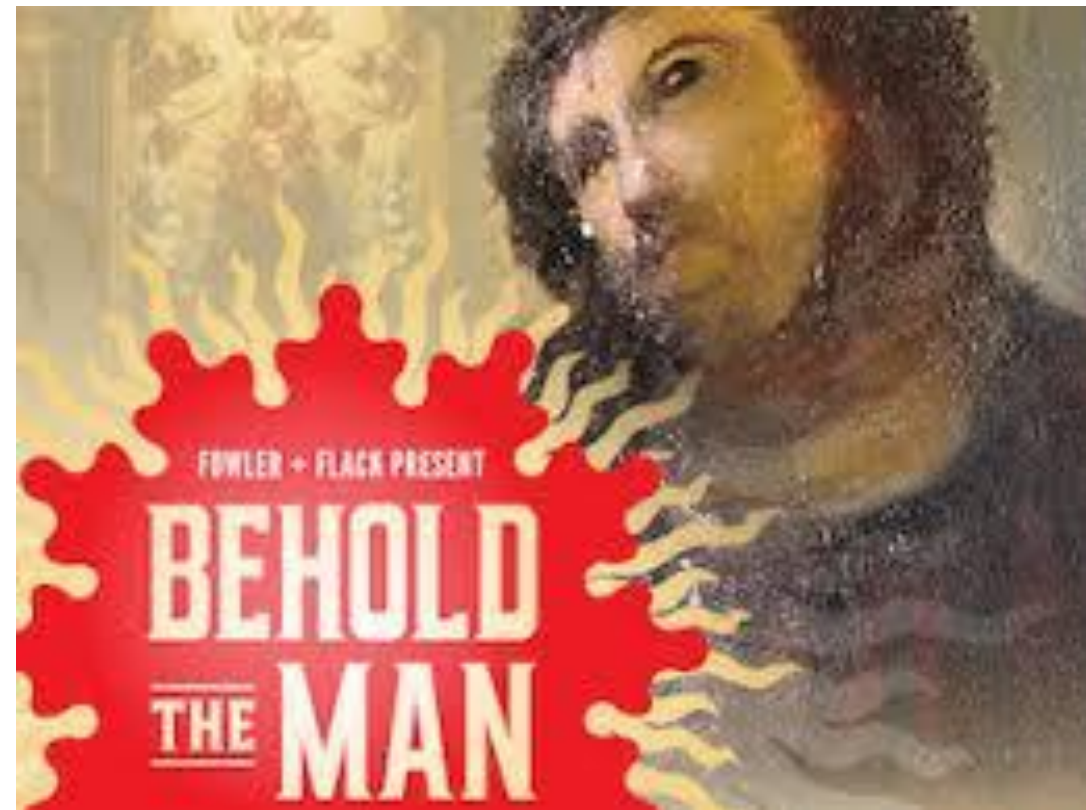
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doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chest.2018.03.015>



Cecilia Jimenez, "Ecce Homo", 2012.



Behold The Man, 2019.

Conclusions

- Opera is a feeling
- The image of physicians (and of patients) has evolved throughout the history of Opera
- Humanism in Medicine and Surgery should be facilitated

Acknowledgements:

To Max Soriano for his art with youtube and MP4

To my fellow singers at The Opera in Palma

**Teatro
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UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE MADRID



THE DOCTOR
AS A HUMANIST



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