

## Notes, Week VIII Verdi

Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

Points of comparison with Richard Wagner (1813-1883)

-birth dates

-opera as primary genre and how each reforms the genre/takes it to a new level

-nationalism

-successors (one each)

-opera as popular theater and Music Drama

-stories told by each composer

-librettist and texts

-how each saw the interaction of text, music, drama

-impression on the viewer: human and/or philosophical

Works (premieres):

*Nabucco* (1842) – in-class viewing “Va, pensiero” from Part 3

*Rigoletto* (1851) – Quartet from Act 3, scene 3

*La traviata* (1853) – Act I, beginning

*Aida* (1871) – in-class viewing, end of Act IV

Concept question:

Wagner and Verdi are considered two of the most influential (opera) composers of the mid-19th century. Using examples from the assigned listening, compare the life and works of these two composers, including their influence, musical language (melody, harmony, orchestration, etc.) and how each composer used that musical language to explore the drama of the story being told.

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