

Orpheus and the Performing Arts in the Newberry Collection

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Original Early Scores, Summaries, and Librettos Relating to the Story of Orpheus and Eurydice

[Euridice.] Le mvsiche di Iacopo Peri ... sopra l'Euridice del sig. Ottavio Rinuccini. Rappresentate nello sponzalizio della Christianissima Maria Medici, regina di Francia e di Navarra. Jacopo Peri, 1561-1633. Fiorenza, Appresso Giorgio Marescotti, 1600. **Call number:** VAULT Case VM 1500 .P44e. This is the first opera ever given in public. Its first performance was in Florence, on October 6, 1600. It was written on the occasion of the marriage of Maria de' Medici to Henry IV of France. The Newberry acquired this in the purchase of the music library belonging to Count Pio Resse of Florence in 1889.

Orfeo : melodrama / di Paolo Rolli, F.R.S. da rappresentarsi nel Regio teatro dell' Hay-Market = Orpheus : an opera / by Paul Rolli, F.R.S. ; perform'd at the King's Theatre in the Hay-Market. Paulo Rolli, 1687-1765. Londra: Per Carlo Bennet, 1735. **Call number:** Case ML50.2 .O77 R66 1735. This book is a libretto of Rolli's Orpheus, with words in Italian and English on facing but alternating pages. The original cost of the pamphlet was 1 shilling. It is part of a larger collection of libretti donated to the library by the late Dr. Howard Mayer Brown.

L'Orfeo : drama per musica da recitarsi nel Teatro della Pace di Roma, il presente anno M.DC.XCIV : dedicato all'emin. e reu. sig. il sig. cardinale Pietro Ottoboni. Bernardo Sabadini. Roma: Per il Buagni : Si vendono in piazza Madama da Francesco Leone libraro, 1694. **Call number:** Case ML50.2 .O765 S33 1694. This little pocket volume is in Italian and has a marbled paper cover. It is part of a larger collection of libretti donated to the library by the late Dr. Howard Mayer Brown.

Orpheus: an English opera. By Mr. John Hill. With a preface, appealing to the publick for justice, and laying before them a fair and impartial account of the quarrel between the author and Mr. Rich, who intends in a few weeks to perform such an entertainment [:] without his concurrence. John Hill, 1714?-1755. London: Printed for J. Clarke, 1740. **Call number:** Case folio Y 135 .H555. The preface of this libretto lays out the many injuries and injustices inflicted upon the author, Mr. Hill, by his rival, Mr. Rich. At the end of the lengthy preface is an apology from Mr. Hill for the extreme length of the preface. The cast of characters for this opera includes Bacchanals (which are standard for any production of Orpheus and Eurydice) and also The Muses and Clowns.

Le feste della Tessaglia : opera allegorica mista di ballo, e di canto, rappresentata sul gran Teatro di Stutgard per celebrar l'arrivo delle Loro Altezze imperiali Paolo Petrovitch, gran duca di Russia, e Maria Federowna, gran duchessa di Russia, nata principessa di Wirtemberg-Stutgard, il giorno [blank] di settembre MDCCLXXXII = Les fêtes thessaliennes: opéra-ballet allégorique représenté sur le grand Theatre de Stoutgard pour célébrer l'arrivée de Leurs Altesses imperiales Paul Petrovitch, grand duc de Russie, et Marie

Federowna, grande duchesse de Russie, née princesse de Wirtemberg-Stoutgard, le [blank] du mois de septembre MDCCLXXXII. Agostino Poli. Stutgard: Nella stamperia di Cotta, stampatore ducale, [1782?]. **Call number:** Case ML50.2 F488 P65 1782. This volume has several opera librettos and descriptions bound together. The third work in the volume is “Orfeo ed Euridice, Ballo Eroico,” which summaries the twelve scenes comprising the ballet, and lists the cast as including Orpheus, Euridice, Pluto, and Bacchus, along with a troupe of demons, fauns, and satyrs.

Editions of Gluck's *Orpheus and Eurydice*

Orphée et Euridice : tragédie : opéra en trois actes ... / par Monsieur le Chevalier Gluck ... ; les paroles sont de Mr. Moline. Christoph Willibald Ritter von Gluck, 1714-1787. Paris: Lemarchand, [1774]. Full score, first edition. **Call number:** fVM 1500 .G56or.

Opera en trois actes avec accompagnemé de pianoforte. [Poëme de Moline d'après Calsabigi]. Musique de Gluck. Christoph Willibald Ritter von Gluck, 1714-1787. Pari : E. Troupenas, [184-?] Piano/vocal score, in German, French, and Italian. **Call number:** VM 1503 .G567or

Films of Orpheus Dance Performances in the Ann Barzel Dance Film Archive

Orpheus (ca. 1948) / choreography, George Balanchine; music, Igor Stravinsky ; decor, Isamu Noguchi ; performed by Herbert Bliss (Apollo), Tanaquil Le Clercq (Chief Bacchante), Nicholas Magallanes (Orpheus), Francisco Moncion (Dark angel), Maria Tallchief (Eurydice) (3 min., 59 sec.). New York City Ballet. According to the dance historian Walter Terry, “From the very start it is apparent that ‘Orpheus’ is not going to be a ballet of tutus nor of the *danse d'école*. The back of the sorrowing Orpheus is bent with the burden of loss....As Orpheus circles the rod upon which rests the headdress of Eurydice and on which he hangs the lyre as a sacrifice, he is dancing, as did the ancients, around a sacred object.” Available for viewing in the Special Collections Department, Ann Barzel Reading Room. **Call number:** Barzel GV 1782.6 .N48 V. 2.

Orpheus times light (February 1977) / choreography, Gerald Arpino; performed by Christian Holder (Pluto), Tom Van Cauwenbergh (Orpheus) (3 min. 40 sec.). The Joffrey Ballet. The footage is of the Chicago premiere of the piece, which had its first performance on October 21, 1976 in New York City. The ballet is based on a poem by Jack Larson. The last lines of the poem are “Near the air, Orpheus felt a massed light in coal, fossils, in tar. / In himself, in her. He looked back, then gave up his light to the stars.” Available for viewing in the Special Collections Department, Ann Barzel Reading Room. **Call number** Barzel GV 1782.6 .J64 V. 2.

This Quick Guide was created for the program *An Eternal Story of Love and Loss: Orpheus and Opera* held at the Newberry on Tuesday, September 19, 2017.

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