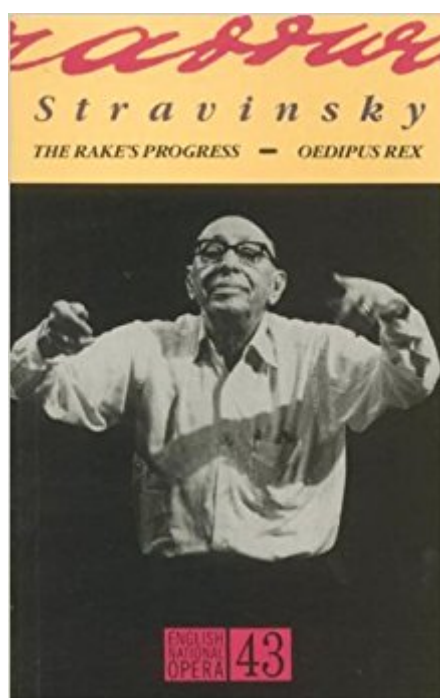


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Oedipus Rex/The Rake's Progress: English National Opera Guide 43 (English National Opera Guides)



Synopsis

The English National Opera Guides were originally conceived in partnership with the English National Opera and edited by Nicholas John, the ENO's dramaturg, who died tragically in an accident in the Alps. Most of the guides are devoted to a single opera, which is described in detail; with many articles that cover its history and information about the composer and his times. The complete libretto is included in both the original language and in a modern singing translation; except where the opera was written in English. Each has a thematic guide to the most important musical themes in musical notation and each guide is lavishly illustrated. They also contain a bibliography and a discography which is updated at each reprint. The ENO guides are widely regarded as the best series of their kind and excellent value.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Brilliantly produced and superb value." *— Sunday Times* "All these will provide the new operagoer with food for thought." *— Daily Telegraph* "Wholehearted recommendation of this valuable new series." *— TLS*

Text: English, French, Latin

This 112 page book is number 43 in the English National Operaseries of opera guides. Unlike most

of in the series, this guide covers two operas -- the two large scale vocal/stage works of Igor Stravinsky. The Rake's Progress is generally regarded as one of the few 20th century operas that has found its way into the standard repertory. As in the other guides in this series, this book is a compilation of essays and writings by several different people and the reader's general familiarity with the works under consideration is assumed. There is no straightforward synopsis of either of the works discussed in this volume although some of the essays provide at least a partial plot synopsis. Rather, in addition to the complete libretto and English translation of the libretto, the essays discuss historical or analytical features of the works. The major piece on Oedipus Rex is an essay by David Rice titled "The Person of Fate and the Fate of the Person: Stravinsky's 'Oedipus Rex.'" Also included is an appreciation of the work by the composer Judith Weir, a personal history of the work by Jean Cocteau, the librettist, and a thematic catalogue. For The Rake's Progress, two major essays are included: one discussing the historical events that led to the writing of the libretto; and, the second discussing the opera's use of classical forms and gestures. The complete libretto is included as well as a verse prologue written by the librettists, W.H. Auden and Chester Kallman, for a 1958 television broadcast of the opera's last five scenes. A bibliography and selected discography is included for both operas. END

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