



Presented by

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▶ PROGRAMME INFO & ARCHIVE  
節目資料及重溫

**SUNDAYS**  
**11AM-12PM**

**FRIDAYS 2-3PM**  
(Repeat)

歌劇浪潮

## Opera, Then and Now?

It's the timeless adage – 'back in my day, music was music.' So timeless, in fact, that Debussy was considered avant-garde, Wagner the modern destroyer of music, Rossini offensive to tradition, and Monteverdi a virtual heretic. Each composer, now labeled as an infallible master, was pilloried or nearly swept away by an angry mob in their own age for being too modern or an affront to good taste, and perhaps no genre was more provocative than opera.

What were these innovations and violations that each upstart produced that seemed to irritate the previous generation to the point of violence? Just what was so offensive that it caused music critics of the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries to say 'how can this be called music?' What caused an angry rabble to nearly destroy the premiere of *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, or the press to lampoon Bizet's *Carmen*, giving its poor creator a heart attack?

Tune into 'Opera, Then and Now?' to explore the stories surrounding great works of opera that were at first considered all too modern. We'll hear stories of how each composer faced down the monolith of the status quo to bring to life works that now stand as seminal standards of the repertoire.