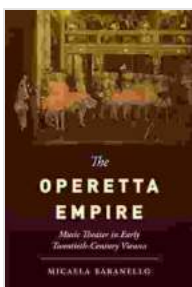


The Golden Age of Music Theater in Early Twentieth Century Vienna

Vienna, the capital of Austria, has a long and rich history as a center of music and theater. In the early twentieth century, the city experienced a golden age of music theater, with the emergence of a new generation of composers, librettists, and performers who created a dazzling array of operettas, musicals, and waltzes.

The Operetta

The operetta is a light-hearted musical theater piece that combines spoken dialogue with singing and dancing. It originated in the early nineteenth century in France and quickly spread to other parts of Europe, including Vienna. In the early twentieth century, Viennese operettas reached their peak of popularity, with composers such as Franz Lehár, Emmerich Kálmán, and Oscar Straus writing some of the most beloved and enduring works in the genre.



The Operetta Empire: Music Theater in Early Twentieth-Century Vienna by Micaela Baranello



4.3 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 13198 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Print length	: 420 pages
Lending	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported

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One of the most popular operettas of the era was Lehár's *The Merry Widow*, which premiered in Vienna in 1905. The operetta tells the story of a wealthy widow who falls in love with a penniless count. It features some of Lehár's most memorable songs, including "I'll See You Again" and "Vilja." Another popular operetta from this period was Kálmán's *The Gypsy Princess*, which premiered in Vienna in 1915. The operetta tells the story of a gypsy girl who falls in love with a wealthy prince. It features some of Kálmán's most famous songs, including "The Gypsy Princess" and "Stars in My Eyes."

The Musical

The musical is a type of musical theater that tells a story through song, dance, and dialogue. It originated in the United States in the late nineteenth century and quickly spread to other parts of the world, including Vienna. In the early twentieth century, Viennese musicals began to incorporate elements of operetta, such as spoken dialogue and elaborate costumes and sets. One of the most popular musicals of the era was Ralph Benatzky's *White Horse Inn*, which premiered in Vienna in 1930. The musical tells the story of a young couple who fall in love at a country inn. It features some of Benatzky's most famous songs, including "White Horse Inn" and "I Am from Austria."

The Waltz

The waltz is a ballroom dance in triple time that originated in Austria in the late eighteenth century. It quickly became one of the most popular dances in the world and was a staple of Viennese music theater in the early twentieth century. Johann Strauss II, the "Waltz King," composed some of the most famous waltzes of all time, including "The Blue Danube" and "The

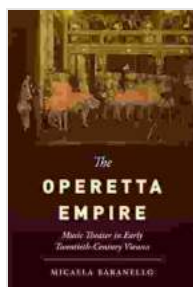
Radetzky March." His waltzes were often performed at the Vienna State Opera and other prestigious venues.

The Golden Age

The Golden Age of Music Theater in Vienna came to an end with the outbreak of World War I in 1914. The war caused a sharp decline in the production of music theater in Vienna, and many of the city's most talented composers, librettists, and performers fled the country. After the war, Vienna's music theater scene never fully recovered its former glory, although it continued to produce some notable works, such as Robert Stolz's *The Last Waltz* (1920) and Erich Wolfgang Korngold's *The Miracle of Heliane* (1927).

The Legacy

The Golden Age of Music Theater in Vienna left a lasting legacy on the world of music and theater. The operettas, musicals, and waltzes of this era continue to be performed around the world, and they have had a profound influence on subsequent generations of composers, librettists, and performers. The legacy of the Golden Age can also be seen in the many theaters and music venues that still stand in Vienna today, such as the Vienna State Opera and the Vienna Volksoper. These venues continue to host performances of music theater from around the world, ensuring that the spirit of the Golden Age lives on.



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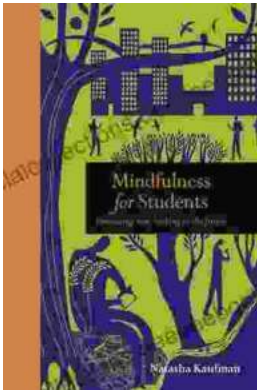
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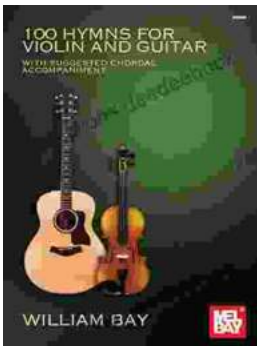
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