



When the Fat Lady Sings: Opera History as It Ought to Be Taught

David W. Barber

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David W. Barber has delighted readers all around the world with the quirky definitions of *Accidentals on Purpose: A Musician's Dictionary*, the irreverent history of Bach, Beethoven and the Boys, a hilariously offbeat history of dance and ballet in *Tutus, Tights and Tiptoes* and a host of other internationally bestselling books of musical humor. With *When the Fat Lady Sings*, the popular author and musical humorist turns his attention to what Dr. Johnson called that "exotick and irrational entertainment," the world of opera. Here are stories of love and lust, jealousy, intrigue, murder and tragic death - and that's just the stuff happening off stage, in the composers' personal lives. Wait till you read about the opera plots. Informal yet informative, witty yet wise, this book will both enlighten and entertain you. As always, Dave Donald has provided witty and clever cartoons that perfectly complement the text. This completely revised and expanded edition includes new material and an index, to make it easier for readers to find all their favorite references. "This is a very humorous book, but at the same time it tells it like it is, or was. David's not really fabricating anything, he just manages to give you the gist of the history while leaving out all the boring bits." - Maureen Forrester

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