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Saturday Afternoons at the Old Met: The Metropolitan Opera Broadcasts, 1931-1950 (Hardback)

By Paul Jackson

Hal Leonard Corporation, United States, 2003. Hardback. Book Condition: New. New.. 264 x 192 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. For over sixty years the weekly broadcast from the Metropolitan Opera in New York has been an important part of American cultural life. The broadcasts, whose continuity was ensured when Texaco assumed sponsorship in 1940, have played a significant role in introducing an audience of millions to the splendors of opera. Paul Jackson, whose own recollections of the broadcasts start in 1940, presents a rich and detailed history of the broadcasts from their inception in 1931, when the imperious Gatti-Casazza ruled, on through the troubled, yet often triumphant, regime of the more affable Edward Johnson. This was a time when the Wagner operas were performed with unparalleled grandeur, when the Mozart operas were introduced to a nationwide public, and the American singer came to the fore. Above all, it was an age of glorious voices and memorable characterizations - Pinza's Figaro, Melchior's Siegfried, Lehmann's Marschallin, Martinelli's Otello, Milanov's Gioconda, Bjorling's Manrico, Albanese's Violetta. Beecham, Walter, Reiner, and Szell contributed to the era of legendary conductors in the forties. Jackson, a musicologist with...



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