



Plate 1: Luciano Pavarotti in the rôle of Radames in a scene from Aida, staged at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London, in 1984





Plate 2 opposite: An unauthenticated portrait of Johann Sebastian Bach aged about 30. Museen der Stadt, Erfurt

Plate 3 right: One of the costumes designed by Léon Bakst for the ballet based on Rimsky-Korsakov's symphonic suite Sheherazade



Plate 4: A scene from the Welsh National Opera's 1986 production of The Barber of Seville. Bartolo is played by Donald Adams and Figaro by Gwion Thomas

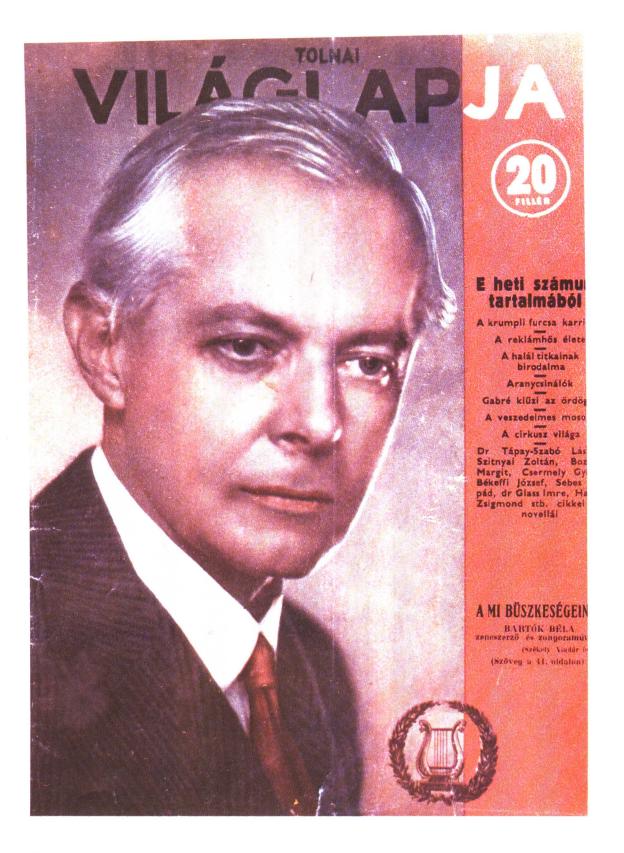


Plate 5: Béla Bartók. A picture of the composer which was featured on the cover of a Hungarian journal in 1935



Plate 6: A view of the Festival Theatre at Bayreuth in Bavaria. Officially opened in 1882, it was specifically designed for the performance of Wagner's operas



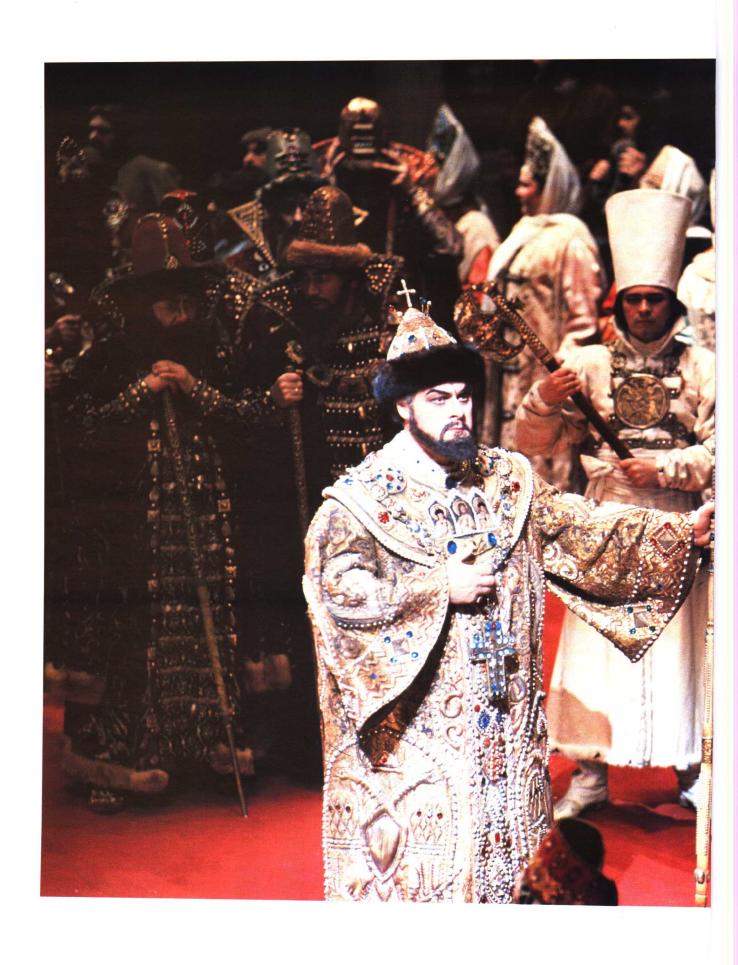
Plate 7: Alexandre Benois' design for the curtain in Act 1 of Stravinsky's Petrushka, which received its first performance in Paris in 1911



Plate 8: Hector Berlioz. The only truly great French romantic composer, he achieved little recognition during his lifetime



Plate 9: A scene from the 1968 production of Harrison Birtwhistle's opera Punch and Judy staged at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London



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Plate 10: A scene from the first act of Mussorgsky's opera Boris Godunov, performed at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow

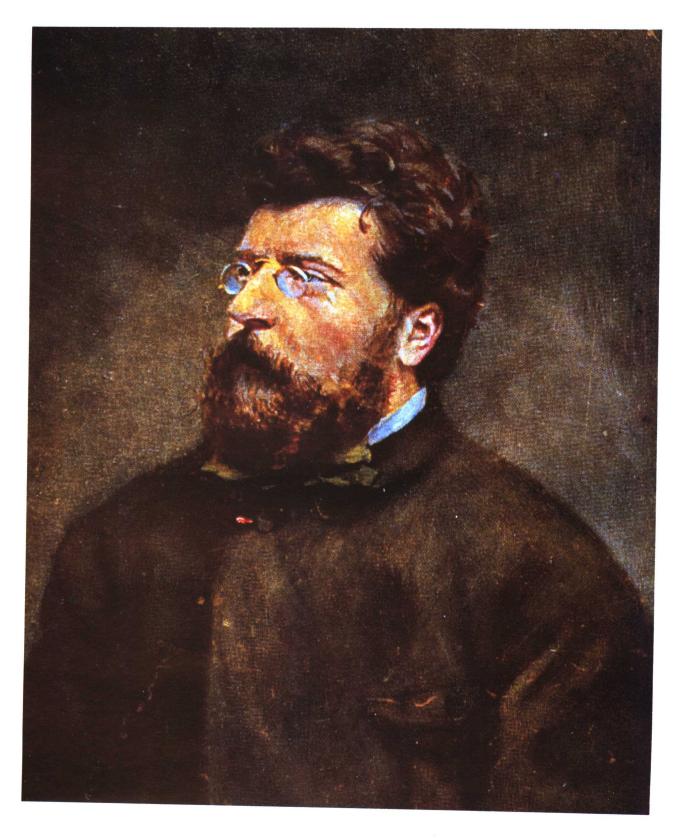


Plate 11: Georges Bizet. Although he is best known as the composer of Carmen, he also wrote seven other operas



Plate 12: Bizet's Carmen is probably the most popular opera ever composed. This scene is from the 1973 production at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Plácido Domingo, who plays Don José, is on the far left



Plate 13: A Chinese dignitary seeking inspiration in music for the writing of poetry. School of Chin Ying. British Museum, London

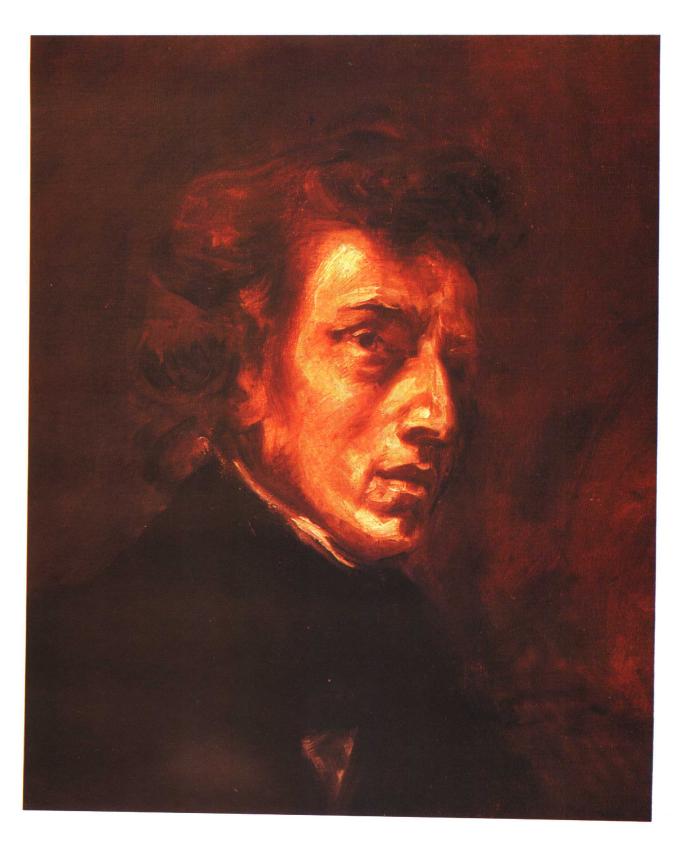


Plate 14: Portrait of Frédéric Chopin by Eugène Delacroix. 1838. Musée du Louvre, Paris

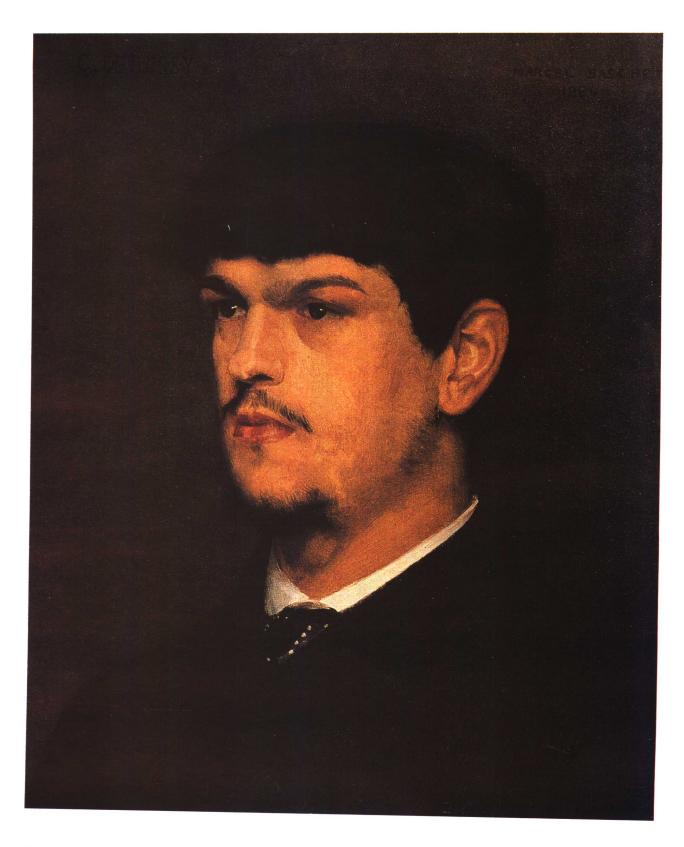


Plate 15: Claude Debussy, a portrait by Marcel Baschet, painted in 1884, the year in which the composer won the Prix de Rome