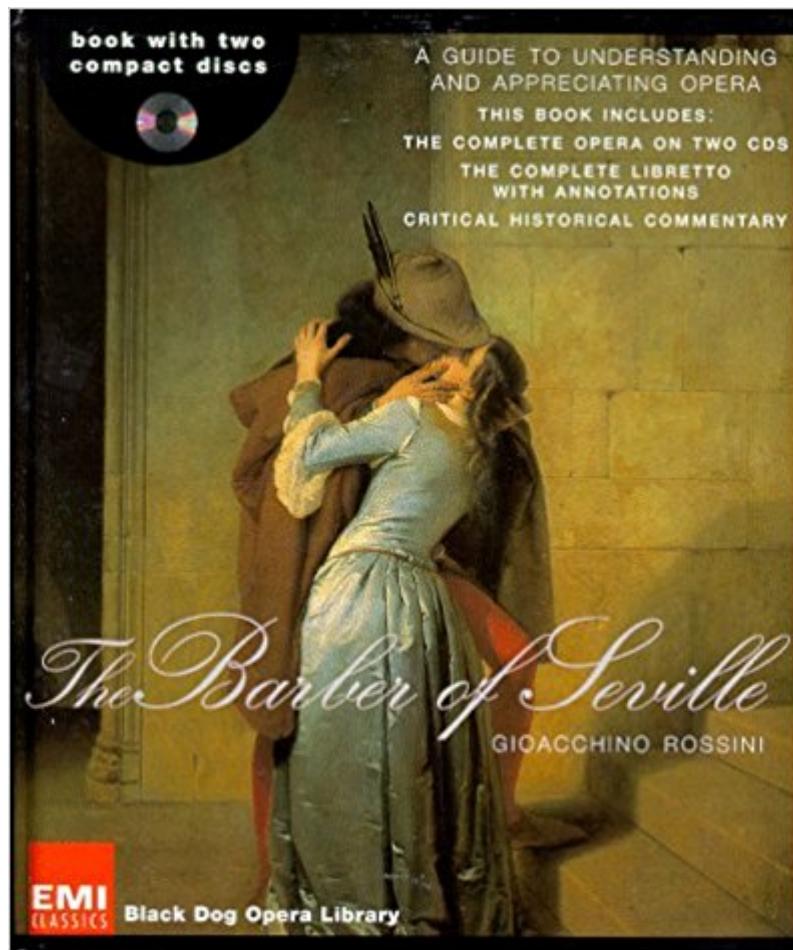


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# Barber Of Seville (Black Dog Opera Library)



## **Synopsis**

The Black Dog Opera Library is the most popular, informative, and budget-friendly way to enjoy all the great operas. Each book contains a history of the opera, a synopsis of the story, a complete libretto in its original language as well as in English, dozens of photos, and a world-class Angel/EMI recording of the entire opera on two CDs. All of this for under twenty dollars!

## **Book Information**

Series: Black Dog Opera Library

Hardcover: 141 pages

Publisher: Black Dog & Leventhal (January 1, 1998)

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Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 0.5 x 7 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ  [See all reviewsÂ](#) (12 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,247,097 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #41 inÂ  Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Composers > Rossini #602 inÂ  Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Historical Period > Early Romantic #1651 inÂ  Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Forms & Genres > Opera

## **Customer Reviews**

As with the other Black Dog Opera Library Collections, the Barber of Seville combines CDs of the full opera with a 140+ page hardbound book of pictures, history, libretto and critique. It is perfect both for those new to opera and for the opera savvy. Author David Foil offers a historical critique of the Barber of Seville and relates the impact it had on the music world. Foil also tells the story of Rossini's experiences writing the opera, which took less than one month. The musical recordings alone are reason to buy the book. Perhaps the greatest opera conductor of our time, James Levine, conducts Beverly Sills, Sherrill Milnes and the London Symphony Orchestra in a wonderful rendition of this famous opera. I highly recommend this book and CD to anyone. Nowhere else can you find such a complete package of music, words and pictures for such a reasonable price. So, if you wish to listen to the famous strains of "Figaro, Figaro, Figaro" this is your book.

This book and CD set are the perfect combination for those who are new to the world of opera and

not fluent in foreign language. Better than just a synopsis, the libretto in English lets you read every word so you won't miss the humor or pathos. As a homeschooling mom, I really appreciated this set as a teaching tool. I hope to increase my collection of The Black Dog Opera Library series.

Be aware that the book shown when you take a "Look Inside" is NOT the book you get. What they show is a bound copy of the musical score with the libretto added. What you get is the libretto described in the written review, no musical score. That having been said, the book you get is useful and of interest, and the CD is a great recording.

This is a first rate Barber. Beverly Sills, upon whom the recording sinks or swims is a melodic and comic gem. James Levine's conducting is precise yet lush and captures the often rollicking brilliance of the score. Nicholi Gedda's Count is all mischief and Ruggero Raimondi is so expressive that you feel you can almost see him. The recording came in EMI's Black Dog Opera series. It's a tidy package, hardbound about the size of a paperback book. The text in the attached book is decidedly for the a listener new to opera. However the photos and historical data are interesting and the libretto is convenient to follow while listening to the recording.

I should have read all of the reviews before purchasing, because based on the description, I believed this would contain the musical score and was disappointed that it did not. It is still a beautiful book, though, and worth the purchase for the words and translations, the history, and the 2-CD set... but I'll have to look again for the music.

I have several "Black Dog Opera" recordings, and they are a wonderful way to introduce yourself to opera WIHTOUT spending a lot of money. This label primarily offers recordings of extremely well-known operas. I had some initial concerns regarding sound quality given the price, but I have yet to be disappointed by them -- Barber of Seville is no exception. Each opera comes in a neatly packaged book that contains the full libretto in its original language and in translation; the history of the opera and its performance; and short biographies of the composer and cast. The books are just the right size to tuck them in your purse (or bag!) so that you can follow the libretto along at a live performance -- I took Barber with me to last year's Chicago Opera Theater production and plan to take Tosca along to Lyric later this year! What a great idea!

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