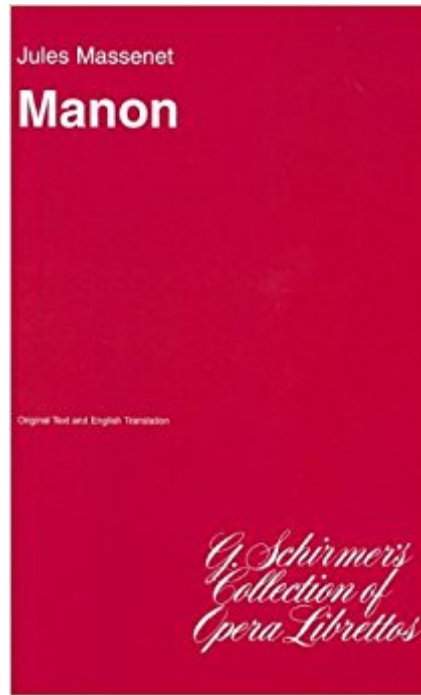


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Customer Reviews

The previous reviewer makes a very strong case for this series. In fact, he is so impressed by this series that he sings the praises no less than twenty-eight of "The Opera Journeys Mini Guides" here in --and, as I write this, offers comment on nothing else, on no other publication ... nothing. He is so taken with these "Mini Guides" that each and every one of his twenty-eight five-star reviews begins, "The Opera Journeys Mini Guide Series is just wonderful; it's like a "Cliff Note" [sic] of the opera, and extremely informative and educational." And every one of his twenty-eight reviews ends with "My tip: acquire the entire collection because you will be in easy reach of superbly presented opera guides consisting of story analysis, principal characters in the opera, story narrative with music highlights, background, analysis, and commentary."How fortunate the gentleman is to have found a subject on which he can lay such honest, heartfelt and unstinting praise. And so often, too.As for myself, I am not quite so enthusiastic. This "Mini Guide" to Massenet's "Manon," and others of the series that have fallen into my hands from time to time, delivers pretty much what it says it will do. If you are actually willing to be satisfied with so small a thing as a CliffsNotes approach to opera, these "Mini Guides" will serve as well as any other--although the asking price strikes me as a bit steep.However, I wish to suggest alternatives. First, haul yourself away from your computer. Then, go out to see the opera.If you don't have an opera company nearby, call up your local college,

university or conservatory and ask what the opera workshop is doing.

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