

Opera and Children's Literature: 1895-Present

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Abstract

This lecture will discuss the findings resulting from the creation of a comprehensive bibliography of English Language children's opera books published from 1895 to present. Historically opera was often assumed to be an elitist art in the United States and was thus seldom discussed in library collection development literature, and equally rarely highlighted in children's literature periodicals. Recently, two librarians, supported by a Carnegie Whitney grant from the American Library Association, investigated the impact of opera themed children's books by compiling a bibliography which documented instances of opera in published English Language children's literature over the last 125 years. By analyzing what was published, this presentation will provide new insights about the cultural appreciation of opera in the United States

Welcome



About Me

John DeLooper
Librarian



What you will learn:

Opera in Children's Literature from 1895-Present
How bibliography was assembled
What we learned
Surprising facts
How and why Opera has enduring appeal in children's literature

What Librarians Do



RESEARCH
ASSISTANCE



TEACH
INFORMATION
LITERACY



COLLECTION
DEVELOPMENT



PROCESS AND
CLASSIFY
MATERIALS



READERS ADVISORY



Our Library Story

Carnegie Whitney Grant

- Goal: provides grants for the preparation of popular or scholarly reading lists, webliographies, indexes and other guides to library resources that will be useful to users of all types of libraries in the United States.

Research Process



Reviewed Literature



Home institution and local public libraries



Internet Archive and Google Books



Union Catalogs



Research and National Libraries



Stores/Commercial Entities

Subject Headings



MY ACCOUNT

Sign in
Apply for a Library Card

SEARCH

Start Over
By Keyword
By Author
By Title
By Journal Title
By Subject
By Genre
By ISBN
By Call number
Advanced search

MY LIBRARY

Help
Comments
Recommend an Item for Purchase

Extended Display Limit Sort Search Search As Words (Search History) ▾

Subject ▾ Opera Juvenile Entire Collection ▾ System Sorted ▾ Sort Search

Limit search to available items

Save Marked Records Save All Records Save To My List

Subjects (1-9 of 9)		Year	Entries Found	Elsewhere
1	<input type="checkbox"/> Opera -- Juvenile.		5	More Information Search OCLC WorldCat
2	<input type="checkbox"/> Opera -- Juvenile -- Bibliography. : Musiktheater in der Schule; eine Dramaturgie der Schuloper.	1960	1	
3	<input type="checkbox"/> Opera -- Juvenile -- Dramaturgy. : Musiktheater in der Schule; eine Dramaturgie der Schuloper.	1960	1	
4	<input type="checkbox"/> Opera -- Juvenile fiction.		6	
5	<i>Opera Juvenile History and criticism</i> -- See Opera Juvenile Here are entered works about operas written for children to perform. For operas of this type see Operas--Juvenile.		1	
6	<input type="checkbox"/> Opera -- Juvenile -- Librettos. : Tom Sawyer ; a play by John Charlesworth and Tony Brown, based on the 1976 novel by Mark Twain. Music by Eric Wayman.		1	
7	<input type="checkbox"/> Opera -- Juvenile literature.		3	
8	<input type="checkbox"/> Opera -- Juvenile -- Periodicals.		2	
9	<input type="checkbox"/> Opera -- Juvenile sound recordings. : Zauberflöte. Selections	1990	1	

Save Marked Records Save All Records Save To My List

Extended Display Limit Sort Search Search As Words (Search History) ▾

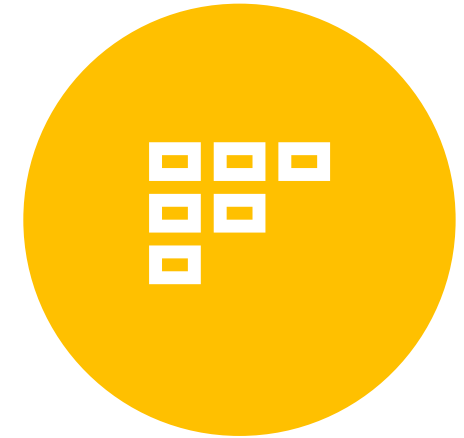
Initial Search



272 BOOKS FOUND



WERE ALL CHILDREN'S
BOOKS?



NARROWING SCOPE

Narrowing it down



How to define children's
Literature?



How to define opera?

Other Narrowing Criteria



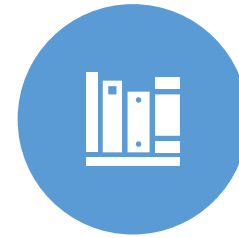
ENGLISH LANGUAGE



OPERA IS MAIN
TOPIC, NOT A
FEATURE/PLOT POINT



NOT BIOGRAPHY

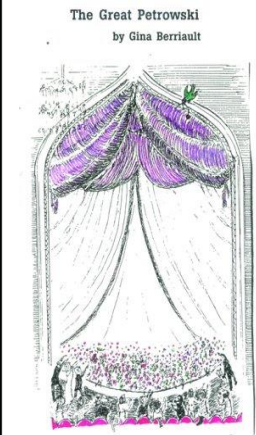
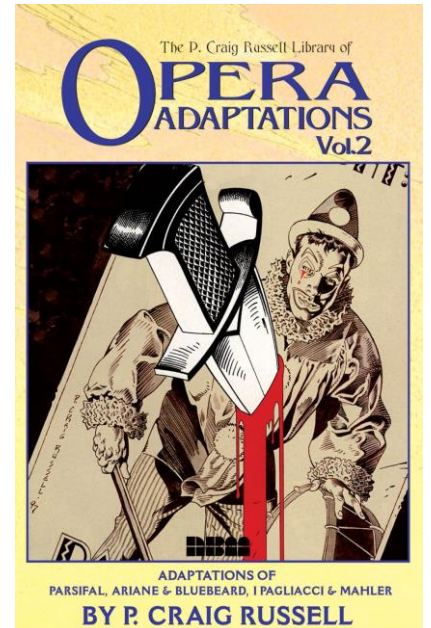
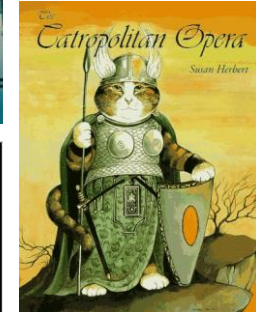
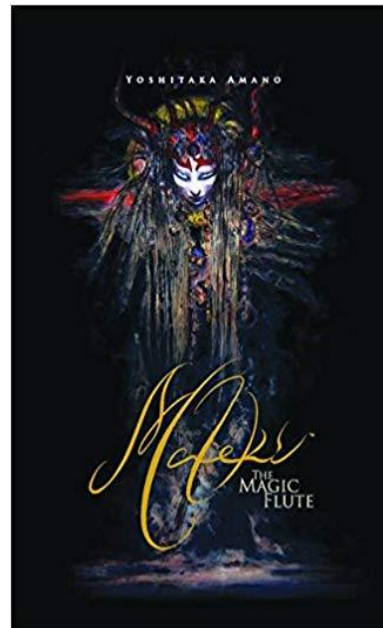
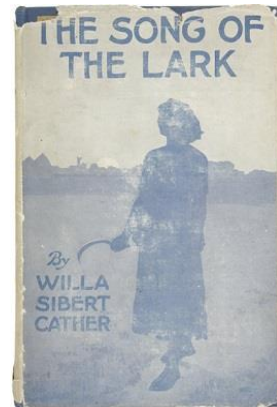
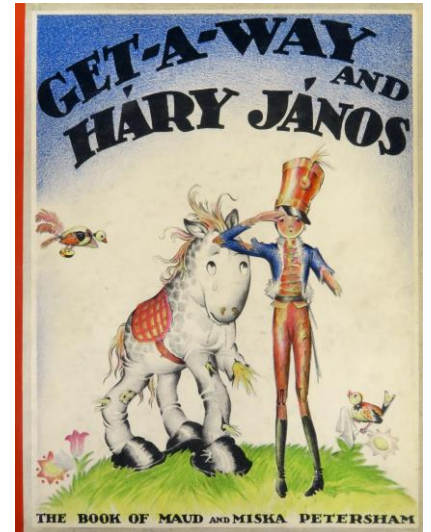
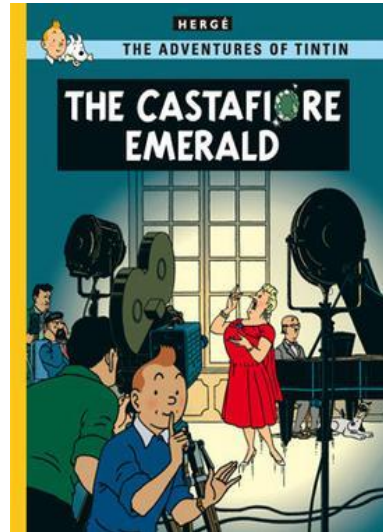
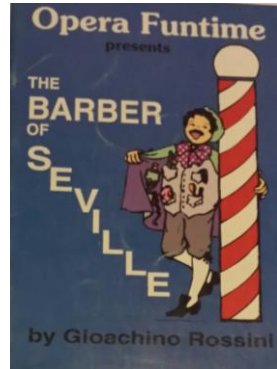


NOT COLORING
BOOKS



NOT ART BOOKS

Notable Excluded Works





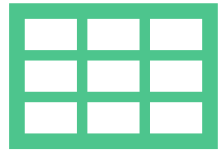
Compromise: The Website

- Online at Operabooks.info
- Includes list of chosen books, as well as excluded but notable.

Tagging and Classification

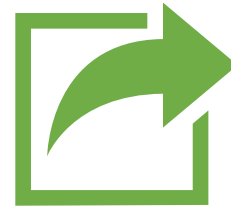


Zotero



Data Structure:

Opera:The Magic Flute;
Composer: Mozart, Wolfgang;
Author:Lawrence, Robert;
Illustrator:Serebriakoff;



Access and Excel Exports

Refined Search



162 books found



65 part of a series



117 Operas



55 Composers

Data



Publication dates

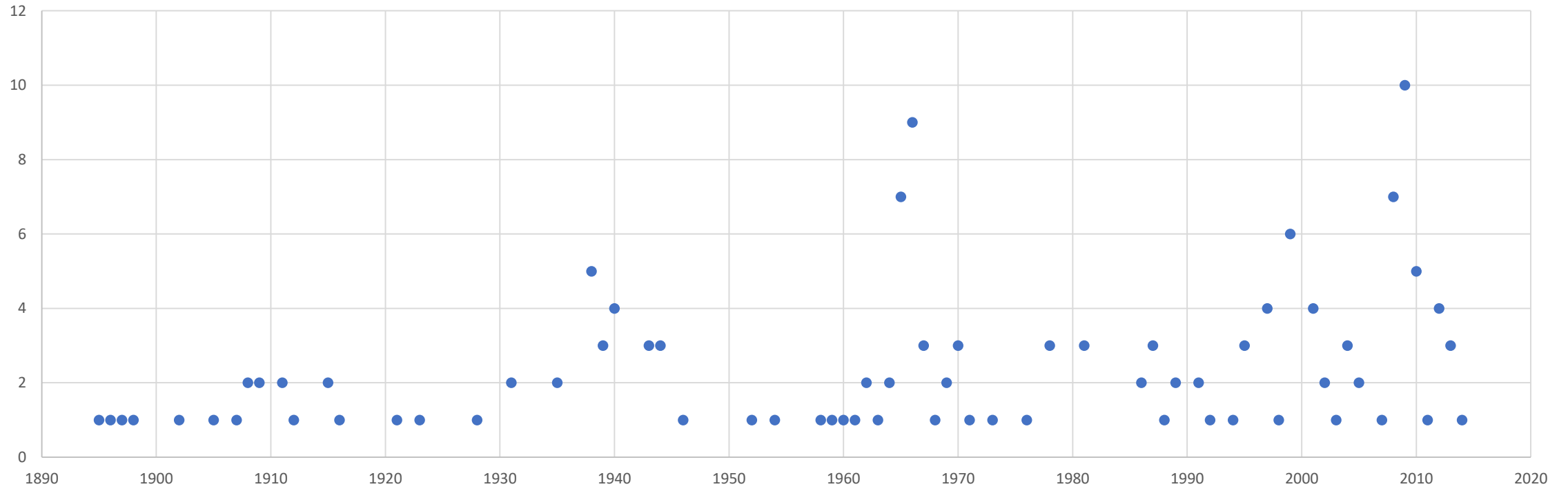


Popular Operas



Popular Composers

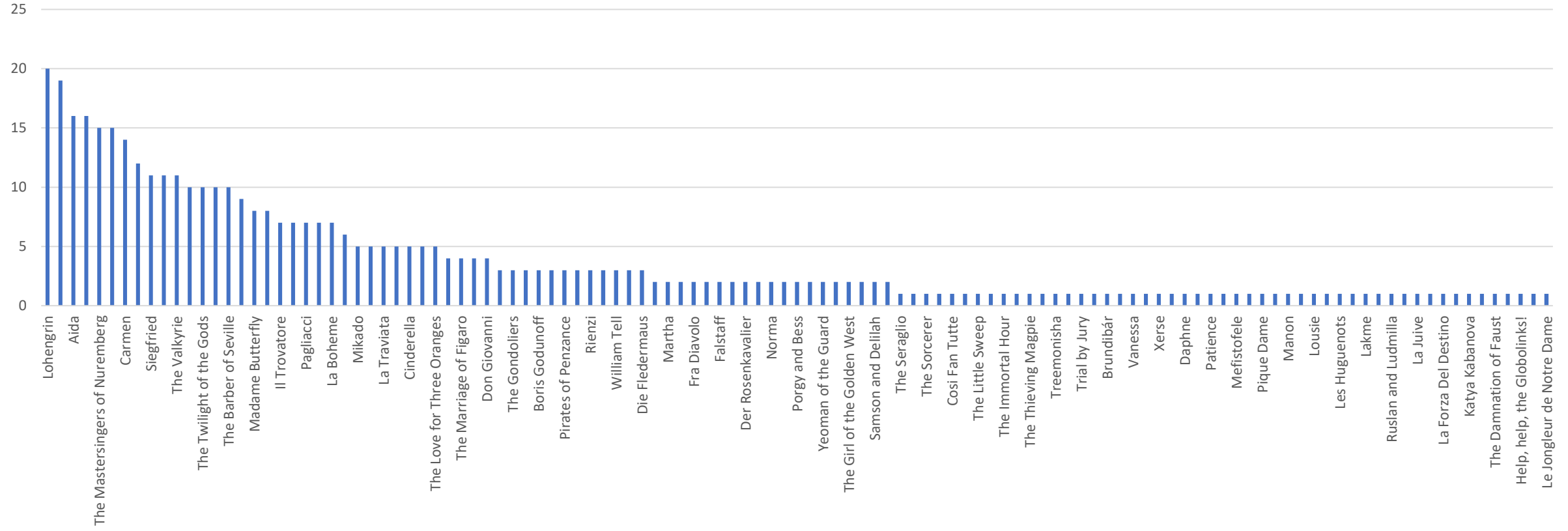
Publication Year Distribution



Operas by Popularity

Opera	Composer	Count of Titles
Lohengrin	Wagner	20
The Magic Flute	Mozart	19
Aida	Verdi	16
Hansel and Gretel	Humperdinck	16
The Mastersingers of Nuremberg	Wagner	15
Ring of Nibelung (Whole cycle)	Wagner	15
Carmen	Bizet	14
The Flying Dutchman	Wagner	12
Siegfried	Wagner	11
The Rhinegold	Wagner	11
The Valkyrie	Wagner	11
Tristan and Isolde	Wagner	10
The Twilight of the Gods	Wagner	10
Tannhäuser	Wagner	10
The Barber of Seville	Rossini	10
Rigoletto	Verdi	9
Madame Butterfly	Puccini	8
Parsifal	Wagner	8
Il Trovatore	Verdi	7
H.M.S. Pinafore	Gilbert and Sullivan	7
Pagliacci	Leoncavallo	7
Faust	Gounod	7
La Boheme	Puccini	7
Cavalleria Rusticana	Mascagni	6
The Mikado	Gilbert and Sullivan	5
Turandot	Puccini	5
La Traviata	Verdi	5
Lucia di Lammermoor	Donizetti	5
La Cenerentola/Cinderella	Rossini	5
The Bartered Bride	Smetana	5
The Love for Three Oranges	Prokofiev	5

Operas by Popularity

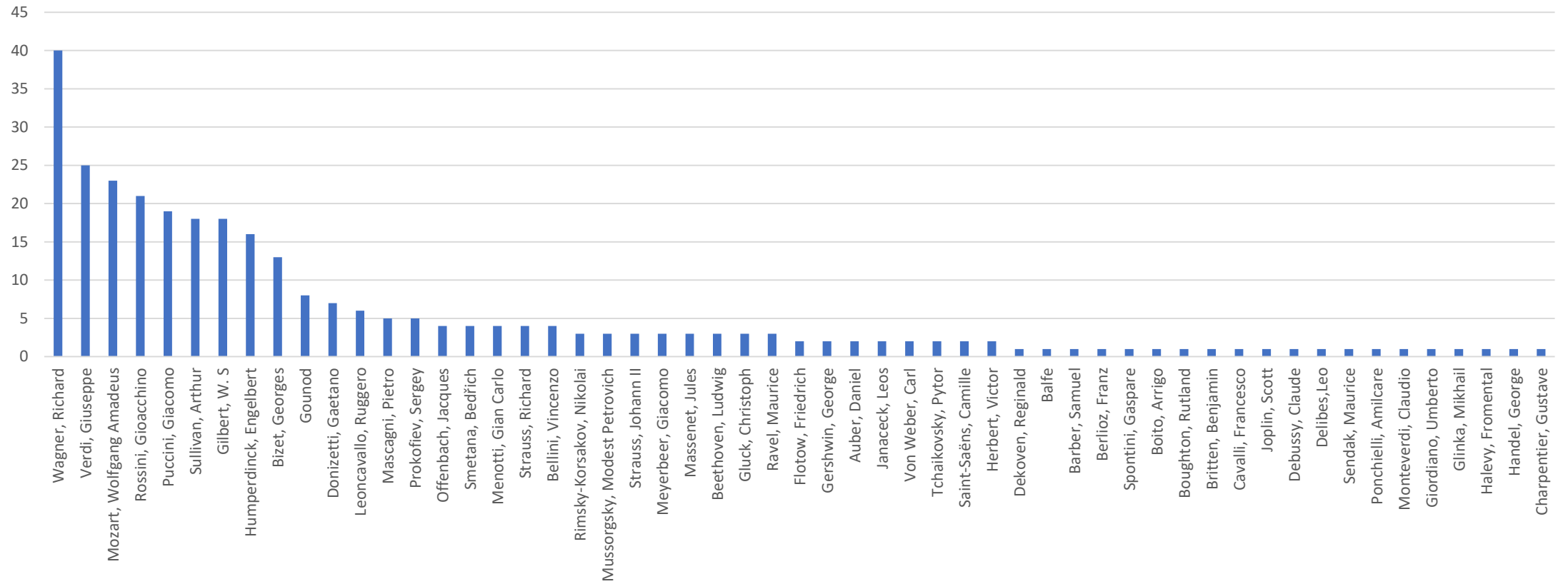


Creators by Popularity

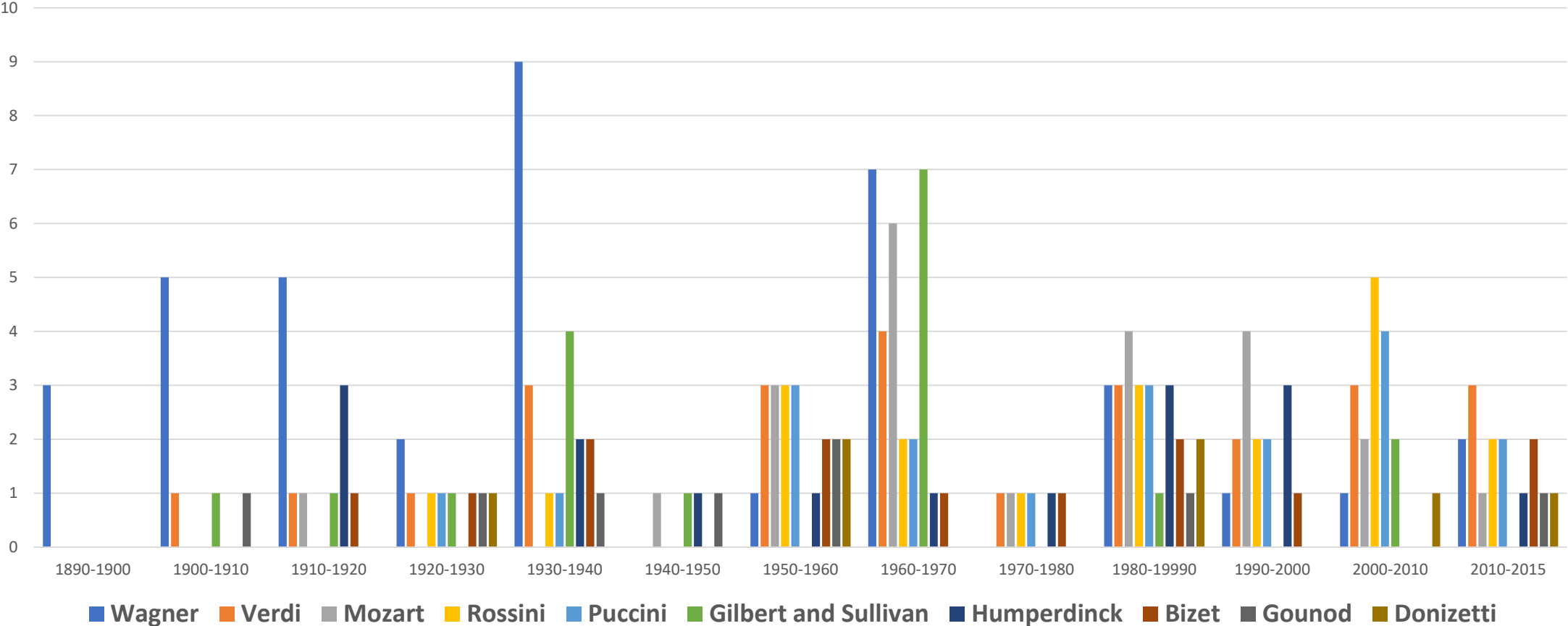
Creator	Books featured in
Wagner, Richard	40
Verdi, Giuseppe	25
Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus	23
Rossini, Gioacchino	21
Puccini, Giacomo	19
Gilbert and Sullivan	18
Humperdinck, Engelbert	16
Bizet, Georges	13
Gounod	8
Donizetti, Gaetano	7
Leoncavallo, Ruggero	6
Mascagni, Pietro	5
Prokofiev, Sergey	5
Offenbach, Jacques	4
Smetana, Bedřich	4
Menotti, Gian Carlo	4
Strauss, Richard	4
Bellini, Vincenzo	4
Rimsky-Korsakov, Nikolai	3
Mussorgsky, Modest Petrovich	3
Strauss, Johann II	3
Meyerbeer, Giacomo	3
Massenet, Jules	3
Beethoven, Ludwig	3
Gluck, Christoph	3

Creator Popularity

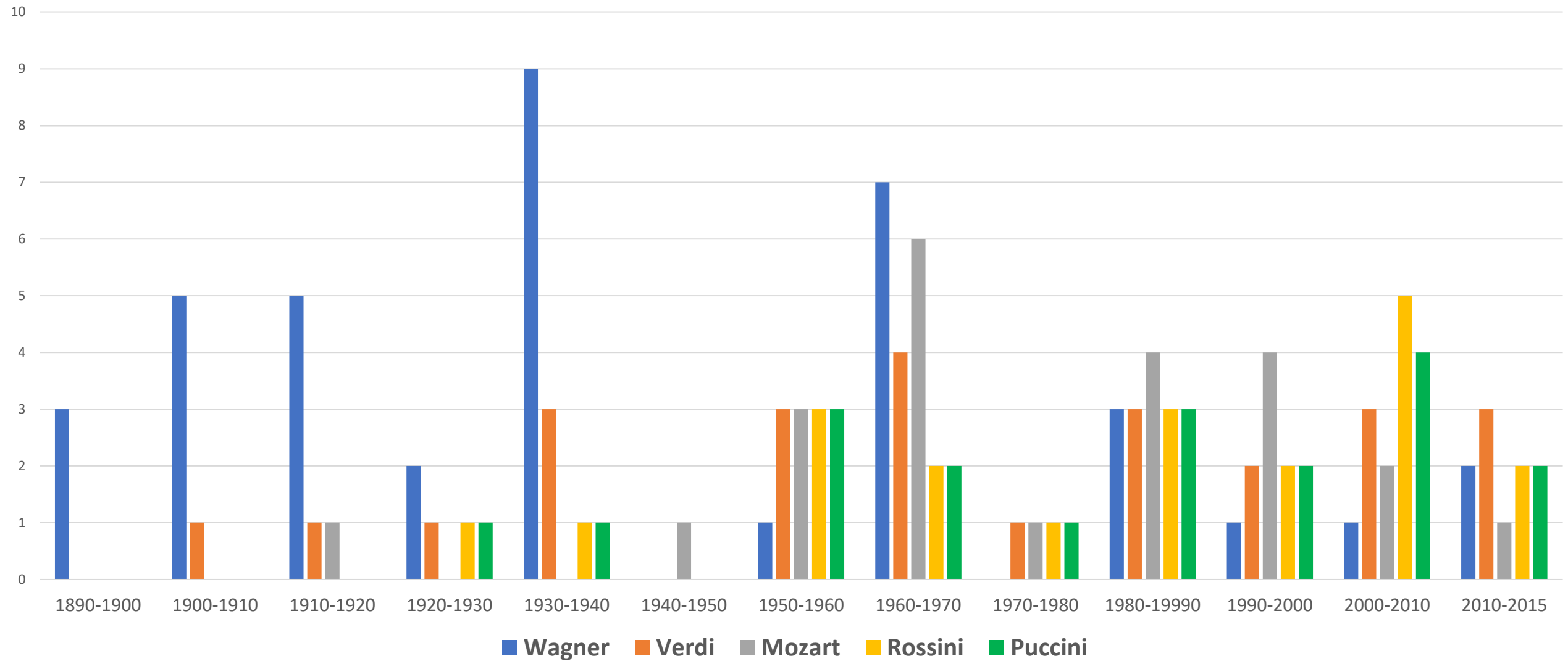
Creator Popularity



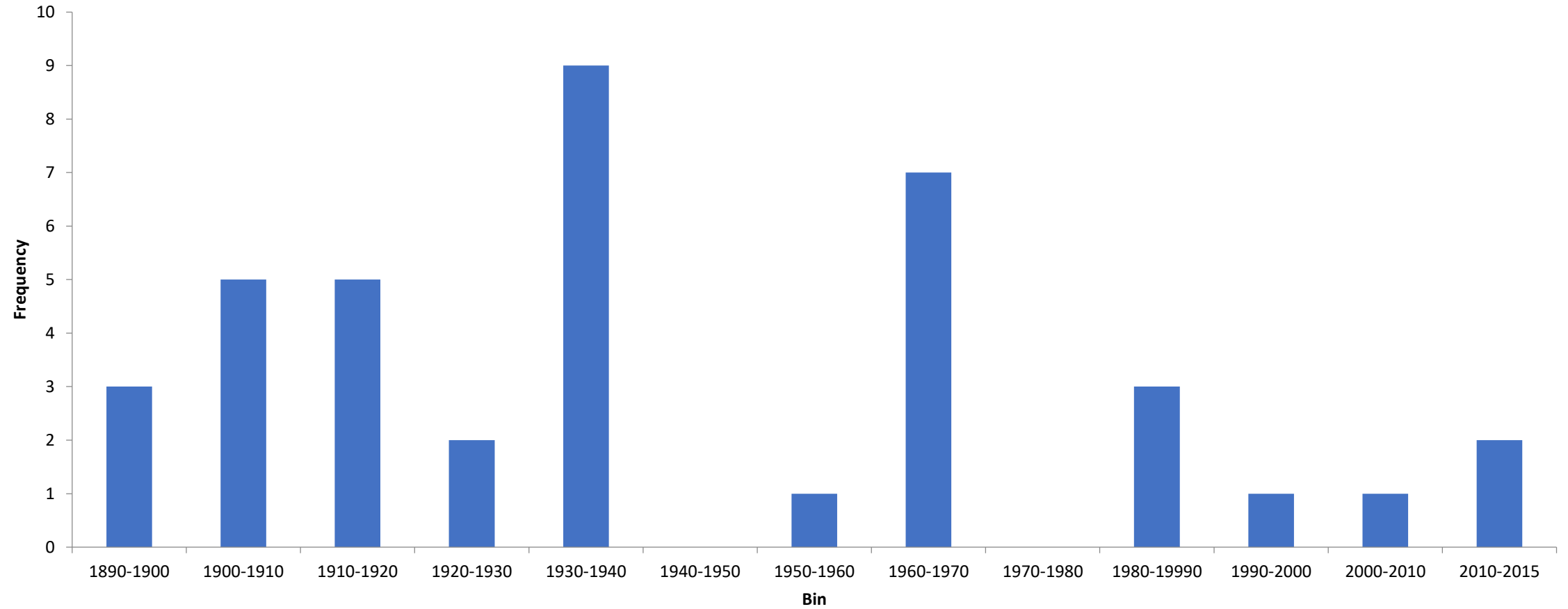
Top 10 Composers over Time



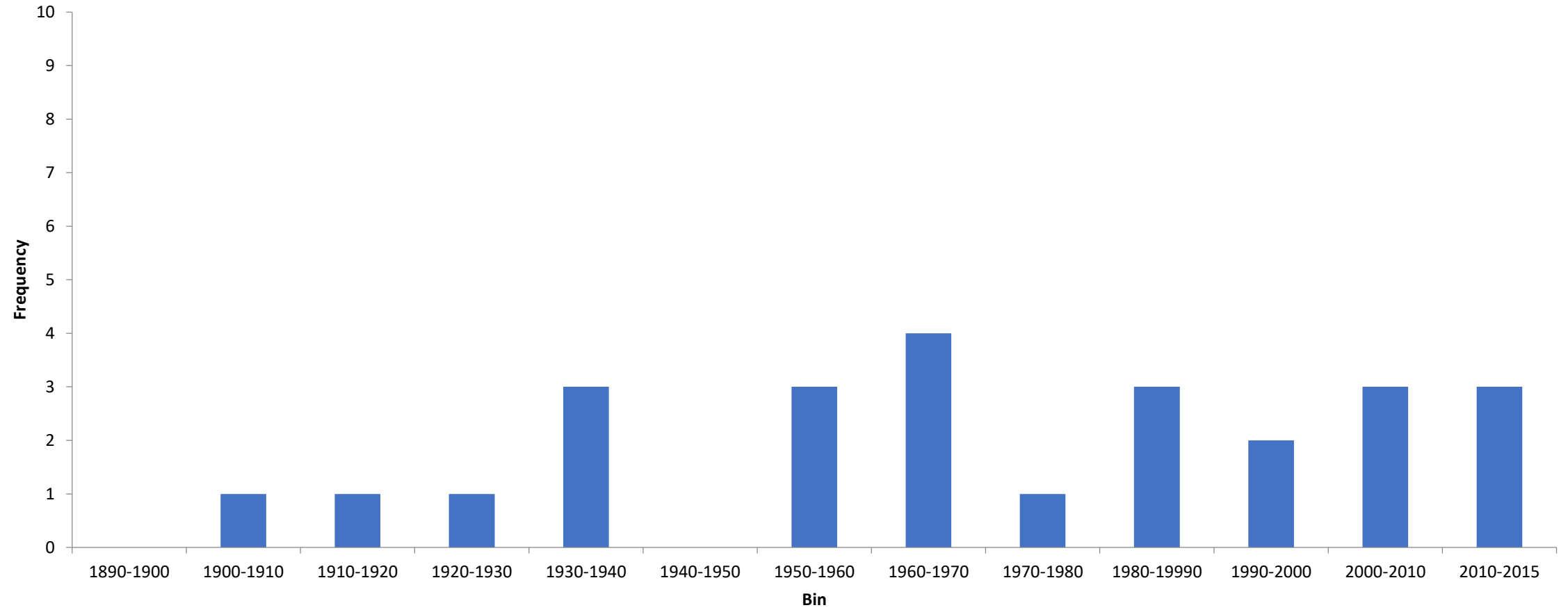
Composers over Time



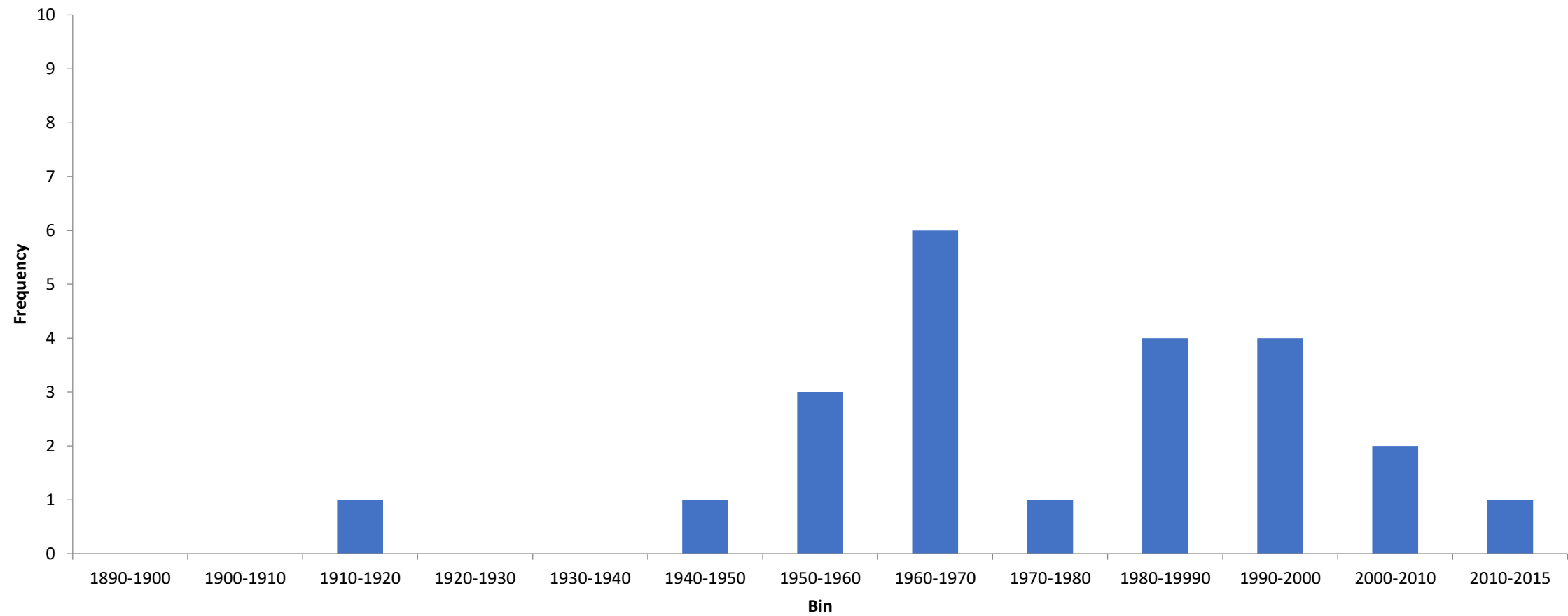
Wagner



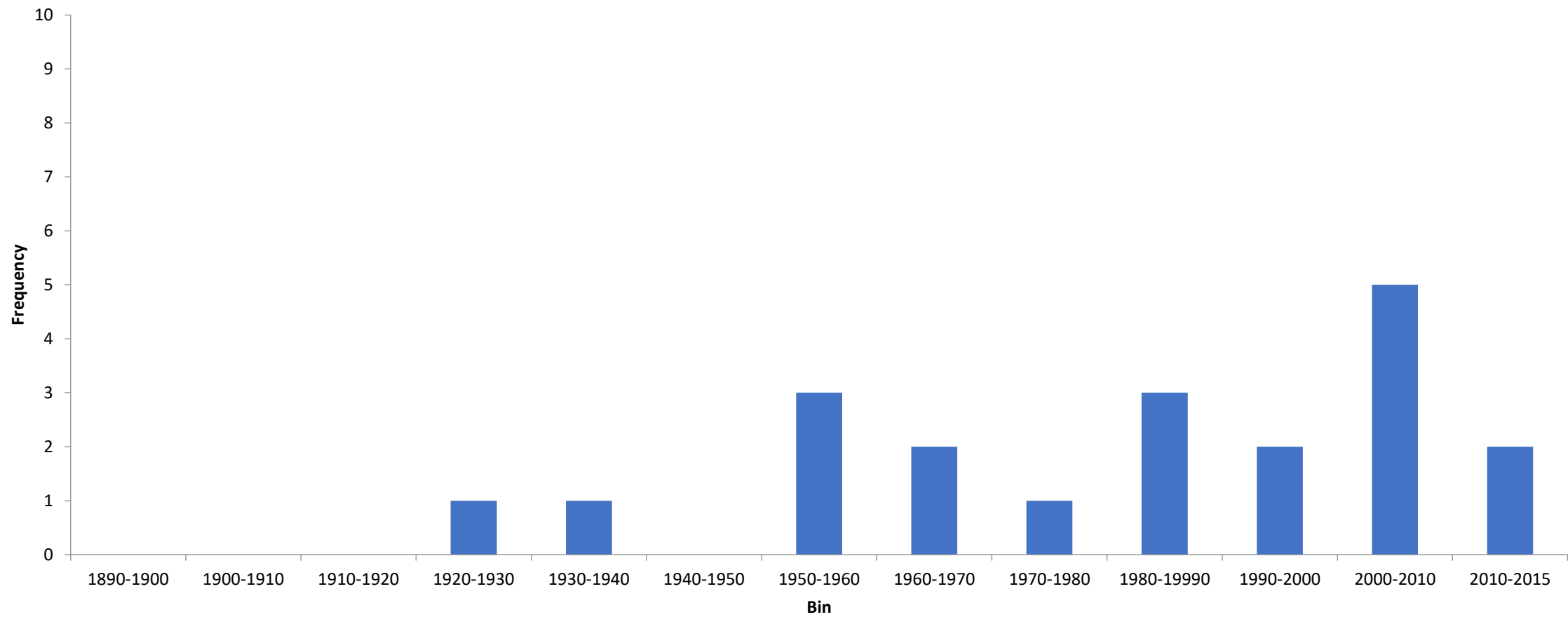
Verdi



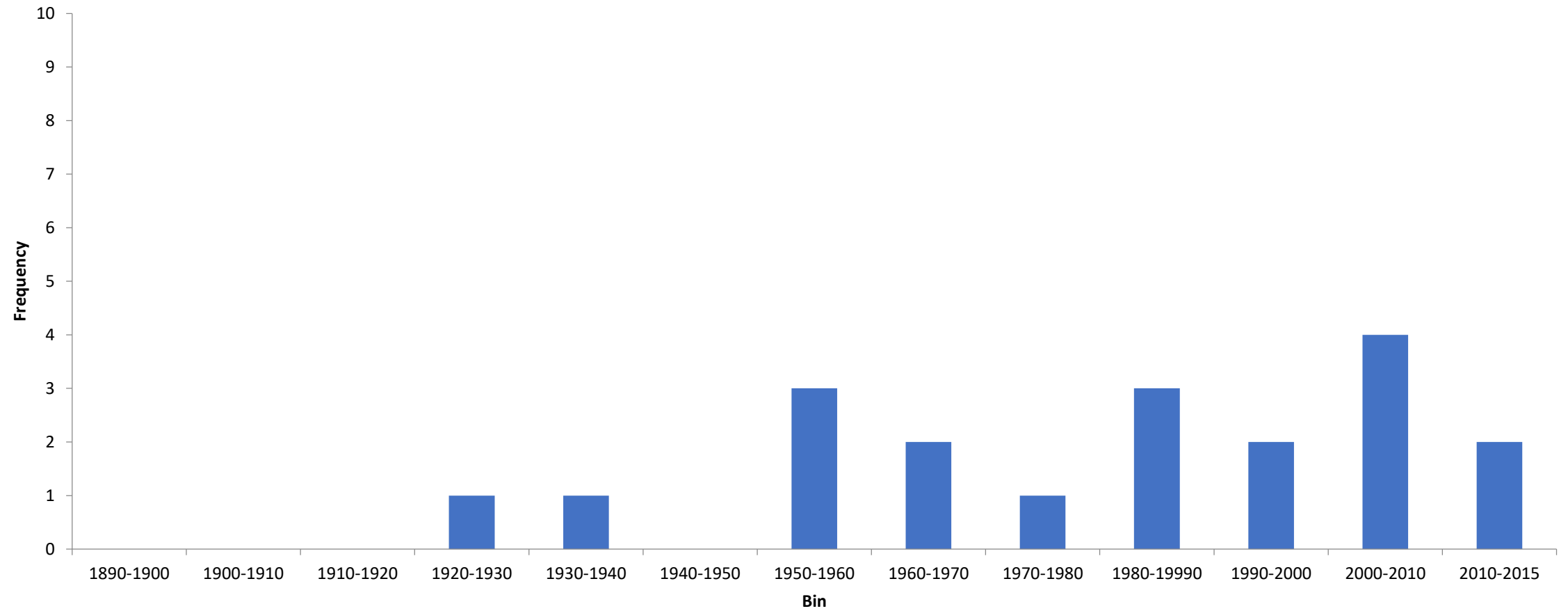
Mozart



Rossini



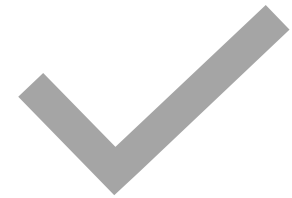
Puccini



Findings and Analysis



Creator Popularity



Comparison with
OperaBase

Composers

Our Top 5		Opera Base Top 5	
Wagner	Verdi		
Verdi	Puccini		
Mozart	Mozart		
Rossini	Wagner		
Puccini	Rossini		

Operas

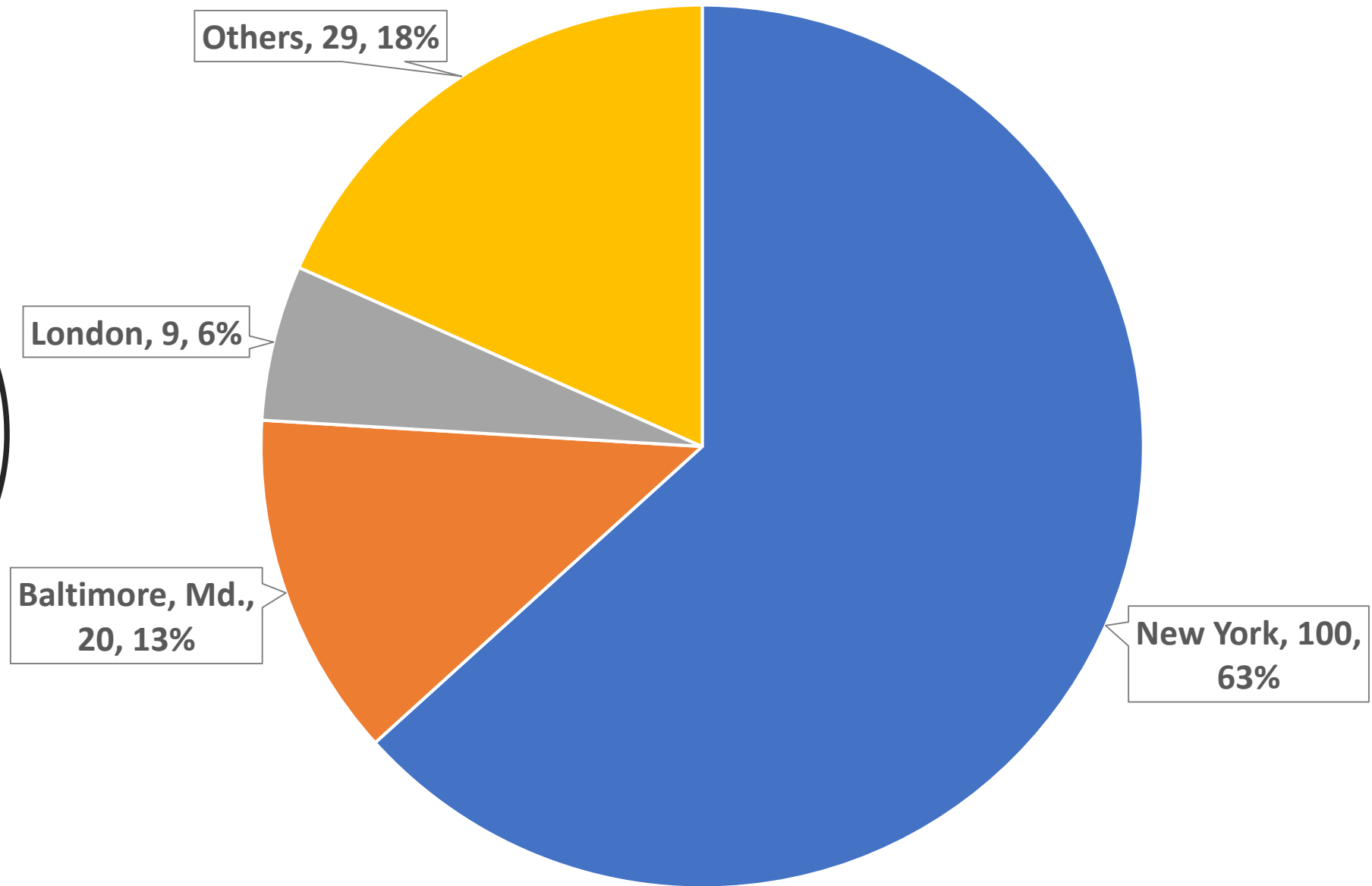
Our Top 5		OperaBase Top 5	
Lohengrin		La Traviata	
The Magic Flute		The Magic Flute	
Aida		Carmen	
Hansel and Gretel		La Boheme	
The Mastersingers of Nuremberg		Tosca	

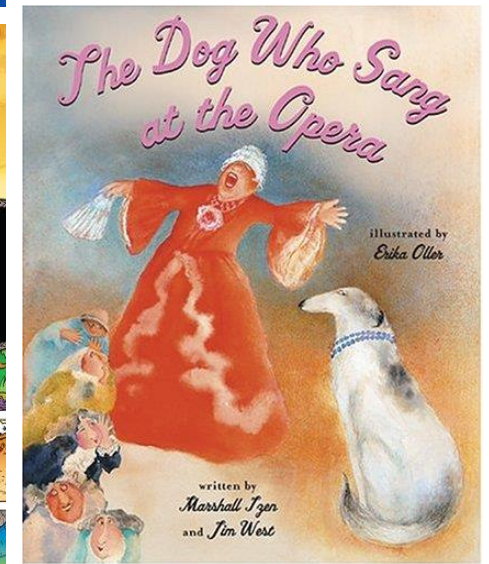
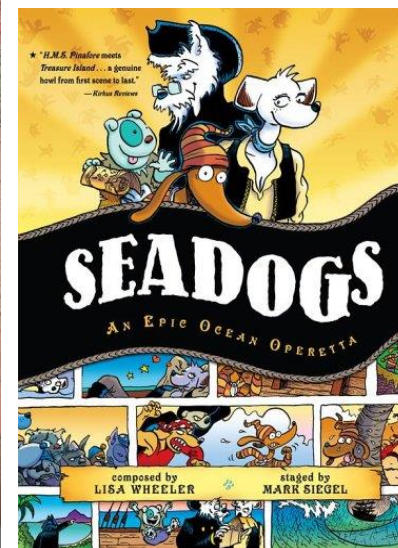
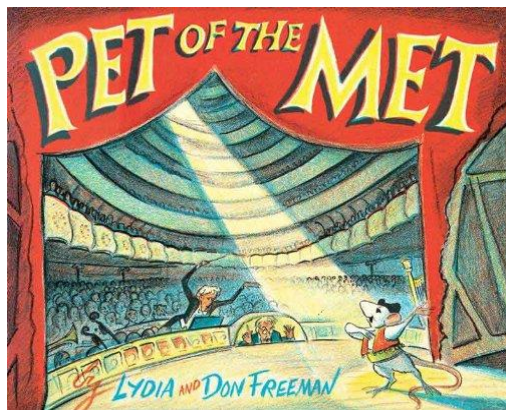
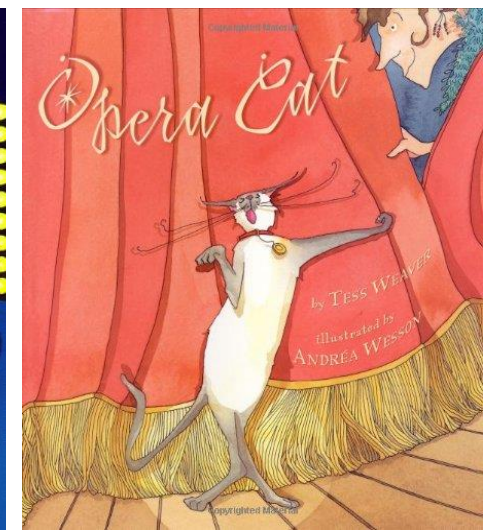
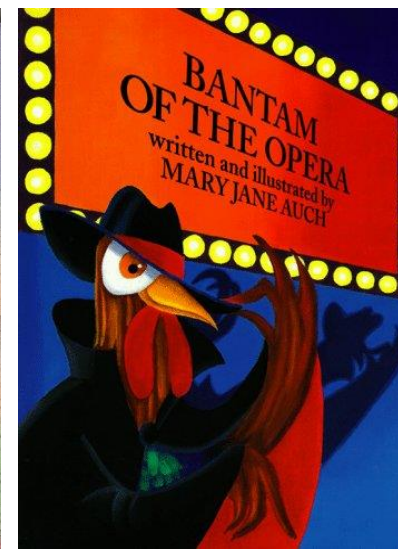
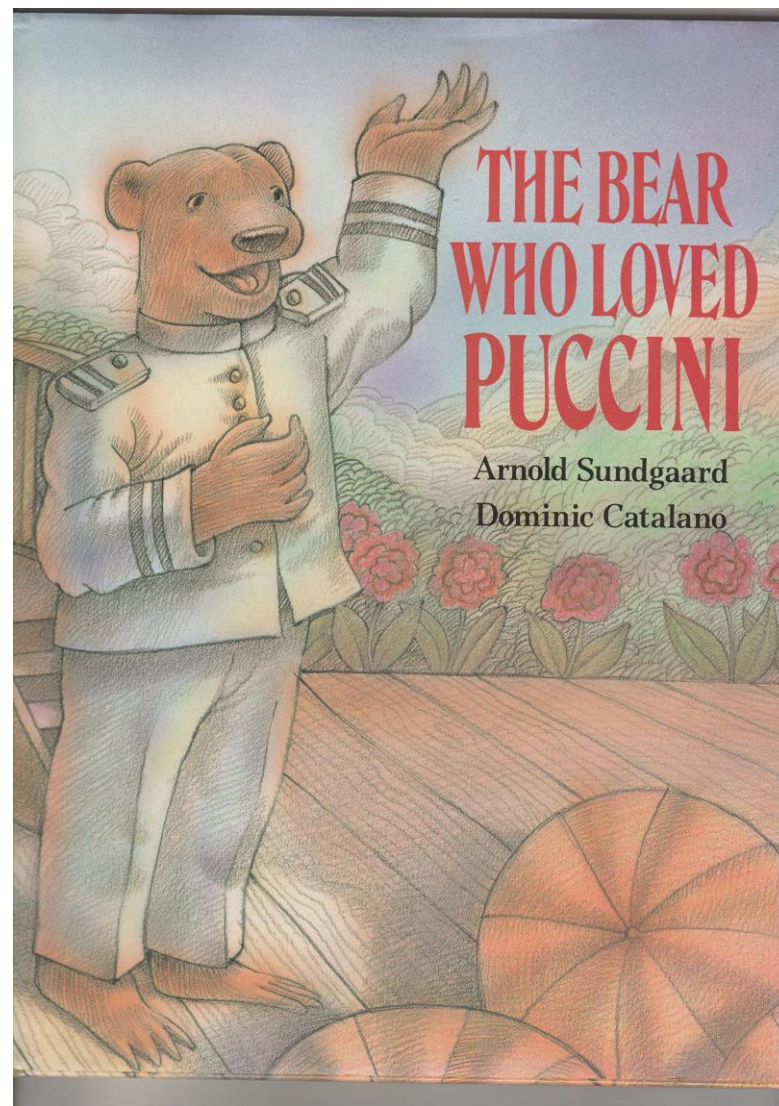
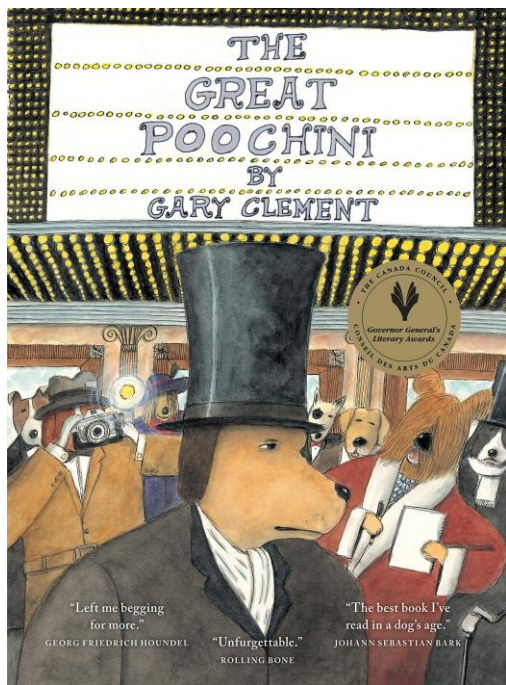
Series

Series Name	Items in the Series
Babetta's World	20
A Curtain-Raiser book	8
Authorized Edition of the Metropolitan Opera Guild, Inc.	8
Authorized Edition of the Metropolitan Opera Guild/Wagner's "Ring of the Nibelung"	4
The young reader's guides to music	3
Authorized edition of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company	3
Opera stories for young people	3
Mikado book	2
Opera stories for young people?	2
Musical stories series	2
World of music	2
Fantasia Pictorial	2
Everychild's Series	1
Masters of music	1
The "Every Child Should Know" Books	1
The Travellers' Library	1
Told to the children series	1
Golden Picture Story Book	1

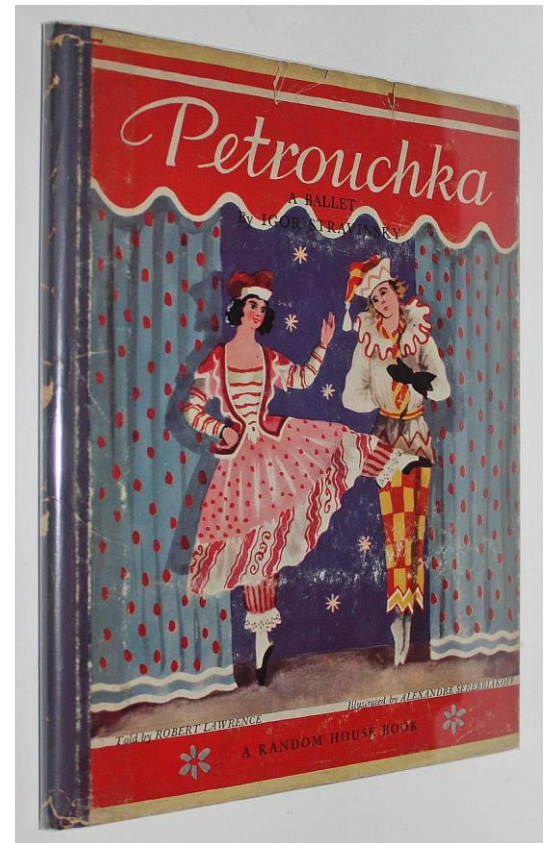
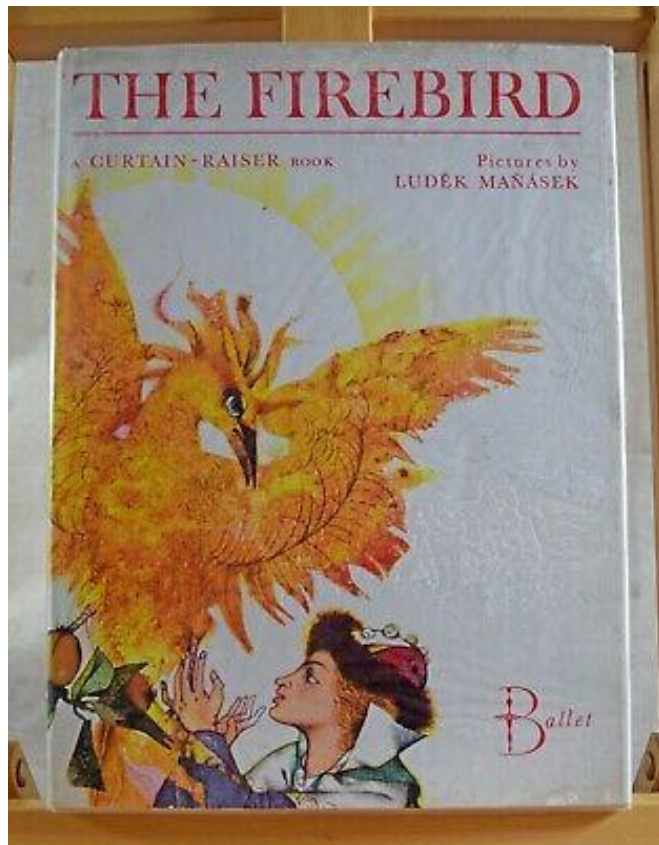
Other Interesting Findings

Place of Publication





Role of Animals



Ballet Connection

Important Figures

- Mary Ellis Peltz
- Robert Lawrence
- Constance Elizabeth Maud
- Eric Crozier
- Leontyne Price

Famous Authors and Illustrators

- Don Freeman
- John Updike
- Warren Chappell
- Walter Dean Myers
- Clyde Bulla
- Ana Alice Chapin
- Emanuele Luzzati
- Janet and Anne Grahame Johnstone
- Maurice Sendak
- Elzbieta Gaudinska

The role of institutions

- Metropolitan Opera Guild
- D'Oyly Carte Opera Company
- San Diego and Royal Opera Company

Credits to Creators

- Montresor
- Menotti
- Mozart
- Prokofiev
- Puccini
- Ravel



Study Limitations





Conclusion

Questions?



Thank you!

More info:

operabooks.info

john.deloooper@lehman.cuny.edu