Expressions of vocality in romantic opera. Giuseppe Verdi and Richard Wagner

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Abstract: The vocal discourse found in the romantic opera complements the new philosophical and spiritual concepts following the development of the vocal technique of the opera singers. While a large number of roles could be explored in those terms, the demands placed upon body and voice are individual and each role of every opera is always distinct; Verdi and Wagner roles provide particularly valuable examples because of the complex intersection between a rich psychological framework for interpretative engagement and a complex vocal and bodily collaboration. The characters created in the works of Verdi and Wagner fit into new vocal and dramaturgical typologies influenced by the style of the French opera.

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