

OPERA IN PHILADELPHIA

PERFORMANCE CHRONOLOGY 1800 - 1824

RESEARCH BY OTTO E. ALBRECHT 1898-1984

RESEARCH BY JOHN CURTIS 1867-1927

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- *Opera in Philadelphia 1800 - 1830*: Otto E. Albrecht: published (Fall 1979) in the *Journal of the American Musicological Society*, Vol. XXXII, No. 3.
Albrecht indicates the first performance of each opera presented in Philadelphia between 1800 and 1830. He does not indicate the performing company names, venues, casts, or subsequent performances of the works. His purpose was to provide a fuller, well rounded presentation of lighter opera during the period than had been provided by John Curtis (whose only intention was to document the history of "grand opera" in Philadelphia).
- *A Record of the Opera in Philadelphia*: W.G. Armstrong: Porter & Co., (copyrighted by Townsend Ward; Press of Edward Stern & Co.), Philadelphia, 1884.
- *One Hundred Years of Grand Opera in Philadelphia* (unpublished) · *The First Volume, Section One* (1790s - 1843): John Curtis, 1920: Typescript (original) found in Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.
- *One Hundred Years of Grand Opera in Philadelphia · The First Volume* (1790s - 1860): John Curtis, 1920: Typescript (typewriter carbon copy) found in the Free Library, Philadelphia.
Curtis wrote an exhaustive history of opera in Philadelphia. In addition to the extensive narrative covering the various companies, the venues themselves, managers, and biographical details of the performers, he provides an complete chronology of all performances and casts of the works he considered grand opera.
- *Early Opera in America*: Oscar George Theodore Sonneck: G. Schirmer, New York, 1915

1800

- 1/01/00: *Blue Beard, or Female curiosity* (Michael Kelly): Philadelphia, unknown
1/08/00: *Rosina, or The reapers* (William Shield): Philadelphia, unknown
1/13/00: *Richard, Cœur de Lion* (Grétry): Philadelphia, unknown
1/20/00: *The highland reel* (William Schield): Philadelphia, unknown
1/24/00: *The poor soldier* (William Shield): Philadelphia, unknown
1/29/00: *The agreeable surprise* (Samuel Arnold): Philadelphia, unknown
2/03/00: *The haunted tower, or The baron of Oakland* (Stephen Storace): Philadelphia, unknown
2/12/00: *The Spanish barber, or The fruitless precaution* (Samuel Arnold): Philadelphia, unknown
2/17/00: *No song, no supper* (Stephen Storace): Philadelphia, unknown
2/19/00: *The waterman, or The first August* (Charles Dibdin): Philadelphia, unknown
2/24/00: *The romp* (Charles Dibdin): Philadelphia, unknown
3/24/00: *The rival soldiers, or Sprigs of laurel* (William Shield): Philadelphia, unknown
3/28/00: *The adopted child, or Milford Castle* (Thomas Attwood): Philadelphia, unknown
4/02/00: *The castle spectre* (Reinagle, Taylor): Philadelphia, unknown
4/07/00: *The lock and key* (William Shield): Philadelphia, unknown
4/08/00: *A wreath for american tars, or Huzza again for the constitution* (Reinagle): Philadelphia, unknown
4/09/00: *The prize, or 2, 5, 3, 8* (Stephen Storace): Philadelphia, unknown
4/14/00: *Inkle and Yarico, or The benevolent maid (The American heroine; The blessing of Liberty)* (Samuel Arnold): Philadelphia, unknown
4/18/00: *The double disguise, or The Irish chambermaid* (James Hook): Philadelphia, unknown
4/21/00: *Harlequin Freemason* (Reinagle): Philadelphia, unknown
4/23/00: *The naval pillar, or The American sailor's garland* (John Moorehead): Philadelphia, unknown
Elizabeth Arnold
5/07/00: *Zorinsky, or Liberty preserved in Poland* (Samuel Arnold): Philadelphia, unknown
5/10/00: *The dead alive, or The double funeral* (Samuel Arnold): Philadelphia, unknown
5/19/00: *Pizarro, or The Spaniards in Peru* (Reinagle and Taylor): Philadelphia, unknown
5/21/00: *The farmer, or The world's ups and downs (The Macaroni stay-maker)* (William Shield): Philadelphia, unknown
5/31/00: *The mountaineers* (Samuel Arnold): Philadelphia, unknown
00/00/00: *The noble peasant* (William Shield): Philadelphia, unknown

1801

- 1/20/01: *Robin Hood, or Sherwood Forest* (William Shield): Philadelphia, unknown
1/30/01: *Buxom Joan, or A sailor's the lad* (Raynor Taylor): Philadelphia, unknown
2/11/01: *The siege of Belgrade* (Stephen Storace): Philadelphia, unknown
3/04/01: *The devil to pay, or The Wives Metamorphos'd* (ballad opera): Philadelphia, unknown
3/01/01: *The shipwreck* (Samuel Arnold): Philadelphia, unknown
3/12/01: *The padlock* (Charles Dibdin): Philadelphia, unknown
11/13/01: *A trip to Fontainebleau* (unknown): Philadelphia, unknown
12/07/01: *St. David's Day, or The honest Welchman* (Thomas Attwood): Philadelphia, unknown

1802

- 1/01/02: *Columbus, or A world discovered* (Alexander Reinagle): Philadelphia, unknown
2/04/02: *Joanna of Montfaucon* (Busby): Philadelphia, unknown
2/09/02: *The turnpike gate* (Mazzinghi and Reeve): Philadelphia, unknown
3/10/02: *The blind girl, or A receipt for Beauty* (Reeve, Mazzinghi): Philadelphia, unknown
3/20/02: *The enraged musician* (Samuel Arnold): Philadelphia, unknown
4/05/02: *The children in the wood* (Samuel Arnold): Philadelphia, unknown
7/13/02: *The Mayday Dower, or The benevolent Quaker (The benevolent friend)* (Charles Dibdin): Philadelphia, unknown
00/00/02: *Adelmorn the outlaw* (Michael Kelly): Philadelphia, unknown
00/00/02: *The review, or The wags of Windsor* (Samuel Arnold): Philadelphia, unknown

12/20/02: *Il Bondocani, or the Caliph and the robber* (Attwood, Moorehead): Philadelphia, unknown

1803

1/19/03: *The corsair, or The Tripolitan robber (The Italian nuptials)* (Samuel Arnold): Philadelphia, unknown

1/21/03: *The sixty-third letter* (Samuel Arnold): Philadelphia, unknown

0/00/03: *Auld Robin Gray, or Jamie's return from America* (Samuel Arnold): Philadelphia, unknown

0/00/03: *Cymon and Sylvia, or Love and Magic (The power of enchantment)* (Michael Arne): Philadelphia, unknown

1804

1/20/04: *A tale of mystery* (Busby): Philadelphia, unknown

1/27/04: *My grandmother* (Stephen Storace): Philadelphia, unknown

2/01/04: *The house to be sold* (Michael Kelly): Philadelphia, unknown

2/06/04: *The doctor and the apothecary* (Stephen Storace): Philadelphia, unknown

3/07/04: *The Tripolitan prize, or The veteran tar (American tars on an English shore)* (Samuel Arnold): Philadelphia

3/28/04: *Paul and Virginia* (Mazzinghi and Reeve): Philadelphia, unknown

4/02/04: *The hero of the North, or The deliverer of his country* (Michael Kelly): Philadelphia, unknown

6/29/04: *Tom Thumb the Great* (Thomas Arne): Philadelphia, unknown

10/15/04: *The spoiled child* (Samuel Arnold): Philadelphia, unknown

12/10/04: *The sailor's daughter* (Reinagle): Philadelphia, unknown

1805

1/19/05: *The purse, or The benevolent tar* (William Reeve): Philadelphia, unknown

2/17/05: *Love laughs at locksmiths* (Michael Kelly): Philadelphia, unknown

3/01/05: *The wife of two husbands* (Reinagle): Philadelphia, unknown

3/09/05: *The castle of Sorrento, or Which is she* (Thomas Attwood): Philadelphia, unknown

1806

1/01/06: *Cinderella, or The little glass slipper* (Michael Kelly): Philadelphia, unknown

1/01/06: *The wife of two husbands* (Victor Pelissier): Philadelphia, unknown

1/10/06: *The hunter of the Alps* (Michael Kelly): Philadelphia, unknown

1/15/06: *Mary, Queen of Scots* (Reinagle): Philadelphia, unknown

2/15/06: *The recruiting sergeant* (Charles Dibdin): Philadelphia, unknown

2/15/06: *Thirty Thousand, or Who's the richest?* (Braham, Davy, Reeve): Philadelphia, unknown

3/06/06: *Matrimony* (Matthew Peter King): Philadelphia, unknown

3/12/06: *Lionel and Clarissa* (Charles Dibdin): Philadelphia, unknown

3/14/06: *The virgin of the sun* (Victor Pelissier): Philadelphia, unknown

1807

1/01/07: *Valentine and Orson, or The wild man of the wood* (Charles Dibdin): Philadelphia, unknown

1/07/07: *Too many cooks* (Matthew Peter King): Philadelphia, unknown

1/16/07: *We fly by night, or Long stories* (Michael Kelly): Philadelphia, unknown

1/30/07: *Marian* (William Shield): Philadelphia, unknown

0/00/07: *Love in a camp* (William Shield): Philadelphia, unknown

3/02/07: *The peasant boy, or Innocence protected* (Michael Kelly): Philadelphia, unknown

3/02/07: *Peeping Tom of Coventry* (Samuel Arnold): Philadelphia, unknown

3/11/07: *The surrender of Calais, or The patriotic citizens (Gallic Heroism)* (Samuel Arnold): Philadelphia, unknown

3/11/07: *Youth, love and folly* (Michael Kelly): Philadelphia, unknown

3/18/07: *The duenna, or The double elopement* (Thomas Linley, Sr. & Jr.): Philadelphia, unknown

3/23/07: *The deserter* (Monsigny, Charles Dibdin, Philidor): Philadelphia, unknown

3/28/07: *The cabinet* (Reeve, Moorehead, Davy, Corri, Braham): Philadelphia, unknown

4/02/07: *The son-in-law* (Samuel Arnold): Philadelphia, unknown

- 4/03/07: *Spanish dollars, or The priest of the parish* (John Davy): Philadelphia, unknown
 4/08/07: *The battle of Hexham, or The days of old* (Samuel Arnold): Philadelphia, unknown
 4/08/07: *The honest Yorkshireman, or A wonder* (Henry Carey): Philadelphia, unknown
 4/20/07: *The travellers, or Music's fascination* (Reinagle after Domenico Corri): Philadelphia, unknown
 12/09/07: *The soldier's return, or What can beauty do?* (James Hook): Philadelphia, unknown
 12/11/07: *The invisible girl* (Matthew Peter King): Philadelphia, unknown
 12/30/07: *The filch of bacon, or The matrimonial prize (The custom of Dunmore Priory)* (William Shield): Philadelphia

1808

- 2/12/08: *Adrian and Orilla, or A mother's vengeance* (Thomas Attwood, Michael Kelly): Philadelphia, unknown
 2/25/08: *The fortress* (James Hook): Philadelphia, unknown
 3/18/08: *The beggar's opera* (ballad opera): Philadelphia, unknown
 3/19/08: *Love for love I promise him, or Arbitration* (G. Lanza?): Philadelphia, unknown
 3/26/08: *The young hussar, or Love and mercy* (Michael Kelly): Philadelphia, unknown
 4/04/08: *Of age tomorrow* (Michael Kelly): Philadelphia, unknown
 4/06/08: *The Indian princess, or La belle sauvage* (John Bray): Philadelphia, unknown

1809

- 1/02/09: *The forty thieves* (Michael Kelly): Philadelphia, unknown
 2/06/09: *Tekeli, or The siege of Montgatz* (James Hook): Philadelphia, unknown
 3/08/09: *Catch him who can* (James Hook): Philadelphia, unknown
 3/17/09: *The lady of the rock* (unknown): Philadelphia, unknown
 3/25/09: *Who pays the piper, or My Lord, who knows!* (John Bray): Philadelphia, unknown
 4/10/09: *The wood daemon, or The clock has struck* (Michael Kelly): Philadelphia, unknown
 11/27/09: *Ella Rosenberg* (Matthew Peter King): Philadelphia, unknown

1810

- 1/01/10: *The blind boy* (John Davy): Philadelphia, unknown
 1/19/10: *Killing no murder* (James Hook): Philadelphia, unknown
 2/00/10: *The foundling of the forest* (Michael Kelly): Philadelphia, unknown
 3/07/10: *Who wins! or The widow's choice* (Henry Condell): Philadelphia, unknown
 3/14/10: *The Wicklow Mountains, or Lads of the hills* (William Shield): Philadelphia, unknown
 3/20/10: *Rugantino, or The bravo of Venice* [Busby]: Philadelphia, unknown
 3/22/10: *La caravane du Caire* (Grétry): Philadelphia, unknown
 3/23/10: *The caravan, or The driver and his dog* (William Reeve): Philadelphia, unknown
 3/28/10: *Lodoïska* (Cherubini or Rodolphe Kreutzer): Philadelphia, unknown
 4/18/10: *The Africans, or War, love and duty* (Michael Kelly): Philadelphia, unknown
 0/00/10: *The iron chest, or Honor's victim* (Stephen Storace): Philadelphia, unknown
 12/05/10: *The seraglio* (Charles Dibdin, as *The sultan*): Philadelphia, unknown
 12/05/10: *The sultan, or The triumph of love (A peep into the seraglio)* (Charles Dibdin): Philadelphia, unknown
 12/19/10: *The maid of the oaks, or A fête champêtre* (François Hippolyte Barthélemon): Philadelphia, unknown
 12/29/10: *Hit or Miss* (unknown): Philadelphia, unknown

1811

- 3/16/11: *Gustavus Vasa* (Michael Kelly): Philadelphia, unknown
 3/18/11: *The reconciliation, or The triumph of nature* (ballad opera): Philadelphia, unknown
 0/00/11: *Le tonnelier* (Nicolas-Médard Audinot): Philadelphia, unknown
 10/05/11: *The honey moon* (Michael Kelly): Philadelphia, unknown

1812

- 1/01/12: *The lady of the lake* (Samuel Arnold, Sanderson, Victor Pelissier): Philadelphia, unknown
1/13/12: *The honest thieves, or The faithful Irishman* (unknown): Philadelphia, unknown
2/07/12: *The tempest, or The enchanted isle* (Henry Purcell): Philadelphia, unknown
2/10/12: *The bridal ring* (Henry Condell): Philadelphia, unknown
2/17/12: *The comet, or He would be an astronomer* (William Milne): Philadelphia, unknown
2/21/12: *The three and the deuce, or Which is which? (The three singles)* (Stephen Storace): Philadelphia, unknown
3/07/12: *Hamlet Travestie, or The humors of Denmark* (unknown): Philadelphia, unknown
3/30/12: *Marmion, or A tale of flodden field* (John Bray?): Philadelphia, unknown
9/28/12: *The constitution, or American tars triumphant* (unknown): Philadelphia, unknown
11/04/12: *The beehive, or Industry must prosper (A soldier's love)* (Charles E. Horn): Philadelphia, unknown

1813

- 1/27/13: *Paul et Virginie* (Rodolphe Kreutzer): Philadelphia, unknown
2/10/13: *Timour the Tartar* (Matthew Peter King): Philadelphia, unknown
3/15/13: *Netley Abbey* (William Shield, pasticcio): Philadelphia, unknown
11/20/13: *The heroes of the Lakes* (unknown): Philadelphia, unknown

1814

- 1/01/14: *The Ethiop* (Raynor Taylor): Philadelphia, unknown
Joseph Jefferson
1/17/14: *The virgin of the sun* (Henry Rowley Bishop): Philadelphia, unknown
2/18/14: *The exile, or The Russian daughter* (Mazzinghi, Bishop): Philadelphia, unknown
4/02/14: *The boarding house, or Five hours at Brighton* (Charles E. Horn): Philadelphia, unknown
4/14/14: *The forest of Hermanstadt, or A princess and no princess* (Charles Dibdin): Philadelphia, unknown
12/26/14: *The camp* (Thomas Linley, Sr.): Philadelphia, unknown

1815

- 3/01/15: *The miller and his men* (Henry Rowley Bishop): Philadelphia, unknown
3/17/15: *Turn [him] out* (Matthew Peter King): Philadelphia, unknown
12/04/15: *Past ten o'clock, and a rainy night* (unknown): Philadelphia, unknown

1816

- 1/01/16: *Zembuca, or The net-make and his wife* (Ware): Philadelphia, unknown
1/17/16: *The forest of Bondy, or The horse of Montargis* (Henry Rowley Bishop): Philadelphia, unknown
12/26/16: *The woodman's hut* (Charles E. Horn): Philadelphia, unknown

1817

- 1/08/17: *Bombastes Furioso* (unknown): Philadelphia, unknown
3/07/17: *Guy Mannering, or The gypsy's prophecy* (Henry Rowley Bishop): Philadelphia, unknown
3/15/17: *The farmer's wife* (Henry Rowley Bishop): Philadelphia, unknown
10/19/17: *Giovanni in London, or The libertine reclaimed* (unknown): Philadelphia, unknown
10/10/17: *Love in a village* (Michael Arne): Philadelphia, unknown
12/13/17: *The maid of the mill* (Samuel Arnold, pasticcio): Philadelphia, unknown
12/17/17: *The castle of Andalusia* (Samuel Arnold): Philadelphia, unknown
12/26/17: *The broken sword* (Whitaker): Philadelphia, unknown
1817-18: *The devil's bridge* (Horn, Braham): Philadelphia
1817-18: *The maid of the mill* (Samuel Arnold): Philadelphia
1817-18: *The duenna, or The double elopement* (Thomas Linley, Sr. & Jr.): Philadelphia

performing in the operas above:

Charles Inledon

Thomas Phillips

1818

- 1/01/18: *The conquest of Taranto, or St. Clara's Eve* (Michael Kelly): Philadelphia, unknown
1/05/18: *The devil's bridge, or The Piedmontese Alps* (Horn, Braham): Philadelphia, unknown
1/12/18: *Brother and sister* (Bishop, Reeve): Philadelphia, unknown
4/03/18: *The slave, or Love and gratitude* (Henry Rowley Bishop): Philadelphia, unknown
12/26/18: *The libertine* (Henry Rowley Bishop adaptation of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*): Philadelphia, Chestnut Street Theatre
(Warren and Wood)

<i>Don Juan</i>	Henry Wallack
<i>Don Pedro</i>	Mr. Hughes
<i>Donna Leonora</i>	Mrs. Henry Wallack
<i>Donna Elvira</i>	Mrs. La Folle
<i>Don Ottavio</i>	Mr. Abercrombie
<i>Leporello</i>	Joseph Jefferson
<i>Zerlina</i>	Cornelia Francis Burke
<i>Masetto</i>	John Darley
<i>Lopez</i>	Mr. Hathwell
<i>Maria</i>	Elizabeth Jefferson
maestro direttore	Mr. La Folle

John Curtis considered this the first grand opera performed in Philadelphia and refers to it as "the daring effort of the Chestnut Street Theatre forces on that epochal night after Christmas in 1818."

- 12/28/18: *The libertine*: Philadelphia, Chestnut Street Theatre
12/29/18: *The libertine*: Philadelphia, Chestnut Street Theatre
12/30/18: *The libertine*: Philadelphia, Chestnut Street Theatre

1819

- 1/01/19: *Rob Roy MacGregor, or Auld Lang Syne* (Davy and Bishop): Philadelphia, unknown
1/27/19: *My aunt* (John Addison): Philadelphia, unknown
10/15/19: *The heart of Midlothian* (Henry Rowley Bishop): Philadelphia, unknown

1820

- 1/01/20: *The fall of Clyde* (Cooke): Philadelphia, unknown
11/22/20: *The vampire* (Joseph B. Hart): Philadelphia, unknown

1821

- 2/10/21: *The child of the mountain, or The deserted mother* (Anton Philipp Heinrich): Philadelphia, unknown
3/05/21: *The wandering boys, or The castle of Olival (The orphan boys of Switzerland)* (Henry Rowley Bishop): Philadelphia, unknown
3/09/21: *The child of the mountain, or The deserted mother* (Anton Philipp Heinrich): Philadelphia, unknown
3/24/21: *The temple of Apollo, or The wandering melodists* (unknown): Philadelphia, unknown
4/28/21: *The lady and the devil* (Michael Kelly): Philadelphia, unknown
7/02/21: *Therese, or The orphan of Geneva* (unknown): Philadelphia, unknown
10/13/21: *A squeeze to the coronation* (unknown): Philadelphia, unknown

1822

- 1/01/22: *Undine, or The spirit of the waters* (W. H. Ware): Philadelphia, unknown
1/21/22: *The libertine*: Philadelphia, Walnut Street Theatre

Don Juan Henry Wallack
Don Pedro Mr. Hathwell
Donna Leonora Mrs. Henry Wallack
Donna Elvira Mrs. La Folle
Don Ottavio Mr. Johnston
Leporello Joseph Jefferson
Zerlina Cornelia Francis Burke
Masetto John Darley
Lopez Mr. Green
Maria Elizabeth Jefferson
maestro direttore Mr. La Folle

John Curtis: This performance was announced as the "second and last performance" of the opera that season. I found no record of it in the newspaper or elsewhere until I discovered an original program... It is possible, therefore, that other performances of the opera had been given since 1818.

- 2/25/22: *The barber of Seville* (Henry Rowley Bishop adaptation of Rossini?): Philadelphia, Walnut Street Theatre (Warren and Wood)

Il conte d'Almaviva Henry Phillips
Il dottore Bartolo Thomas Burke
Rosina Cornelia Francis Burke
Figaro Joseph Jefferson
Don Basilio John Darley
Fiorello Mr. Nichols
Argus Francis Blissett
Tallboy William Francis
Marcella Miss Seymour
maestro direttore Mr. La Folle

- 1/25/22: *Yusef Caramalli, or The siege of Tripoli* (unknown): Philadelphia, unknown
3/01/22: *The barber of Seville* (Bishop): Philadelphia, Walnut Street Theatre
3/06/22: *The barber of Seville* (Bishop): Philadelphia, Walnut Street Theatre
3/08/22: *The barber of Seville* (Bishop): Philadelphia, Walnut Street Theatre
3/11/22: *Fontainebleau, or Our way in France (John Bull in France)* (William Shield): Philadelphia, unknown
3/25/22: *The Russian imposter, or The siege of Smolensko* (John Addison): Philadelphia, unknown

1823

1/01/23: *The law of Java* (Henry Rowley Bishop): Philadelphia, Chestnut Street Theatre (Warren and Wood)

<i>Emperor of Java</i>	Frederick Wheatley
<i>Agie</i>	John Darley
<i>Parbaya</i>	Henry Wallack
<i>Orzina</i>	Alexander Wilson
<i>Major von Glotzen</i>	William Warren
<i>Hans Gayvelt</i>	Francis C. Wemyss (Francis Courtney Wemyss)
<i>Pongosse</i>	Joseph Jefferson
<i>Grumbick</i>	John Green
<i>Baspa</i>	Mr. Bignal
<i>Cogo</i>	Mr. Andes
<i>Snickersnee</i>	John Jefferson
<i>Zaide</i>	Euphemia Anderson
<i>Mourdagee</i>	Cornelia Francis Burke
maestro direttore	Mr. La Folle

1/06/23: *The law of Java*: Philadelphia, Chestnut Street Theatre

4/25/23: *Tom and Jerry, or Life in London* (unknown): Philadelphia, unknown

5/10/23: *Fire and water* (Samuel Arnold): Philadelphia, unknown

1823: *The devil's bridge*: Philadelphia

1823: *The maid of the mill*: Philadelphia

1823: *The duenna*: Philadelphia

1824

1/30/24: *Clari, or the maid of Milan* (Henry Rowley Bishop): Philadelphia, unknown

2/02/24: *The barber of Seville* (Rossini): Philadelphia, Chestnut Street Theatre (Warren and Wood)

<i>Il conte d'Almaviva</i>	William Pearman
<i>Il dottore Bartolo</i>	Thomas Burke
<i>Rosina</i>	Cornelia Francis Burke
<i>Figaro</i>	Joseph Jefferson
<i>Don Basilio</i>	John Darley
<i>Tallboy</i>	William Francis
maestro direttore	Mr. La Folle

John Curtis: In this performance [William Pearman] introduced a song of his own composition, "A garden formed by nature wild," and by request two or three other numbers.