

## Opera-tional: The Evolution of the Metropolitan Opera through Its Leadership

Olivia C. Mauterer  
Cedarville University, [omauterer@cedarville.edu](mailto:omauterer@cedarville.edu)

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Mauterer, Olivia C., "Opera-tional: The Evolution of the Metropolitan Opera through Its Leadership" (2023).  
*Scholars Symposium*. 15.

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# OPERATIONAL:

The Evolution of the Metropolitan Opera  
through Its Leadership

Presentation by Olivia Mauterer

# The Founding of the Met

## The Academy of Music

- ❖ Built in 1854, New York's first true opera house
- ❖ The reigning opera house in New York City
- ❖ Ten times the amount of shareholders than boxes (about 18-30)
- ❖ Boxes dominated by "old money" to display wealth and culture

## A Mrs. Vanderbilt

- ❖ Growing wealth in industry
- ❖ Millionairess, likely the wife of William H. Vanderbilt turned away after having attempted to purchase a box
- ❖ Offer to add twenty-six less prominent boxes refused

## The First Leaders

- ❖ Plans for new house begun
- ❖ Original participants included:
  - Roosevelts, Iselins, Goelets, Astors, Vanderbilts, and Morgans
  - George H. Warren



Photograph from the  
Museum of the City of  
New York

1278

Henry Abbey

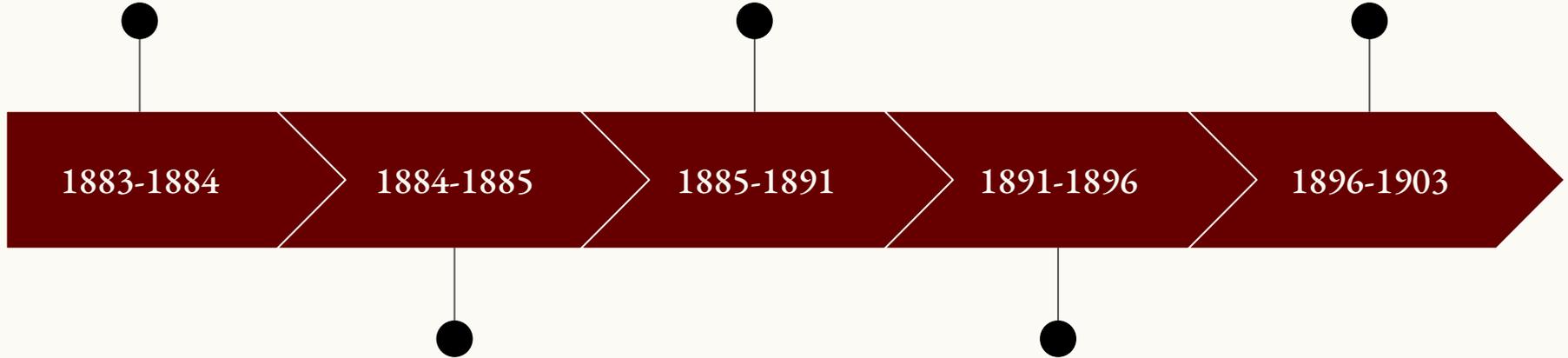
The First Impresario

Edmund Stanton

Seidl and the Reign of  
German Opera

Maurice Grau

Maurice Grau Opera Co.



Leopold Damrosch

The Rise of German Opera

Abbey, Schoeffel, and Grau

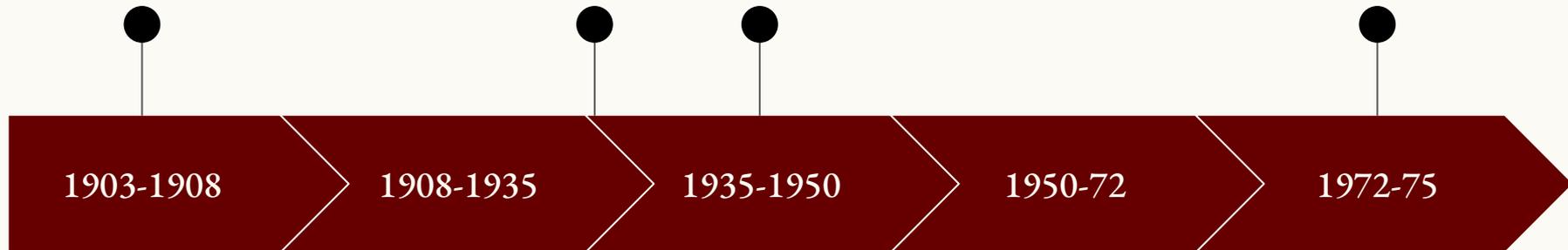
The First Administration

Heinrich Conried  
Publicity and Debuts

Edward Johnson  
Seasons of Change

Schuyler Chapin  
Gentele's Successor

Herbert Witherspoon  
Singer-manager



Giulio Gatti-Casazza  
The First Opera Specialist

Rudolph Bing  
Bold Manager of the  
Met

Göran Gentele  
Manager, Producer,  
& Scheduled Successor

# Rudolph Bing

A bold and quick-witted personality, he helped usher in the Metropolitan Opera of the future.

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graph TD; A[Lincoln Center] --- B[Integration]; B --- C[Performers and Progress];
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Lincoln Center

Integration

Performers and Progress

# Into Our Modern Day

## Regular Turnaround

- ❖ Anthony A. Bliss
- ❖ Bruce Crawford
- ❖ Hugh Southern

## Joseph Volpe

- ❖ 1990-2006
- ❖ Expansion
- ❖ Premieres

## Peter Gelb...

- ❖ 2006-
- ❖ Current General Manager
- ❖ Continuing Projects

# Questions?

Thank you  
for coming!

Photograph from Everett Collection Historical

