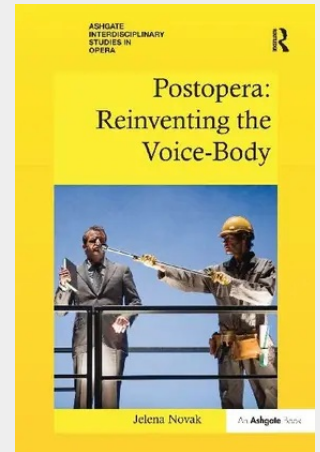


Postopera

Reinventing the Voice-Body

Both in opera studies and in most operatic works, the singing body is often taken for granted. In *Postopera: Reinventing the Voice-Body*, Jelena Novak reintroduces an awareness of the physicality of the singing body to opera studies. Arguing that the voice-body relationship itself is a producer of meaning, she furthermore posits this relationship as one of the major driving forces in recent opera. She takes as her focus six contemporary operas - *La Belle et la Bête* (Philip Glass), *Writing to Vermeer* (Louis Andriessen, Peter Greenaway), *Three Tales* (Steve Reich, Beryl Korot), *One* (Michel van der Aa), *Homeland* (Laurie Anderson), and *La Commedia* (Louis Andriessen, Hal Hartley) - which she terms 'postoperas'. These pieces are sites for creative exploration, where the boundaries of the opera world are stretched. Central to this is the impact of new media, a de-synchronization between image and sound, or a redefinition of body-voice-gender relationships. Novak dissects the singing body as a set of rules, protocols, effects, and strategies. That dissection shows how the singing body acts within the world of opera, what interventions it makes, and how it constitutes opera's meanings.

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