Recommended Reading for All Audiences

* indicates availability *at* Anchorage Public Library.

* Douglas, Nigel. *The Joy of Opera*. Andre Deutsch, 2004.

* Goulding, Phil G. *Ticket to the Opera : Discovering and Exploring 100 Famous Works, History, Lore, and Singers, with Recommended Recordings*. Fawcett Columbine, 1996.

* Kirk, Elise K. *American Opera*. University of Illinois Press, 2001.
Kirk traces the history of American opera through composers born in the United States and longtime U.S. residents. She takes a chronological approach to opera in the years 1730-2000, focusing on cultural contexts, historical development, and production aspects, and including basic musical analysis.

* Osborne, Charles. *The Opera Lover's Companion*. Yale University Press, 2004.
This engaging guide to the 175 most popular operas will enhance the experience of anyone attending an opera. The book consists of entries that set each opera within the context of its composer's career, outline the plot, discuss the music, and give relevant background information.

Peattie, Antony, ed. *The New Kobbé's Opera Book*. Putnam Publishing Group, 2000.
This comprehensive opera resource contains information on composers, performers, and the rich history of opera, from its beginnings in the Baroque period to modern day.

Scherer, Barrymore Laurence. *Bravo! A Guide to Opera for the Perplexed*. Plume, 1997.
Witty and informative, this introduction to opera is a fun, fast read.

* Walsh, Michael. *Who's afraid of Opera? : a Highly Opinionated, Informative, and Entertaining Guide to AppreciatingOpera*. Simon & Schuster, 1994.