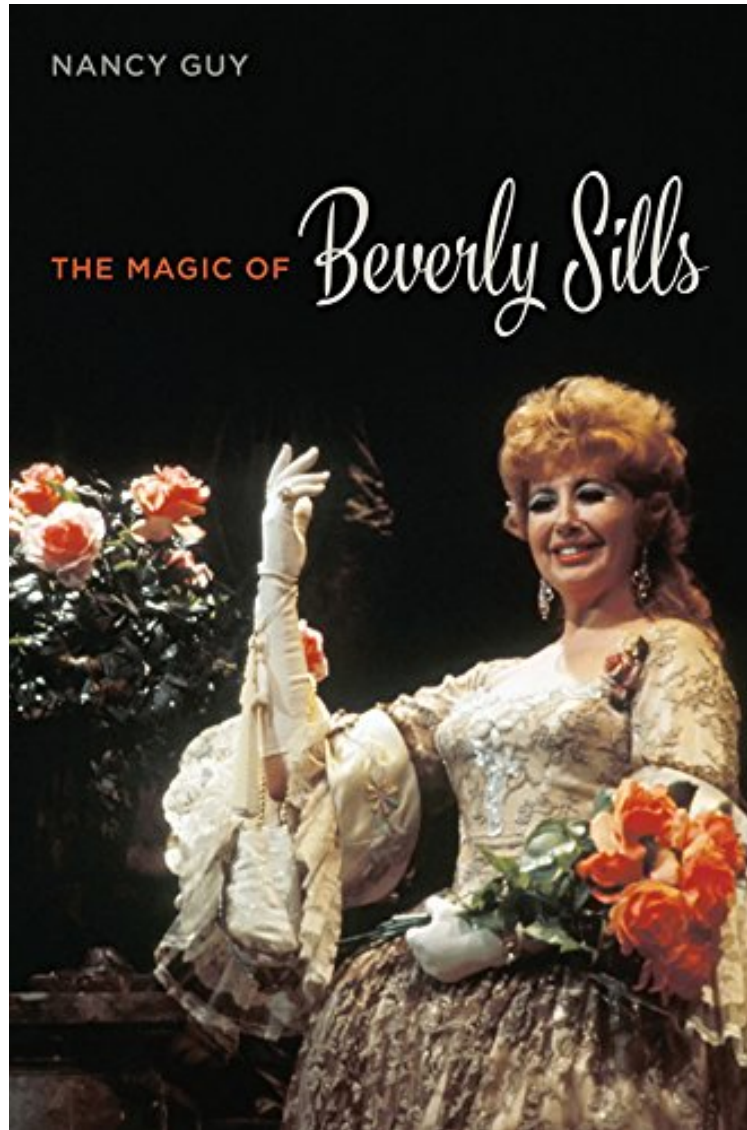


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The Magic of Beverly Sills (Music in American Life)

Nancy Guy

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Nancy Guy : The Magic of Beverly Sills (Music in American Life) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Magic of Beverly Sills (Music in American Life):

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. The Finest Treatise of Any Singer I Have Ever Read By Kindle Customer
Scrupulously researched and written in clear and expressive style, Professor Guy's seminal study of the performance art, vocal technique and stagecraft of the late soprano Beverly Sills will be appreciated not only by fans of the coloratura soprano but by all those interested in late 20th Century performance practices and opera lovers everywhere.
4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. On the face it may look like a biography By B from

Maryland On the face it may look like a biography, but it isn't. While it does chronicle phases of her career, this book's unique perspective is to examine what gave Sills her appeal as an artist, an object of fandom, and beloved public personality. I haven't seen an examination of "star quality" in quite this way before. Kudos to Nancy Guy for a very interesting work. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Bubblicious!....a must-read for opera fans By Elise Curran Wow, what can I say that has not already said about Beverly Sills and Nancy Guy's excellent book? Ms Guy covered areas that I've never seen in any other book on the great singer, and was an extremely interesting read. Even if you are not an opera singer who views Sills as your mentor, as I do, you will enjoy reading this book and getting insight on what artistry in opera really is.

A superb coloratura soprano and down-to-earth personality transformed opera singer Beverly Sills into an unlikely pop culture phenomenon. Seemingly as at home on talk shows as on the stage, Sills personified high art for millions of Americans from the time of her meteoric rise to stardom in 1966 until her death in 2007. Merging archival research with her own love of Sills's music, Nancy Guy examines the singer-actress's artistry alongside the ineffable aspects of performance that earned Sills a passionate fandom. Guy mines the memories of colleagues, critics, and aficionados to recover something of the spell Sills wove for people on both sides of the footlights during the hot moment of onstage performance. At the same time, she analyzes essential questions raised by Sills's art and celebrity. How did Sills challenge the divide between elite and mass culture? What allowed her to find fans across socio-economic lines? Above all, how did Sills capture the unnameable magic that joins the members of an audience to a performer--and to one-another?

About the Author Nancy Guy is an associate professor of music at University of California, San Diego. She is the author of *Peking Opera and Politics in Taiwan* .