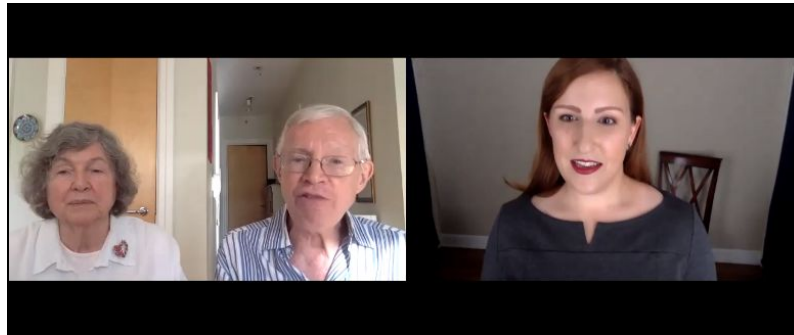


A **Master Class** is a class on a particular artistic discipline, led by an expert in the field, and intended for the development of skills by participants. These are beneficial for musicians and other performers as they cultivate their artistry and stage presence.

Participants (via Zoom Call)

Fabrizio Melano
Stage Director

Laura Melano Flanagan
Psychotherapist



Lauren Auge
Soprano

The **stage director’s** job is to have a unifying vision of a production and to lead everyone involved towards realizing that vision. In this master class Fabrizio Melano leads singer Lauren Auge in her exploration of the character of Mimi from Puccini’s *La bohème*, with insights from psychotherapist Laura Melano Flanagan.

The **aria** (solo song from an opera) in the program is “Si, mi chiamano Mimi” from the opera *La bohème* by Giacomo Puccini. Fabrizio has directed this opera many times and has keen insights on how this character can be portrayed. Below are ideas that will help guide you as you watch this program!

Before you watch: Find a synopsis of *La bohème* and discuss as a class to better understand the video. Speaking of the synopsis, do you know which popular musical* is adapted from this opera?

The time stamps and discussion prompts below are meant to guide you as you watch this presentation. Feel free to pause the video as you reach the discussion points provided.

Initial Performance and Introduction of Character
2:10 – 20:17

2:10 – Lauren first performs the aria. **What are your initial reactions to her voice and character?**

8:32 – Mr. Melano discusses the piece as a narrative instead of an aria. **What are the key components of this character’s narrative?**

18:42 – **How do you feel her singing changed after incorporating their direction?**

Navigation of the Character

20:17 – 39:05

22:51 – The presenters point out that their ideas about Mimi are not the only way to portray her. **The ability to take notes from a director is an important skill for a performer and a key part of the collaborative process.**

26:40 – The presenters and singer discuss the life experiences of the character beyond what is in the text. **How might this make for a richer acting experience?**

32:44 – **How is the music different here than the other parts of the aria?**

The “Ending” and Q&A

39:05 – End

40:33 – **Why is it important to adhere to the score markings?**

51:30 – How can a performer give a truthful performance without being overcome by the emotions they are portraying?

55:47 – **What tips are given to help a performer stay grounded in their storytelling?**

The style of this opera is called *Verismo*, which means “realism.” Often, verismo composers wrote music based on natural speech patterns and combined it with lyrical, soaring melodies. **Choose a few moments where you think Lauren’s singing is exceptionally beautiful and talk as a class about her wonderful vocal technique.**

Enjoy this beautiful singing and seek out other recordings that move you, just like Mimì in this video!

This presentation aligns with the Responding and Connecting National Core Arts Standards:

Anchor Standard #7. Perceive and analyze artistic work.

Anchor Standard #8. Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.

Anchor Standard #9. Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

Anchor Standard #10. Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.

Anchor Standard #11. Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding.