



## Masters in VOICE – “Opera as Drama” A Masterclass with Fabrizio Melano and Laura Melano Flanagan



Monday, December 14 @ 7:00 p.m. Eastern

In this Masterclass, VOICE Experience faculty and renowned opera director Fabrizio Melano, alongside psychotherapist Laura Melano Flanagan work with 2020 Milnes VOICE Studio Artists on dramatic interpretation of their repertoire.

Soprano Lauren Auge, working on Mimi’s Act I aria “Si, mi chiamano Mimi” from *La Bohème* by Giacomo Puccini is a featured artist in this class.

### Biographies

**Fabrizio Melano**, stage director, is an established figure on the international opera scene, having worked in leading opera houses throughout the world for more than 40 years. He began a long-standing relationship with the Metropolitan Opera in 1969 and has directed 21 operas there, among them seven new or revised productions. He directed Tony Randall in his last play, Pirandello's *Right You Are*, with the National Actors Theater and staged a new musical, *Asylum*, at the York Theater Company. In April 2010, Juilliard presented his production of *Dialogues des Carmélites*, and the Met and Juilliard his staging of *Armide* in February 2012. He is a member of the Milnes VOICE Programs faculty, participating annually in Opera as Drama and the Milnes VOICE Studio.

**Laura Melano Flanagan** is a psychotherapist in private practice with offices in Manhattan and Brooklyn. She received her Master’s in Social Work from Hunter College and a Certificate from the Advanced Institute for Psychoanalysis. She has taught in the Post Masters Programs at both Hunter and NYU and is a long-standing adjunct faculty professor at the Smith College School for Social Work. She is also a Field Faculty Advisor for the Smith interns who are placed in various agencies in New York. She is the co-author of the psychodynamic theory textbook *Inside Out and Outside In*, the fifth edition of which will be released in 2020.

Laura’s involvement in working with young opera singers began over a decade ago when she started working with her brother, Fabrizio Melano, in the Sherrill Milnes VOICE Experience “Opera as Drama” program in New York City. Since then, she has become part of the VE faculty, continuing to coach, work on productions, and give Masterclasses both in New York and Savannah. She has also worked with Fabrizio in the Juilliard productions of *Dialogues of the Carmelites* (in which, to her great delight, she got to play a nun for two days) and *Armide*. Recently Laura has provided psychological consultation to OperaRox for the company's newly commissioned opera *Ghost Variations*, which will be produced in 2020. Aside from psychotherapy Laura’s greatest joy in life is helping young singers deepen their psychological understanding of the characters they play, and sometimes even of themselves!

**Lauren Auge**, soprano, is a versatile performer hailed for her ability to “offer something transformative to the audience.” An alumna of the Lyric Opera of Kansas City’s Resident Artist program, she made her Kauffman Center debut as Countess Ceprano in *Rigoletto*. Ms. Auge was a 2019 Fellowship Artist with the Atlantic Music Festival where she was seen in frequent concert exploring classic song literature, newly composed music and operatic roles such as Contessa from *Le nozze di Figaro* and Queen Elizabeth from *Maria Stuarda*. Recent performances included her premiere performances as First Lady in Landlocked Opera’s production of Mozart’s, *Die Zauberflöte*.

The Masters in VOICE program is supported in part by Georgia Council for the Arts through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. Georgia Council for the Arts also receives support from its partner agency – the National Endowment for the Arts.



**Coming Up... VOICES That Heal: Music in a Time of Change  
Tuesday, December 15 @ 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. Eastern  
<https://www.hospicesavannah.org/voicesthatheal/>**

Hospice Savannah is proud to partner with the Savannah VOICE Festival to present a series of informative “listening labs” featuring songs and music from various genres which comfort, soothe and heal the soul. This listening lab features the Festival’s Education and Outreach Coordinator, Chad Sonka, and our former Certified Music Therapist, Sara Breyfogle MS, LPMT, MT-BC.