



Tuition Free & Stipends

PREPARE AND PERFORM
A COMPLETE ROLE
in New York City
May 28 to July 11, 2017

Photos by Jen Joyce Davis

TWO COMPLETE OPERAS

Fully staged and costumed with orchestra at
The Kaye Playhouse at Hunter College
68th St. between Park and Lexington Avenues

Operas to be performed:

**Bizet's *Carmen*
and**

**Puccini's *Suor Angelica/Gianni Schicchi*
AUDITIONS**

New York City

Dec. 16, 17, 18 2016

Jan. 06, 07, 08, 27, 28, 29 2017

Feb. 03, 04, 05, 10, 11, 12 2017

Michigan State University

Nov. 19 & 20, 2016

University of Colorado - Boulder

TBA

- **PROGRAM SESSIONS:**
Individual Coachings
- Opera Workshop (stage movement, character motivation)
- Role Class (probe character, historical context)
- Language Study
- Libretto Study - "*Speak Your Part*"
- Recitative Study
- Staging / Combat Staging
- Masterclasses

**New York Times Review - *La Bohème*
- Anthony Tommasini, July 2016**

These are the roommates we meet in Puccini's "La Bohème." And since the 1896 premiere of this timeless opera, young people — especially young people in the arts — have seen themselves in the story and identified with these bohemian characters.

It's happening again at the Kaye Playhouse, where on Thursday night, a cast of gifted, eager young singers, mostly taking on these touchstone roles for the first time, performed in a simple, traditional but touching production presented by the Martina Arroyo Foundation. In retirement, Ms. Arroyo, the beloved American soprano, has fostered the careers of singers through her foundation.

This "Bohème" and a staging of "Die Fledermaus" this weekend are offered through the foundation's Prelude to Performance program. For six weeks, participating singers received coaching in everything from character development to stage combat.



My guess is that it didn't take too much work to help these young singers understand Puccini's characters, especially Jessica Sandidge, who brings a melting soprano voice and vulnerability to Mimi, the winsome seamstress stricken with tuberculosis, and Dangelo Diaz, a Peruvian tenor whose smoky colorings and ardency were well suited to Rodolfo, the poet. The two lovers fall for each other during the most convincing love-at-first-sight scene in all of opera.

This cast (with Jeff Byrnes, as Marcello the painter; Chunfeng Li, as Colline the philosopher; and Jose Rubio, as Schaunard the musician) enacted these scenes with boisterous energy and charm. Claire Coolen makes a coquettish, bright-voiced Musetta, a singer and Marcello's on-again-off-again girlfriend.

With Willie Anthony Waters conducting, and a fresh-faced, fresh-voiced cast, this "La Bohème" delivered

Testimonial:

"Each summer I am impressed, delighted and so grateful for the incredible growth opportunity that Prelude to Performance provides for young emerging professional singers. The program is unique in its firm goal to empower young singers to strengthen and unify their vocal and dramatic gifts through performance and intense role preparation. In working with top level professionals who deeply understand the art form in all its facets, the singers are given the information, inspiration, and thankfully, the much needed permission to create a role. This program offers an essential, indispensable part of the artistic jigsaw puzzle for the young singer to tap into the courage, imagination and their musical and dramatic generosity.

Every student of mine has grown immeasurably through their experiences at Prelude to Performance. I have also seen my valued colleagues students thrive as well. THIS IS THE FUTURE OF OPERA. I truly believe that one of the most well thought out mission statements of this program that I never take for granted is that Ms. Arroyo, the Ruckers and the wonderful staff and faculty honor the talent of the young singers as they are at this moment in time and the particular support team the singers themselves have chosen. They are not overwhelmed with endless, confusing, contrary, undigestible bits of vocal technical information and often a barrage of often ego-driven opinions that only result in a feeling of insufficiency before the curtain goes up...." - Arthur Levy - Vocal Instructor

For more information please
call 212-315-9190
or go to our website

www.martinaarroyofdn.org/preludetoperformance.html

or email
info@martinaarroyofdn.org
to apply go to
www.yaptracker.com

