

Taconic Opera

STUDENT PERFORMANCES: SELECTION OF TEACHER COMMENTS

“Thank you for the wonderful opportunity offered to my students on April 22 [*Dona Flor & Suor Angelica*.] Both shows were very professional and the setting was so intimate that the kids could really understand the immense amount of work that goes into mounting something like this. Your opera program is a hidden treasure, and I'm very blessed to have 'discovered' the Taconic Opera through my principal, Dr. Moran. Thank you again and please let me know of any opportunities in the future. We will definitely be there!!”

- James Gedge, *Eastchester Middle School*

“Thank you so much for the incredible performance. The children were very impressed! It is RARE that our students are exposed to culture of this nature, and we are glad for the opportunity to broaden their horizon and experience. Hopefully, it will inspire them to attend future cultural performances. There was not a student who did not express their appreciation and amazement about how a human voice without microphones could project such strength and melody. We really appreciated the personalized introduction at the beginning of the opera which set the stage for the performance. We are looking forward to a continuing relationship with you in the years to come.”

- Carmela Cevetillo, *Gorton High School, Yonkers*

“I would like to thank you for the very positive experience we had at yesterday's viewing of *Tosca*. The students were VERY WELL PREPARED, due to the wonderful pre-show materials you supplied us with. The YouTube links were especially helpful, giving them a glimpse of what is to come. Many of my students had never attended an opera before and most of them left the experience with comments of “thank you” and “that was great!” It was wonderful to see the students excited about opera. The woman playing the role of *Tosca* was appealing because of her beauty and most of all, her great talents both as a singer and actress. I believe this is what made the students really love the opera. Thank you for having us, and we hope to return annually.”

- Carol Arrucci, *Blue Mountain Middle School*

“Thank you for the opportunity that your organization provided to my students. By sending me the Booklet *Opera Etiquette and All About Supertitles*, the *Synopsis*, and the background information about the composers and the historical backdrop of the operas, the students were prepared for the experience. For all the students that I took, it was the first time they got a chance to enjoy an opera. The following day we debriefed and discussed the experience. The comments from these “teenagers” were great and very positive.”

- America Santiago-Vazquez, *Gorton High School*

“It [*Nabucco*] was great! The students enjoyed it very much as well. We were pleased to hear and see how excited they were about opera. You definitely changed the mind of those who easily would say “I do not like opera.” Thank you and good luck!”

- Josephine Circosta, *Soundview Preparatory School*

TEACHER COMMENTS continued...

“The performance [*Nabucco*] was outstanding! The cast was superb, and Abigail - what a voice! The Opera was powerful, the way it should be. The encore - my favorite - and the extra touch...the Italian super titles. I did sing along! I was at the MET on Sept. 27, no encore and the soprano was not at her best...the whole thing lacked power. Nabucco without the encore is inconceivable. My students enjoyed it very much and I thank you so much for the invitation.”

- *Maria Battipaglia, Harrison High School*

“We truly enjoyed the "Nabucco" performance. Our Mahopac H.S. Italian Club attends opera performances at the Met and I have to tell you that we were impressed with the quality of the singers and the orchestra. Our high school students truly enjoyed the experience. On behalf of us club co-advisors/teachers and our students, Yvonne Viebrock and I would like to thank you profoundly for this rewarding experience and your dedication to the performing arts. We are looking forward to attending again in the future. Grazie Mille!”

- *Yvonne Viebrock & Luciano Racco, Mahopac High School*