

Character Development Sessions with Nic Muni

I am offering a four-session online series on Character Development at a total cost of \$100, payable by Venmo, PayPal or check. The artist can choose a character he/she will be performing or is just curious about. We can also work through audition arias and art songs.

Key topics we will cover in this series:

- 1) Review the translation. Not just for basic meaning, although we will review that as we move through the text, but more importantly we will consider secondary and tertiary definitions (such as the verb *godere* in Italian), identify antiquated/poetic words and idioms, explore potential interpretive meaning for particular uses of verb tenses and elaborate upon special historical/mythological references (such as the mention of Prime Minister Guizot in *La bohème* and the goddess Hebe in *La Traviata*).
- 2) Review all original source material, such as the Beaumarchais *Figaro* trilogy
- 3) Explore historical context, mining it for potential interpretive choice-making. For example, the three phases necessary to complete a marriage (the contract, the church ceremony and the consummation) which has special bearing, for example, on the character and behavior of Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*.
- 4) Discussing and deciding upon objectives for each critical scene— understanding that these may alter depending on the particular production but enabling you to enter a production or perform an audition with a specific plan.
- 5) Creating subtext for critical scenes and/or moments within an aria.
- 6) Discuss and experiment with the physical reality of your character and how you can apply this specificity while maintaining vocal integrity.
- 7) How to do targeted research, so you are not being overwhelmed but at the same time can discover pertinent, useful information to develop your interpretation.

Each session will last about an hour or so and we can space them out to suit your schedule. There will be some preparatory work to do, such as translating every line your character utters *or hears from other characters* prior to our first session. You will be expected to read original source material. There will be some research into historical context—we will keep these very focused and targeted.

Nic Muni

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