

MUS E596 – Advanced Role Preparation Course - FALL 2001

Steps in Preparing Your Role

***Historical Research**

- social situation
- literary influences
- composer
- librettist
- look at opera from perspective of the period in which it was written (stage directors will have their own interpretations which you'll have to adapt to when you are presented with them)

***Read libretto to get overview of opera**

***Translate entire score**

- **WORD FOR WORD (written underneath each word of original)** translation of everything your character says/hears on stage - **PLEASE DO YOUR OWN TRANSLATION**
- loose translation of all that is said when you aren't on stage

***Listen to recordings**

- not to learn role, but to get overview of opera
- to become familiar with orchestration so you'll know the vocal demands)

***Try to listen to / watch theatre in the original language of the opera**

***Style**

- music
- physicality
- costumes of the period (how would they effect your movement/physicality)
- artwork of the period (museums)

Questions we must answer about the character by the end of the semester:

- Where did he/she come from?
- What is he/she like?
- How does he/she differ from "original" character?
- How does he/she change during opera?
- Where is he/she going?
- Where/when does he/she live?
- What are the mores of the period?
- What are you based on?
- How are you perceived by those around you?
- What do you learn as the character develops?
- What does the audience know that you don't?
- Who are some of the past great interpreters of the role?
- What was their contribution to the role and what special qualities of voice did they have to help the character?