

250 INNER CITY KIDS ATTEND AMAHL PERFORMANCE

Grants totaling \$9,500 from the Bettina Baruch and Mary Duke Biddle Foundations enabled more than 250 children from nine different after school service programs to attend their first live opera. Youngsters came from as far away as The Bronx and East Harlem, and from as nearby as Chelsea's Hudson Guild to see this favorite holiday show. Before each performance, Maestro Aufiero introduced the audience to orchestral instruments. Instrumentalists then played a few

C. David Morrow (King Melchior) joins children who attended the special children's matinee.



Eapen Leubner (King Kaspar) greets matinee audience youngsters. measures that represented the

musical theme of the opera's various characters. A good time was had by ALL!

GRANTS TICKETS DONATIONS

Chelsea Opera's "support pyramid" graphically demonstrates the importance of donations from individuals. Ticket sales cover a scant 27% of production expenses, especially because of our commitment to keep ticket prices low. Chelsea Opera is a partnership that could not exist without the support of our generous donors.

Please become a donor by sending your gift to **Chelsea Opera - PO Box 277, Old Chelsea Station, New York NY 10011**. Or visit www.NYCharities.org to make a secured on-line credit card donation. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Chelsea Opera, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, is registered with the New York State Charities Bureau.



Become eligible to win **2 FREE TICKETS** to Don Giovanni opening night. Answer **DaPONTE QUIZ QUESTIONS** on-line.

UP NEXT: DON GIOVANNI

Chelsea Opera presents its first two-act opera, *Don Giovanni*, by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart on May 16-19. Opera lovers and music professionals agree this is the world's most perfect opera. **Maestro Carmine Aufiero** explains why he believes that is true: "*Don Giovanni* represents a perfect synthesis of text (poetry), music, drama, and philosophy. The characters exist together in the world of the story unfolding on the stage in front of our eyes as well as in our unconscious. The music and drama reinforce each other's impact on both our outer and inner sensibilities in a way that very few other works of art can."



One of Don Giovanni conquests is Donna Elvira. After only three days of marriage, he has abandoned her. Still, she continues to chase after him. We asked **Anna Niedbala** (who returns for her 2nd engagement with Chelsea Opera) what drives this woman. "Elvira is all too human, ashamed of what has happened to her. Through her torment, she focuses her energy on trying to 'save' others from the same fate. Yet, no matter what her rational mind tells her, her heart still aches for him, hoping he will realize that she is the special one who has enough love to save him from himself."



The Mozart/DaPonte opera is deeply rooted in the legend of "Don Juan," notably dramatized by Tirso de Molina [1584-1648] and "The Stone Guest," a popular folk tale. People were familiar with various versions of the stories, thanks to numerous touring Commedia dell'Arte troupes as well as plays by Molière among others.

How does one portray Don Giovanni, the symbol of the ultimate seducer? **Peter Kim**, cast in the title role, explains: "Don Giovanni is considered 'evil' because we do not approve of his actions, especially his treatment of women. But I think he believes he is simply misunderstood and his self-righteousness enables him to face the consequences without shame. The first

step to capturing the essence of his character is to accept him as a person who has extreme needs."

Don't understand Italian? Never been to an opera before? Wish you knew the plot BEFORE getting to the theater? Then join us for....



a fun, informative discussion with music, refreshments and wine, of course, sponsored by Wine Cellars Sorbet.

WEST VILLAGE CHORALE AND CHELSEA OPERA OFFER GREAT OPERA SCENES CONCERT

Chelsea Opera and the West Village Chorale will join together for a spectacular concert of opera's more elaborate choral scenes. Among the concert's offerings are the Easter chorus from *Cavalleria Rusticana* and the entire second act of *La Bohème*. Maestros **Carmine Aufiero** and **Michael Conley** (WVC) will share the podium.

The collaboration came about thanks to mezzo soprano **Jaylan Turkkan**, a member of both WVC and the CO Ensemble. "Singing with WVC gives me an opportunity to explore the breadth of choral literature. This music stretches you to the limits of tuning. By high contrast, performing in a quality chamber opera ensemble lets me 'cut loose.' Opera requires passion and exuberance and I can sing my heart out without apology." Join us on **Friday, June 15th at 8PM at The New Church**, 114 East 35th Street for this exciting collaboration.

COMING NEXT:



2007-2008 SEASON

Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* Nov 7-10, 2007
Moore's *The Ballad of Baby Doe* May/08

order tickets on-line today
www.ChelseaOpera.org/tickets