

PS 206/Bx Kids at Gianni Schicchi



The Gianni Schicchi cast greeted students who took part in CO's "Opera After School" program at PS206 in The Bronx, in collaboration with Good Shepherd Services.

"OPERA AFTER SCHOOL"

Fifteen students from PS 206Bx attended three 90-minute classes to learn more about music, opera and *Gianni Schicchi* before coming to our matinee performance. As Sr. Paulette LoMonaco, Executive Director of Good Shepherd Services (the organization which runs the after school program at PS 206Bx) wrote: "Music and arts funding has been cut, leaving a great number of children without the opportunity to be exposed to different types of music. The children really enjoyed seeing how everything came together at the performance." The children were particularly fond of Betto's comic antics, didn't like "mean" Aunt Zita, and were totally enthralled by Lauretta as she pleaded for help from her father. The program was funded by grants from The Bettina Baruch and The Mary Duke Biddle Foundations.

A LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES: COSTUMING AN OPERA

What goes into costuming a show with 25 or more singers of varying sizes, some of which share both a role and the costume? Early on, Chelsea Opera was fortunate to learn about the TDF Costume Collection where professionally made costumes are available for low-fee, short-term rental.

Support Chelsea Opera with your tax-deductible gift today. **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.

The Costume Collections' goods are rarely sized so each item must be measured in the hope of finding just the right fit, color and style for the character and the period. Each cast member then comes in for a private fitting at TDF's West 26th Street site. If the costume doesn't fit, the hunt begins anew, but this time with an urgency to find an immediate replacement: singers usually squeeze in the fitting on their lunch hour from their day jobs! Once all the costumes are selected, TDF draws up the rental agreement, often totaling more than \$1,000. At the show's end, costumes are cleaned and returned to TDF or to storage. When an opera is set in a more contemporary period, the city's thrift stores become a great resource.



Jean-Paul Björlin as Gherardo (Gianni Schicchi) in rented Renaissance wear from the TDF Costume Collection. The color palette was reminiscent of the restored frescos seen in the magnificent Duomo in Orvieto, Italy.

Luigi Boccia as Don Ottavio, in a vest worn by Tatiana Troyanos at The Met in Der Rosenkavalier, from TDF's Special Collections.



Anna Niedbala as Lola (Cavalleria Rusticana) in a beautiful two-piece period gown, rented from the TDF Costume Collection.



Pagliacci ensemble members in donated hats and "1950s" costumes found in thrift stores.



A new American classic: The Ballad of Baby Doe

The 1880 American West is booming from silver ore-filled mines discovered daily. A 26-year old, petite, blonde arrives in Leadville, CO and meets Horace Tabor, 30 years her senior. Smitten, he finagles a divorce from Augusta, his wife of 23 years, and marries Elizabeth "Baby" Doe. This true story couldn't be more dramatic if it had been written for a novel. It tells of Tabor's rise to become one of the richest men in America and his sad fall into destitution, with the woman once labeled a shameless hussy always by his side. After his death, she became the bearer of his legacy until 1935 when she was found frozen to death, arms across her chest, having never given up hope that their beloved Matchless Mine would rise again! Don't miss this 50th anniversary production of an amazing opera: *The Ballad of Baby Doe*.

COMING SOON

Tenor **Luigi Boccia** and Pianist **Carmine Aufiero** present a program of Paolo Tosti and other great Italian art songs.

All proceeds from this performance benefit Chelsea Opera's Production Fund.



March 29, 2008 – 7PM

CELEBRATE THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
NYC PREMIERE

Chelsea Opera Presents



May 15-17, 2008 – 7:30 PM

May 18, 2008 – 3:00 PM

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