

***La Traviata* Assignment Guidelines**

Working with a partner, review three productions (performance designs) of a key opening scene from Verdi's opera *La Traviata*, and produce (1) a detailed script and (2) a statement of intent for your very own production of the scene.

Questions you should consider:

When is your opera set and why are you setting it in this historical moment?

What does the stage look like and why?

Who is onstage (and who isn't) at any given point? What are they doing?

Which characters have power and which are powerless? Why? How do you convey this?

Which characters are portrayed positively v. negatively? Why? How do you convey this?

How does musical sound underscore the onstage gestures of your choosing?

GRADING:

Script Originality and Clarity 10pts.

Your script connects staged actions to musical detail, demonstrates an understanding of the opera plot, and offers a creative take on the scene/opera. Your stage directions (*in italics*) are concise, well-edited, and to the point.

- Use the English translation for your script, using the Italian libretto as a reference
- All stage directions should be in italics.
- Open with a short description of the scene onstage.
- You are welcome to include a drawing of the set or costumes, but this is not mandatory.
- NO MORE THAN 4-5 pages including the English libretto, but not the Italian.

Statement of Intent 10 pts.

Your one-page statement of intent clearly explains the broader purpose (or meaning) of your staging choices of this scene.

- 1 inch margins, 12pt. font, double-spaced
- 1 full page with no title or header
- Staple to the back of your script
- You are welcome to include a drawing of the set or costumes, but this is not mandatory.

Partner Work Guidelines

Workload should be evenly distributed between partners. You may choose to co-write in person, edit drafts of one another's writing, or start an online editable document. Starting out with an in-person discussion of the three productions we reviewed is a good idea. Continuing by setting a schedule is a good idea.

Deadline

April 24. Bring a hard copy to class. If you cannot attend the class, email an electronic copy to Lv2252@columbia.edu by 11:59pm on April 23. No extensions.