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### Targeted Masterclass Viewing The New Pedagogical Frontier

It probably seems like sacrilege to even begin discussing this fall before most of us have even finalized our summer plans. Before we can blink, however, vacations and summer programs will be over and college/university, high school, and other private voice teachers will begin strategizing once again how they can more deeply inspire their singers toward becoming true "students of the voice" - students that are not only committed to a regular, substantive practice regimen, but who also hunger to fully understand how their instruments function; how they can wonderfully inspire audiences through their performances; how they can fully integrate freedom, discipline and expression; how they can comprehend and display texts and subtexts that will bring their characters to life; and how they can build successful careers in such a highly competitive field.

#### One of my favorite Renée Fleming quotes regarding singers becoming true and successful performers is when she simply said, "<u>You have to listen</u>."

What this implies is that no single person possesses all knowledge – and the more fully I embrace this as a voice teacher, the more welcoming I am regarding fresh insights and techniques that will simultaneously inform my teaching and stretch my students beyond anything I might have imagined. It is critically important, therefore, that the structure I set up for my students is enabling *them* to embark on their own journey of discovery, informed not only through the information I disseminate in the studio, but by intentionally helping them to begin critically examining the vast wisdom of highly-successful artists in the field.

#### A long-admired book that every voice professional should own is Jerome Hines' "Great Singers on Great Singing," a book generated from personal interviews with 42 of the world's most beloved and world-renowned singers.

The reason this book has been so vitally important to the vocal arts community is because his interviews give the reader an intimate look at what makes a great singer... delivered directly from the mouths of those who have achieved success at the highest level. In Hines' preface, he states,

"This book cannot make sounds for you to imitate, nor can it listen to you sing and make observations, but it can provide you with a wealth of imagery of such diversity that one cannot help but find many things that communicate. In addition to this, one will find much fruitful information regarding the discipline that singers must follow if they want to remain on top in their careers."

(Continued on page 2)

Vocal Masterclassics April/May, 2016 Newsletter Issue #3

# Inside this issue:

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#### Coming in June!

Watch for a change in our pricing structure for individual subscriptions!

VMC will introduce a new six-tier pricing structure that will allow enrollments from a year to as little as one day! Tell your friends & colleagues!

### Targeted Masterclass Viewing The New Pedagogical Frontier (continued)

## In the exact same vein, there is yet another resource where highly critical information from the great singer-teachers of our time is regularly being disseminated: the video-recorded masterclass.

Why are these so important? Because it is in the masterclass—before a live audience—where great artists will typically instruct students in what they feel are THE most important elements to understand and master. Hence, these classes are precious gems of uniquely presented insights regarding breath support, posture, resonance, registration, freedom, discipline, characterization, singing philosophy, auditioning, career choices, and the list goes on and on – critical keys to success that each and every aspiring singer simply must hear, ponder, and assimilate.

#### In any field or business, expertise is gained by mining the wisdom of those who have gone before.

This is why great schools of music continually seek to invite world-class artists as both faculty and guest masterclass professionals – and why we, at Vocal Masterclassics, have developed the Advantage Curriculum. Through the utilization of this exciting new program, teachers have the perfect tool to build intentionally chosen and targeted masterclass viewing and exploration into each student's weekly routine!

TEACHERS—The "Advantage Curriculum" has done all the prep work for you – enabling the <u>immediate</u> implementation of required masterclass viewing as a critical part of each student's overall education. Through 40 carefully chosen, level-appropriate assignments spanning 14 weeks per semester for eight semesters, you can now build a half-hour or more of targeted viewing into the weekly practice regimen for all your students.

In your syllabus instructions, just have your students access their weekly Advantage Curriculum assignment on the Vocal Masterclassics website, and submit their completed forms to you as you require. It's that simple. You may (as time permits in lessons or studio classes) choose to then engage students in discussions regarding their viewing. Whatever you decide, think of the satisfaction it will bring knowing that after four years, your private students will have viewed approximately 56 HOURS of instruction by the greatest singer-teachers of our time. And, as students enter their lessons having been regularly engaged at such a level, it will be like your school has perpetually sponsored masterclasses by such artists as Graves, Te Kanawa, Domingo, Finley, DiDonato, Fleming, and literally hundreds of others — inspiring powerful new levels of on-going discovery during their entire training experience.

As a regular newsletter feature (on page 3), we are delighted to highlight a number of Advantage Curriculum reflections from students presently participating in the program. I invite you to take a moment to read these comments so you may gain a brief, one-week snapshot of just a few of the subjects these students are beginning to address. As you do, imagine what these students will gain and be implementing into their performances after completing their 56 hours!

Indeed, Ms. Fleming had it right when she said, "You have to listen." How exciting it is that students now have the tools to systematically and profoundly expand their knowledge through such a manageable addition to their weekly regimen. As in so much of life, however, it is often the small things, when done regularly, that create the greatest impact!

#### Read more about the Vocal Masterclassics Advantage Curriculum HERE.

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!** If you are an individual subscriber and put us in touch with your librarian or department chair, and that contact ultimately results in an Institutional Subscription for your college, university, or other arts institution, we will happily refund your individual subscription cost — even if your subscription is nearing it's renewal date! We look forward to making VMC available to your entire campus! Click <u>HERE</u> to submit an Institutional Subscription Inquiry.

### Advantage Curriculum Reflections - On the Road to 56

Just <u>one half-hour per week</u>/14 weeks per semester/eight semesters/four years = 56!

Each month, we dedicate this column to masterclass insights gleaned from students participating in the ½ hour-per-week VMC <u>Advantage Curriculum</u> – on their way to 56 hours! These student comments underscore the incredible benefits of regular, targeted masterclass viewing. Whether you are a teacher or student, we hope these candid reflections will inspire you to regularly take advantage of this tremendous resource made available through VMC!

1. The masterclass that I chose to listen to today was Sarah Connolly - Von ewiger Liebe (Brahms). The reason I chose this one is because I am planning on singing two Brahms pieces in my junior recital and I wanted to get insight on more of his pieces. Sarah stressed textual accuracy a lot toward really understanding how the words are pronounced and making sure that the pronunciations are correct and the right syllables are being stressed. Once this is accomplished with a vocal coach, she emphasized really understanding the meaning and the emotional ties that go along with the piece. I think this could really tie into my Brahms pieces because the texts are full of deep meaning.

In the first piece, Sarah talked about finding a unified vowel that fits all of the words that are being said.

I think this really addresses what I was working on last semester with the

placement of the "E" and getting everything to have that same sort of sound. One thing she said was over-using the mouth and wasting air on words like "flowers" - the FL just wastes air. Being aware and cautious of those can help save air. Sarah also talked about going up against a wall and pushing your stomach against the wall at the end of a phrase. It will really help work the breath support which is something I really need to focus on this semester.

2. After singing Previn this semester, I have a huge appreciation for his music, and how difficult it can be. One of the first things that James Levine tackles in this masterclass is her getting all of her words out. In Previn's music I have found that I can focus so much on the notes and rhythms that I don't give the words the attention that they need, so in the masterclass he asks the singer to give him 100% more words... and it made such a huge difference! That is something that I always need to keep in my mind. Levine also says that the most important aspect of this form of communication is your own understanding of the text. Not just knowing the context and what the text means and what it is saying, but your point of view on it, your own take. I think this is such a good point, because I can always do better at interpreting the music, especially if it is in another language. In the second video I watched for this week, Thomas Hampson spends a lot of time really picking apart the scene of the song, really figuring out what is happening and why and when. This is such an important thing to do so that when you are singing the piece you know exactly what is going on around you.

It changes the entire song. Both of these masterclasses were very insightful for me.

3. I am so excited about these masterclasses because I love Sondheim, and seeing him work with his own music is incredible. One of the main things that he works on is the characterization of the piece. He obviously is very connected to these characters, so he knows exactly what it should be. In all three of the pieces that I watched during his masterclass session, that is the main thing he addresses, which helps all of the performers so much. He talks with them about where they should look and how they should sing while embracing the emotions. I wish that I could talk and work with every composer that I sing, because first of all, that would be such an honor, and secondly you could sing the song exactly as it was meant to. In all of Sondheim's music the characterization is such a huge part, and the character's thoughts impact the way the piece is to be sung. It has made me realize that I really, really need to make sure that I give the songs and the characterization of them the attention they need to sing them correctly. I will definitely be aware of this next time that I prepare a song. I have so enjoyed these masterclasses this semester.

This is just a taste of what each student learned in just one half-hour of viewing. Imagine what the future holds! Send us your student VMC <u>Advantage Curriculum</u> reflections and we will continue to celebrate them right here in the months to come! Please send them to: keith@vocalmasterclassics.com

#### What's New This Month?

Each of our newsletters will feature listings of the newest masterclasses we have added to the Vocal Masterclassics website. We are pleased to send this to you so you can remain on the cutting edge regarding the latest masterclasses to appear on the internet, and subsequently in our database. As is often the case, many of these have been originally uploaded with very minimal program documentation. Your VMC subscription, however, allows you to enjoy full program delineation and database cross-referencing so you can locate and fully-utilize these videos immediately! We have five-and-a-half pages of posts to tell you about for this publication! Happy exploring!

 Master Class Artist: David Adams, tenor Venue: Schmidt Youth Vocal Competition, University of Kentucky Date: October, 2010 Singer : soprano Title of Song/Aria: Romance From: Deux Romances By: Claude Debussy Genre: French Mélodie

 Master Class Artist: Jaume Aragall, tenor Venue: Escola Superior de Musica de Catalunya Date: July, 2013
 Singer: tenor Title of Song/Aria: La fleur que tu m'avais jetée From: Carmen By: Bizet Genre: French Opera

2a. Singer: mezzo-sopranoTitle of Song/Aria: O Mio FernandoFrom: La FavoritaBy: Gaetano DonizettiGenre: Itailian Opera

2b. Singer: tenorTitle of Song/Aria: Dalla sua paceFrom: Don GiovanniBy: W. A. MozartGenre: Itailian Opera

2c. Singer: tenor
Title of Song/Aria: E lucevan le stelle
From: Tosca
By: Giacomo Puccini
Genre: Itailian Opera

2d. Singer: soprano Title of Song/Aria: Donde lieta usci From: La Bohème By: Giacomo Puccini Genre: Itailian opera

2e. Singer: soprano Title of Song/Aria: Pace, pace mio Dio From: La Forza del destino By: Giuseppe Verdi Genre: Itailian Opera

2f. Singer: tenor Genre: Vocalization 2g. Singer: mezzo-soprano Title of Song/Aria: Va! Laisse couler mes larmes From: Werther By: Jules Massenet Genre: French Opera

 Master Class Artist: Jaume Aragall, tenor Date: Nov. 2014
 Singer: tenor
 Title of Song/Aria: Torna ai felici di
 From: Le Villi
 By: Giacomo Puccini
 Genre: Italian Opera

3a. Singer: tenorTitle of Song/Aria:Rcordi ancora il dì che c'incontrammoBy: Carmelo ErricoGenre: Italian Art Song

3b. Singer: sopranoTitle of Song/Aria: O mio babbino caroFrom: Gianni SchicchiBy: Giacomo PucciniGenre: Italian Opera

3c. Singer: mezzo-soprano Title of Song/Aria: Dich, teure Halle From: Tannhäuser By: Richard Wagner Genre: German opera

3d. Singer: tenor Title of Song/Aria: Recondita armonia From: Tosca By: Giacomo Puccini Genre: Italian opera

3e. Singer: soprano Title of Song/Aria: Vocalise From: Op. 34, no. 14 By: Sergei Rachmaninoff Genre: Russian art song

3f. Singer: soprano Title of Song/Aria: Quando m'en vo From: La Bohème By: Giacomo Puccini Genre: Italian Opera

(Continued on Page 5)

4. Master Class Artist: Billy Joel, composer and pop singer Venue: Southampton Date: July, 2016
Genre: Question and Answer

5. Master Class Artist: Christine Brewer, soprano Venue: Northwestern University – Bienen School of Music Date: May, 2014 Singer: Soprano Title of Song/Aria: Sommertage From: Sieben frühe Lieder, No. 7 By: Alban Berg Genre: German Lieder

5a. Singer: tenor Title of Song/Aria: Im Frühling From: Möricke Lieder By: Hugo Wolf Genre: German Lieder

5b. Singer: soprano Title of Song/Aria: Heimliche Afforderung From: Op. 27, No. 3 By: Richard Strauss Genre: German Lieder

5c. Singer: baritoneTitle of Song/Aria: An Schwager Kronos, D. 369By: Franz SchubertGenre: German Lieder

5d. Singer: soprano Title of Song/Aria: Cäcilie From: Op. 27, No. 2 By: Richard Strauss Genre: German Lieder

5e. Genre: Question and Answer

6. Master Class Artist: Joyce DiDonato, mezzo-soprano Venue: Northwestern University – Bienen School of Music Date: May, 2014
Singer: mezzo-soprano Title of Song/Aria: Ah, scostati....Smanie Implacabili From: Cosi fan tutte
By: W. A. Mozart Genre: Italian Opera 6a. Singer: baritoneTitle of Song/Aria: BefreitBy: Richard StraussGenre: German Lieder

6b. Singer: mezzo-soprano Title of Song/Aria: Dopo notte From: Ariodante By: G. F. Handel Genre: Italian Baroque Opera

6c. Genre: Question and Answer

7. Master Class Artist: Rosana Eckert, jazz singer
Venue: Monterey Jazz Festival
Date: 2008
Genre: Question & Answer regarding jazz - Four Parts

Master Class Artist: Gerald Finley, baritone
 Venue: Guildhall School of Music
 Date: Oct. 2013
 Genre: Question and Answer

9. Master Class Artist: Renée Fleming, soprano Venue: Northwestern University – Bienen School of Music Date: August, 2009 Singer: soprano Title of Song/Aria: Nocturne By: Samuel Barber Genre: American Art Song

9a. Singer: mezzo-sopranoTitle of Song/Aria: Smanie implacabiliFrom: Cosi fan tutteBy: W. A. MozartGenre: Italian Opera

9b. Singer: tenor Title of Song/Aria: Una furtiva lagrima From: L'élisir d'amore By: Gaetano Donizetti Genre: Italian Opera

9c. Singer: bassTitle of Song/Aria: Madamina, il catalogo è questoFrom: Don GiovanniBy: W. A. MozartGenre: Italian Opera

(Continued on Page 6)

 Master Class Artist: Renée Fleming, soprano Venue: Guildhall School of Music Date: February, 2016 Singer: tenor Title of Song/Aria: Heimliche Aufforderung By: Richard Strauss Genre: German Lieder

10a. Singer: mezzo-sop Title of Song/Aria: Parto, ma tu ben mio From: La Clemenza di Tito By: Mozart Genre: Italian Opera

10b. Singer: baritone Title of Song/Aria: In the Silence of the Mysterious Night By: Sergei Rachmaninov Genre: Russian Art Song

10c. Singer: soprano Title of Song/Aria: Je veux vivre From: Roméo et Juliette By: Charles Gounod Genre: French Opera

11. Master Class Artist: Renée Fleming, soprano Venue: Escuela Superior de Canto de Madrid Date: March, 2016
Singer: soprano Title of Song/Aria: Marietta's Lied
From: Die tote Stadt
By: Erich Wolfgang Korngold
Genre: German Opera

11a. Singer: sopranoTitle of Song/Aria: Je marche sur tous les cheminsFrom: ManonBy: Jules MassenetGenre: French Opera

11b. Singer: sopranoTitle of Song/Aria: Ach, ich fühlsFrom: Die ZauberflöteBy: W. A. MozartGenre: German Singspiel

11c. Singer: sopranoTitle of Song/Aria: Glitter and Be GayFrom: CandideBy: Leonard BernsteinGenre: American Operetta

11d. Genre: Question and Answer

12. Master Class Artist: Renée Fleming, sopranoVenue: Guildhall School of MusicDate: February, 2016Genre: Question and Answer

13. Master Class Artist: Richard Goode, pianist
Venue: Northwestern University – Bienen School of Music
Date: April, 2009
Singer: tenor
Title of Song/Aria: Im wundershönen Monat Mai; Aus
meinen Tränen spriessen: Die Rose, die Lilie, die Taube, die
Sonne; Wenn ich in deine Augen see
From: Dichterliebe
By: Robert Schumann
Genre: German Lieder

13a. Singer: sopranoTitle of Song/Aria: Ständchen, Op. 17, No. 2; Ich schwebewie auf EngelsschwingenBy: Richard StraussGenre: German Lieder

13b. Singer: baritone Title of Song/Aria: Mondnacht; Schöne Fremde By: Robert Schumann Genre: German Lieder

13c. Singer: sopranoTitle of Song/Aria: Nocturne; C'est l'extase amoureuxBy: Samuel Barber and Claude DebussyGenre: American Art Song and French Mélodie

14. Master Class Artist: Susan Graham, mezzo-sop
Venue: Northwestern University – Bienen School of Music
Date: January, 2009
Singer: mezzo-soprano
Title of Song/Aria: Noble seigneurs, salut!
From: Les Hugenots
By: Giacomo Meyerbeer
Genre: French Opera

14a. Singer: mezzo-soprano Title of Song/Aria: Voi che sapete From: Le Nozze di Figaro By: Mozart Genre: Italian Opera

(Continued on page 7)

14b. Singer: mezzo-soprano Title of Song/Aria: La Chevelure From: Chansons de Bilitis By: Claude Debussy Genre: French Mélodie

14c. Genre: Question and Answer

 Master Class Artist: Denyce Graves, mezzo-soprano Venue: Northwestern University – Bienen School of Music Date: December, 2008
 Singers: Variety
 Title of Songs/Arias: Variety
 From: Variety
 By: Variety
 Genre: Variety

16. Master Class Artist: Thomas Hampson, baritone
Venue: Northwestern University – Bienen School of Music
Date: October, 2010
Genre: Opening Comments

16a. Singer: tenorTitle of Song/Aria: Wenn ich in deinen augen sehFrom: DichterliebeBy: Robert SchumanGenre: German Lieder

16b. Singer: baritoneTitle of Song/Aria: Auf dem FlusseFrom: Die WinterreiseBy: Franz SchubertGerman Lieder

16c. Singer: sopranoTitle of Song/Aria: Gretchen am SpinnradeBy: Franz SchubertGenre: German Lieder

16d. Singer: baritoneTitle of Song/Aria: Wenn mein Schatz Hochzeit machtFrom: Lieder eines fahrenden GesellenBy: Gustav Mahler

16e. Genre: Question and Answer

 Master Class Artist: Rachel Joselson, soprano Venue: Classical Singer Convention, Boston Date: May, 2013
 Singer: Soprano Title of Song/Aria: Tu lo sai By: Giuseppe Torelli Genre: Baroque Italian Opera  Master Class Artist: Marilyn Horne, mezzo-soprano Venue: Music Academy of the West Date: June, 2015
 Singer: baritone Title of Song/Aria: O du mein holder Abendstern From: Tannhäuser By: Richard Wagner Genre: German Opera

18a. Singer: sopranoTitle of Song/Aria: Presentation of the RoseFrom: Der RosenkavalierBy: Richard StraussGenre: German Opera

18b. Singer: mezzo-soprano Title of Song/Aria: Addio I miei sospiri From: Orfeo ed Euridice By: Christoph Willibald Gluck Genre: Italian Baroque Opera

18c. Singer: tenorTitle of Song/Aria: O del mio amato benBy: Stefano DonaudyGenre: Italian Art Song

19. Master Class Artist: Judith Howarth, soprano
Venue: Musical Odyssey, Greece
Date: July, 2014
Singer: mezzo-soprano
Title of Song/Aria: Seit ich ihn gesehen; Er, der Herrlichste
von allen; Süßer Freund, du blickest mich verwundert an;
Nun hast du mir den ersten Schmerz getan
From: Frauenliebe und Leben
By: Robert Schumann
Genre: German Lieder

20. Master Class Artist: Everett McCorvey, tenor Venue: Schmidt Youth Vocal Competition, University of Kentucky Date: October, 2010 Singer: soprano Title of Song/Aria: Chi vuol la zingarella By: Giovanni Paisiello Genre: Italian Art Song

21. Master Class Artist: Leona Mitchell, soprano Venue: Missouri State University Date: April, 2016 Singer: soprano Title of Song/Aria: Senza Mamma From: Suor Angelica By: Giacomo Puccini Genre: Italian Opera

(Continued on page 8)

22. Master Class Artist: Keith Miller, bass
Venue: University of Central Florida
Date: March, 2011
Singer: bass
Title of Song/Aria: Wer ein Liebchen hat gefunden
From: Die Entführung aus dem Serail
By: Mozart
Genre: German Singspiel

22a. Singer: soprano Title of Song/Aria: The Trees on the Mountain are Cold and Bare From: Susannah By: Carlisle Floyd Genre: American Opera

22b. Singer: tenor Title of Song/Aria: Se tu m'ami By: Alessandro Perisotti Genre: Italian Art Song

22c. Singer: mezzo-soprano Title of Song/Aria: Que fais-tu blanch touterelle From: Roméo et Juliette By: Charles Gounod Genre: French Opera

23. Master Class Artist: George Peckham, vocal coach Genre: Discussion of vocal technique

24. Master Class Artist: Amy Pfrimmer, sop Venue: Missouri State University Date: January, 2016 Singer: soprano Title of Song/Aria: Summertime From: Porgy and Bess By: George Gerschwin Genre: American Opera

25. Master Class Artist: Benjamin Smolder, bass-baritone Venue: Schmidt Youth Vocal Competition, University of Kentucky Date: October, 2010 Singer: soprano Title of Song/Aria: Dein blaues Auge hält so still By: Johannes Brahms Genre: German Lieder 26. Master Class Artist: Sharon Sweet, soprano Venue: Mansfield University Date: 2015 Singer: bass-baritone Title of Song/Aria: Non piu andrai From: Le nozze di Figaro By: Mozart Genre: Italian Opera

26a. Singer: Tenor Title of Song/Aria: O kühler Wald By: Johannes Brahms Genre: German Lieder

26b. Singer: soprano Title of Song/Aria: Ain't it a pretty night From: Susannah By: Carlisle Floyd Genre: American Opera

26c. Singer: soprano Title of Song/Aria: O mio babbino caro From: Gianni Schicchi By: Puccini Genre: Italian Opera

26d. Singer: soprano Title of Song/Aria: Chère Nuit By: Alfred Bachelet Genre: French Mélodie

26e. Singer: baritone Title of Song/Aria: Questo amor From: Edgar By: Giacomo Puccini Genre: Italian Opera

26f. Singer: bass-baritone Title of Song/Aria: La Vie Antérieure By: Henri Duparc Genre: French Mélodie

27. Master Class Artist: Nalalie Weiss, popular singer Venue: Allegra School of Music and Arts Singer: soprano Title of Song/Aria: One Perfect Moment From: Bring it On – The Musical By: Lin-Manuel Miranda Genre: Musical Theater

(Continued on page 9)

28. Master Class Artist: Mauro Trombetta, bass
Venue: Saint Petersburg Conservatory
Date: June, 2011
Singers: soprano/baritone
Title of Song/Aria: Nedda/Silvio Duet
From: I Pagiacci
By: Ruggiero Leoncavallo
Genre: Italian Opera

28a. Singer: soprano Title of Song/Aria: Caro nome From: Rigoletto By: Giuseppe Verdi Genre: Italian Opera

28b. Singer: bassTitle of Song/Aria: Ombra mai fuFrom: XerxesBy: G. F. HandelGenre: Italian Baroque Opera

28c. Singer: soprano Title of Song/Aria: Ecco respiro appena...Io Son L'umile From: Adriana Lecouvreur By: Francesco Cilea Genre: Italian Opera

29. Master Class Artist: Dolora Zajick, mezzo-soprano
Venue: Northwestern University – Bienen School of Music
Date: April, 2010
Singer: mezzo-soprano
Title of Song/Aria: Cruda sorte!
From: L'italiana in Algeri
By: Gioachino Rossini
Genre: Italian Opera

29a. Singer: tenor Title of Song/Aria: Pourquoi me réveiller From: Werther By: Jules Massenet Genre: French Opera

29b. Singer: mezzo-soprano Title of Song/Aria: Stride la vampa From: Il Trovatore By: Giuseppe Verdi Genre: Italian Opera 29c. Singer: mezzo-soprano Title of Song/Aria: Prastite vy, xalmy From: The Maid of Orleans (Leanne d'Arc) By: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky Genre: Russian Opera

30. Master Class Artist: Dolora Zajick, mezzo-soprano Venue: The Voice Foundation
Date: 2015
Singer: contralto
Title of Song/Aria: Lullaby
From: The Consul
By: Gian Carlo Menotti
Genre: American Opera

30a. Singer: bass-baritone Title of Song/Aria: Hai gia vinta la causa From: Le Nozze di Figaro By: Mozart Genre: Italian Opera