



BCA OPERA LECTURE

DONIZETTI'S *ROBERTO DEVEREUX*

APRIL 11 @ 7 PM



An opera lecture series sponsored by the Bedford Center for the Arts will resume on April 11th at 7 pm at First Parish Bedford, with Donizetti's *Roberto Devereux*. David Collins, well-known in opera circles in the greater Boston area, will continue the BCA's fourth year of providing opera lovers' warm-ups for upcoming performances of the Metropolitan opera that are simulcast in local theaters.

Roberto Devereux will be shown in theaters on April 16. *Devereux* is the third opera by Donizetti dealing with Tudor queens. These operas are great challenges for even the best sopranos in grand opera so there is always great excitement when these operas are performed. *Anna Bolena* and *Maria Stuarda* are generally more frequently performed, so a chance to see a performance of *Roberto Devereux* is a rare opportunity.

The opera is based on an historical incident in which *Devereux*, Earl of Essex, was executed for treason sung by a tenor voice. Essex was once a favorite of the Queen and the story is about how he falls out of favor and the events that ensued.

The role of Elisabeth was made famous in the 70's at the New York City opera by Beverly Sills. The current excitement about this opera is that Sondra Radvanovsky who is singing the role of Elisabeth at the Met is completing her "triple crown", by having sung all three of Donizetti's queens. The review of this year's performance by the New York Times indicated that the audience there were ecstatic at the conclusion of the opera and "had just witnessed an emotionally vulnerable and vocally daring performance, a milestone in the career of an essential artist."

David Collins will explore the plot and historical background of the opera with music and videos including singers of the past who were famous for their portrayal of the role of Elisabeth. Bob Bass, coordinator of the Opera Lecture series commented that "we are especially excited about this lecture because it will prepare us to see the 'live in HD telecast' of perhaps the most exceptional performance of the year at the Met and one that will stand beside other famous events over the history of the Metropolitan Opera."

Lectures are held in the Bacon Room overlooking the town green in First Parish. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Individuals wishing to attend can send a check made payable to the Bedford Center for the Arts, to Bob Bass, 42 Fletcher Road, Bedford, MA 01730. The cost is \$15/individual for BCA members, \$20 for others. Online registration is available at <http://bedfordarts.wildapricot.org>.