

In terms of developing your actor skills through this project, we'll **begin by discussing the libretto as a whole:**

- Develop some context for what was happening when the piece was written, both in the larger society and in the composer's/librettist's/performer's/patron's life.
- We'll then begin to discuss what we believe about how the story and characters would've been viewed and received at the time of the premier, and balance that with our own contemporary observations and opinions about the story and characters.

You'll then create a character profile:

- If you're preparing your role for a production in which you've been cast, many of your decisions about your character will be influenced by the director's concept. If you're preparing the role on your own, you can adopt a concept you've seen, or make up one of your own.
- Again, we'll delve into the expectations that the composer/librettist/stagedirector might've had for describing the character, their role in the story, and their role in the opera (two very different aspects of preparation).
- Please look into who played this role in the original performances, and in any really notable performances since then – this can be extremely revealing.

General considerations:

- Please copy your coach on your work, as this will inform them of your preparation without losing precious coaching time, and allow them to more fully bring their own perspectives to many aspects of this work.