



Bedford Center for the Arts

presents an opera lecture about

Pagliacci and Cavalleria Rusticana

April 13 ~ 7 to 9 pm

Opera lovers are invited to the Bedford Center for the Arts (BCA) final opera lecture in this year's series on Monday April 13, 7-9 pm in the Bacon Room of First Parish Church in Bedford.

The lecture will be held in the Bacon Room, First Parish Bedford. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. To register, send a check (*made payable to Bedford Center for the Arts or BCA*) to Bob Bass, 42 Fletcher Road, Bedford. BCA Members, \$15. Non-members, \$20.

For more information, contact Bob Bass at rbass5@comcast.net.

This lecture will cover two one-act operas that are often performed together: the well-known *Pagliacci* by Leoncavallo and its mate in the double-bill, *Cavalleria Rusticana* by Mascagni. These operas will be simulcast in HD from the Metropolitan Opera in local theaters on April 25. Dave Collins, Opera Boston's resident lecturer and well-known Boston opera aficionado, once again will lead the lecture, using video clips and recording to delve into the opera's background and plot.

Pagliacci is actually a play within an opera about an acting troupe which comes into a small town. As they rehearse for the performance it becomes clear to the audience that there is more about the love triangle being performed than the on-stage audience realizes. Fans of opera will recall the touching scene when the

clown (Pagliacci) is applying his make-up before going on stage. In his famous aria, *Vesti la giubba*, probably first sung by Enrico Caruso, the clown cries as he tells himself that he should laugh, because the show must go on even though his heart is broken. The ending is tragic, but the beautiful music is very touching.

Cavalleria Rusticana is another fated love story. Some of the music that is most often played in the concert repertoire from this opera is the lovely and quiet intermezzo that occurs just before the final scene in the opera. Because the pair of operas are more often performed together than separately, it has been known in the opera world as Cav and Pag. Bob Bass, coordinator of the lecture series, remarked that these two operas seem meant for each other and the Met has paired many times since their premier in 1893.”

In addition to his work with Opera Boston, Collins has provided courses and lectures at many educational institutions in the greater Boston area, including MIT, Northeastern, Regis College, and the Adult Education Programs of both Boston and Cambridge. He has degrees from Boston and Lesley Universities and he studied at both the Hart School of Music in Hartford and the New England Conservatory of Music.