

1) I worked for thirty years
as a stage director at the
Metropolitan Opera in New York
(where I was responsible for over
twenty operas and seven new or
revised productions) and also directed
at almost all the opera companies
in North America, several in South
America and a few European ones
like the Opéra de Monte Carlo.

Interestingly enough, I was Maria Callas'
assistant for the one opera ("I Vespri
Siciliani" in Torino) she directed.

I am now staging "Le Bohème" at the
Rijeka Opera, where last year I
already had the good fortune to
become acquainted with Nicoletta Olivieri.

27 and to appreciate her knowledge
of the operatic repertory and her
fascinating personality. Now that I
am working with her I can say
that, apart from being a professional
on the highest level, she is a musician
who reminds me of my mentor, the
late David Stivender, who was undoubtedly
the Metropolitan's greatest chorus master.
Like him, she really knows voices and
always finds the way to improve the
chorus and display it to its best
advantage. She also is full of
love and enthusiasm for her work
and is able to transmit it to the
chorus. A chorus needs to follow

3) Someone like her or David
Stivender to reach the highest
level of performance, Nicoletta
Olivieri is a serious, well-balanced
person who works well on a team
and is also appreciated for her
gentle way of dealing with
everybody.

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Fabrizio Melano

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