

NJRO - Report of November 20, 2011

Eighteen folks graced us with their instruments, enthusiasm and good companionship. Woodwinds: Alice Marcus, Steve Lepp and Doris Danielson on oboes; the two Lauras, Papparatto and Malkin on flutes; two horns, a rare treat: Libby Schwartz and Paul Erickson; a trombone (even a rarer treat!) Kate Yogis; Herb Steiner, Roland Hutchinson, and Dan Daniels held down the first violin fort; seconds to none were Noriko Kubo and Jim Jordan, violas were Ellen Hill and yours truly, celli were Jan Zebovitz and Ruth Lepp. Evan Schwartzman helped cover missing parts on the piano, and Steve Culbertson led us.

Overtures were the selections du jour. Mozart's Magic Flute digressed into a pleasant walk down memory lane. Steve recalled his meeting of Martti Telvala while he was in Finland. Martti's earliest role at the Met was in The Magic Flute. My personal recollection of Martti was at the Met in the title role of Mussorgsky's Boris Gudonov in the late '70's. I recall gasping when he fell down a huge flight of stairs in his death scene. But alas, on-line sources do not bear me out and his You-Tube Gudonov death scene is nothing like that. (Am I hallucinating again?) Martti died in 1989 at only 54 at his daughter's wedding (can't help thinking all those tumbles downstairs didn't do him much good, either!) Digression over, we proceeded to Rossini's Overture zu Oper Die diebische Elster (the thieving magpie) and another Rossini overture, Semiramide, which not only served as an extra rehearsal for any of us playing it with the Metropolitan Orchestra on 12/4, but also produced some wonderful sounds from the horns,



First time we've had a trombonist! Kate Yogis studies her part.



Good to have Roland among the firsts!



And welcome back to Jan Zebovitz, leading the cello section.



The late bass Martti Telvala, native of Finland, made his Met debut in The Magic Flute.