

# Verdi's NABUCCO

## OPERA GROUP DELIGHTS IN VERDI'S THRILLING NABUCCO

"Teatro Lirico D'Europa directed by Giorgio Lalov has in the past two years become a regular and welcome visitor to Boston. This NABUCCO its third production at the Majestic Theatre after AIDA and TURANDOT was its best so far. Conductor Topolov and his orchestra set the tone from the start with a strong and precisely played rendition of the overture. The curtain rose to reveal and handsome, sand colored set populated by tastefully dressed chorus that delivered a vigorous and finely shaped performance of the opening chorus - and later in Act III, a stellar on of the famous "Va pensiero." Bass Ivan Tomasov in the role of Zaccaria had commanding height and a big, dark appealing voice. As Abigaille, Ofelia Hristova used her huge, slightly squally voice to good effect, fearlessly and precisely launching high note after high note while sensibly taking a more conservative approach to the role's lower passages. Her quiet singing of Abigaille's lyrical moments was surprisingly smooth for such a dramatic voice. But if the evening was a triumph for any one individual, it was veteran American baritone, Theodore Lambrinos as Nabucco. Lambrinos made him enormously sympathetic and sang with conviction, sturdiness and real vocal velvet."

*BOSTON HERALD - T. J. Medrek*

## TEATRO LIRICO'S NABUCCO FIT FOR A KING - Syracuse, NY

"Saturday evening's performance of NABUCCO by Teatro Lirico D'Europa was remarkable in terms of the big stuff-the extraordinary vocal presence of the two male leads and the outstanding work of the chorus. Dramatically, the role of Nabucco (Theodore Lambrinos) and Abibaille (Ofelia Hristova), a dramatic soprano, are the most demanding. Musically however, Verdi adds a third significant character to this opera, that of Zaccaria, (Ivan Thomasev). Saturday's magnificent showing by Tomasev and Lambrinos made this performance one to remember. Tomasev possesses a commanding bass and vocal timbre that seethes with vibrant overtones. His bold delivery allowed his voice to soar easily over the chorus in his cavatina in Part I while his tremendous range from rich deep pedal tones to his climatic high F sharp - made him appear almost superhuman. Lambrinos is a magnificent singer with an imposing baritone whose shades of nuance enhance his dramatic posture. Lambrinos had ample opportunity to act, and act he did, stealing the show- and curtain calls. Teatro's chorus was outstanding from start to finish. The popular "Va pensiero" drew profuse applause. Set and lighting designer Topencharov created a handsome sandstone Temple of Jerusalem adorned with a giant menorah in its center column providing suitable background for the action."

*SYRACUSE POST STANDARD - David Abrahms*

## VERDI'S NABUCCO GETS ROUSING REVIVAL

"Monday night Teatro Lirico D'Europa brought the opera NABUCCO to Boston in the first local staging since the Met's tour four decades ago. It was a rousing, full-throated, openhearted performance. Greek American baritone Theodore Lambtinios has been a valiant fighter in operatic campaigns for nearly 40 years. His voice is still resonant and

resilient, and he is an elementally powerful actor. He sang with imagination and emotion and crowned the cabaletta by lofting a ringing high note that brought the house down. He was by some measure preferable to the artist heard in this role in Saturday afternoon's broadcast from the Met. Bass Ivan Tomasev from Belgrade Opera is a towering man with a voice to match; he was commanding as Zaccaria. Ofelia Hristova brought uninhibited temperament to Abigaille. Conductor Topolov knows how to conduct early Verdi. The orchestra played stylishly and there were terrific solos from flute, cello and English horn. The real star of NABUCCO is the chorus and they were superb in "Va pensiero", pouring out beautiful, penetrating tone imbued with depth of feeling." *THE BOSTON GLOBE - Richard Dyer*