

Lecture # 3 - HEROES and QUESTS in OPERA

Monday 10th November at 4 pm



Studies of the role of **HEROES** and **HEROINES** are dominated by the insights of **JOSEPH CAMPBELL** (*the Hero with a Thousand Faces*) and **CARL JUNG** (*the Hero's Journey*).

Father OWEN LEE has reinforced these perspectives with his brilliant analysis of **QUESTS** and questing.

Heroism is characterized by selfless action, often involving personal risk or sacrifice, to benefit others and to serve a noble cause.

By no means all protagonists in opera are heroes, but **FLORESTAN** in Beethoven's *Fidelio*, **RODRIGO** in Verdi's *Don Carlo* fit this profile.

Shakespearean, Wagnerian and most modern heroes are often complicated and flawed or are best understood as **ANTI-HEROES**.

Female heroism is highlighted with unselfishness and compassion – for example **VIOLETTA** in Verdi's *La traviata* or the slave-girl **LIU** in Puccini's *Turandot*.