

OPERA NEWS

NORS: Among six
ipients of this year's
ic from the Americ
of Arts and Letters are com-
ers **LIBBY LARSEN**,
BERT LIVINGSTON
DRIDGE and **RICHARD**
ARGO.... **JOHN HARBI-**
N received the 2000 Harvard
s Medal.... **EILEEN FAR-**
LL will be awarded the Longy
ool of Music's Leonard Bern-
n Lifetime Achievement
ard at a gala at Boston's Sym-
ony Hall on June 19.

ATTHEW POLENZANI,
arle Opera's Almaguira in *Il*
barbiere di Siviglia in May, joins
Minnesota Orchestra's concert
staff (Aug. 4) as Fenton. The
not, who took part in the
ld premiere of *The Great*
Libby at the Met last season,
urns to the house in 2000-01
the new *Fidelio* (Jaquino),
er *Rosenkavalier* (Italian Tenor),
GORY *Fliegende Holländer* (Steers-
cker and), *L'italiana in Algeri* (Lin-
Georgina) and *The Makropulos Case*
ers for (nek). Polenzani also is slated
S CAS take part in the Met Orches-
STIN's performance of Schoenberg's
ER *Liederkreis* at Carnegie Hall
REN (May 6). Meanwhile, he takes
K- to sing Don Ottavio in
K- New York City Opera's *Don*
six *Gianni* (March 25-April 13).
ge- After joining the Met tour of
000 *Don Giovanni* in May 2001, the singer
travels to Germany for concerts
with the Munich Philharmonic,
ON taking part in *Oedipus Rex*,
Traviata and *Otello* perfor-
mances in June and July.

turing Renée Fleming and Dmitri
Hvorostovsky on October 4 at
Avery Fisher Hall. Other vocal
highlights include three recital
series; two offer current stars, the
third a group of rising singers.
Under the New Visions rubric,
Les Arts Florissants brings Purcell's
Dido and Aeneas and M. A.
Charpentier's *Actéon*; Bach can-
tatas are staged by Peter Sellars and
sung by Lorraine Hunt Lieberson;
and a staging of Janáček's *Diary of*
One Who Vanished offers Ian
Bostridge and Ruby Philogene.
Call (212) 721-6500 or visit
www.lincolncenter.org.



BYBEE, HONORING CATHER

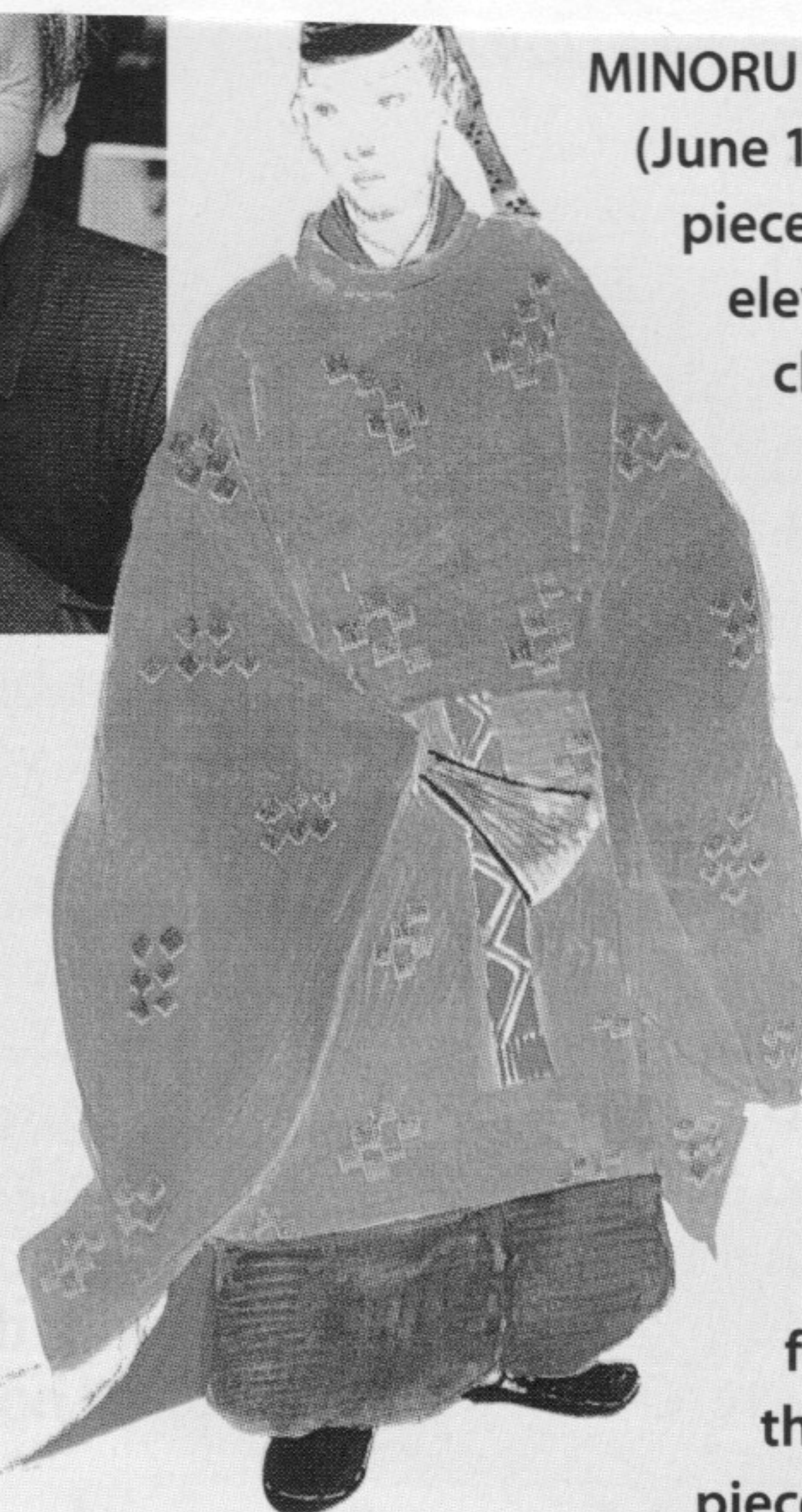
ARIEL BYBEE, who was a
prominent mezzo at the Met for
eighteen seasons, currently is
artist-in-residence in the School
of Music at the University of
Nebraska-Lincoln. She has cre-
ated a program honoring
WILLA CATHER, an alumna
of the same university. The
famous writer was a lifelong
opera-lover who reportedly
attended performances at the
Met two or three times a week
for twenty years. Her famous
novel, *The Song of the Lark*, is
closely based on the life of
Wagnerienne **OLIVE**
FREMSTAD. Bybee's multime-
dia program is being performed
on June 17, at the opening of
the Eighth International Cather
Seminar. The mezzo and some
of her students will perform
arias and songs mentioned and
used allusively in Cather's work.
For details, call (402) 272-8777.



POLENZANI, LYRIC CONTENDER



COMPOSER MIKI
BRINGS
OLD JAPAN
TO STAGE
WITH *GENJI*;
COSTUME
SKETCH, RIGHT,
BY ASAKURA



MINORU MIKI's *The Tale of Genji*
(June 15-25). This commissioned
piece is based on Japan's
eleventh-century literary
classic — possibly the
world's first novel —
which tells of the loves
and adventures of the
Shining Genji, a prince
of incomparable beau-
ty and accomplish-
ment, in the
Heian-period imperial
court. Colin Graham's
libretto is drawn from
the first three parts of
the long novel. This is his
fourth collaboration with
the composer; a previous
piece, *Joruri*, was performed
by OTSL both at home (1985) and in

Tokyo (1988). Miki is well known for his efforts to encourage collabora-
tion among Western, Japanese and other Asian musicians and to inter-
nationalize the use of traditional Japanese instruments. *Genji* will be
conducted by Stuart Bedford and staged by Graham in sets and cos-
tumes designed by Setsu Asakura, with choreography by Kikushiro Onoe.

ISRAEL launches an **INTER-**
NATIONAL OPERA FESTI-
VAL (May 25-June 21) at the
Roman theater in Caesarea.
Turandot and *Elektra* are on the
bill, and Jessye Norman sings a
concert on closing night. Visit
www.israel-opera.co.il for details.

TOSCA 2000, an international,
interdisciplinary conference on
Puccini's opera, sponsored by
Teatro dell'Opera, takes place in
Rome (June 16-18). The event
marks the 100th anniversary of
the piece. For details, visit
www.ToscasRome.com.

HIGHLIGHTS AT THE MET, 2000-01

For its 2000-01 season, the METROPOLITAN OPERA offers house
premieres of Busoni's *Doktor Faust* (Jan. 8-Dalayman; Hampson,
Kuebler, Brubaker, Rose; Levine) and Prokofiev's *The Gambler* (March
19-Guryakova, Obraztsova; Galouzine, Gassiev; Gergiev). *Doktor*
Faust, a coproduction with the Salzburg Festival, is directed by
Peter Mussbach; Erich Wonder (sets), Andrea Schmidt-Futterer (cos-
tumes) and Konrad Lindenberg (lighting) are his collaborators. *The*
Gambler's production team consists of Temur Chkheidze (director),
George Tsypin (sets), Georgi Alexi-Meskhishvili (costumes) and
James F. Ingalls (lighting). The Met marks the 100th anniversary of
Verdi's death with new stagings of *Il Trovatore* (Dec. 7-Mescheriako-
va, Zajick; Shicoff, Frontali, Kavrakos; Rizzi), by Graham Vick, and
Nabucco (March 8-Guleghina, Tarassova; Pons, Armiliato, Ramey;
Levine), by Elijah Moshinsky. A new *Fidelio* (Oct. 13-Mattila; Hepp-
ner, Struckmann, Pape; Levine) is to be directed by Jürgen Flimm.
The season opens on September 25 with *Don Giovanni* (Fleming,
Kringelborn, Hong; Terfel, Groves, Furlanetto; Levine). Among
revivals are *L'italiana in Algeri* and *Lulu*. Special events during the
season are the Pension Fund concert (Oct. 29), featuring Cecilia
Bartoli and Bryn Terfel, a gala concert (Jan. 21) celebrating the 60th
birthday of Plácido Domingo and a gala performance (April 27)
honoring Mirella Freni on the occasion of her farewell appearance
in North America. For details and subscriptions, call (212) 362-6000,
or visit www.metopera.org.