



B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL

June 17, 2014

Peter Gelb
General Manager
The Metropolitan Opera
Lincoln Center
New York, New York 10023

Dear Mr. Gelb,

On behalf of B'nai B'rith International, the most widely known Jewish humanitarian, human rights, and advocacy organization, we write to bring to your attention an issue of deep concern to us.

We were dismayed to learn that the Metropolitan Opera plans to stage the John Adams/Alice Goodman opera "The Death of Klinghoffer" in its fall schedule. This 1991 American opera glorifies the Palestine Liberation Front terrorists who took over the Achille Lauro cruise ship in 1985 and murdered American tourist Leon Klinghoffer.

In your response to a letter from CAMERA, the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting, you wrote of the composer "...he tried to understand the hijackers and their motivations, and to look for humanity in the terrorists, as well as in their victims." It is even further disconcerting that you would seek to establish any moral equivalence between Klinghoffer and the brutal terrorists who murdered him.

That the Metropolitan Opera would not only provide a platform for such polemics, but further transmit the staged performance to theater screens around the world, is quite disturbing. This opera crosses a line of artistic expression and becomes a promotion for a political position, all while the Met willingly enables this false narrative to reach a potential audience of hundreds of thousands.

B'nai B'rith International calls on the Metropolitan Opera to publicly acknowledge the tasteless choice to run an opera sympathetic to terrorists and to withdraw this show from its fall schedule.

Sincerely,

Allan J. Jacobs
President

Daniel S. Mariaschin
Executive Vice President

THE GLOBAL VOICE OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY
www.bnaibrith.org