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Honor and Fatalism in Verdi's *Il Trovatore*

Jack Hanlon
Illinois Wesleyan University

Adriana Ponce, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

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Music Presentation

Honor and Fatalism in Verdi's *Il Trovatore*

Jack Hanlon and David Vayo*
School of Music, Illinois Wesleyan University

Giuseppe Verdi's 1853 opera *Il Trovatore* has long stood as one of the premier dramas of the nineteenth century for its compositional craftsmanship and its remarkable, quintessentially Romantic story line. Leading research thus far on *Il Trovatore* has largely focused on the overall structure, pacing, harmonic language, and individual characters of the opera. This paper takes such research farther via the means of both textual and musical analysis in order to demonstrate the complexity of the characters' relationships and to discern an underlying moral philosophy present in the opera. More specifically, it shows that Verdi's opera draws an inverse relationship between the leading men's sense of honor and their ability to express authority over their situation. To draw such a connection, Verdi ascribes multiple, distinct roles for each character, and it is the interplay between each role within each character and between other characters that ultimately defines the *tinta* of the entire work.