



Apr 9th, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Honor and Fatalism in Verdi's *Il Trovatore*

Jack Hanlon
Illinois Wesleyan University

Adriana Ponce, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>



Part of the [Music Commons](#)

Hanlon, Jack and Ponce, Faculty Advisor, Adriana, "Honor and Fatalism in Verdi's *Il Trovatore*" (2011). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 3.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2011/music/3>

This Event is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

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.