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Abstract: Verdi's Artistic Concerns and Practical Considerations in the Composition of *I masnadieri*: a Newly-Discovered Version of "Tremate, o miserî"

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For aesthetic and pragmatic reasons that differed according to varying circumstances, Verdi often modified his musical-dramatic conceptions during the course of an opera's composition. *I masnadieri* (1847) has proved especially enlightening in evaluating influences on Verdi's compositional decisions at various stages in the opera's genesis. Verdi's revisions in *I masnadieri* reflect his concerns with fulfilling his aesthetic principles and satisfying the practical circumstances at hand.

Three significant revisions from *I masnadieri* are discussed in this paper. The first involves Verdi's resoring of the Act III duet for the soprano, Amalia, and the tenore, Carlo. The second focuses on the revised fioriture and transposition of Amalia's Act I cavatina, "Lo sguardo avea degli angeli". The third, and by far the most revealing, revision centers on a newly discovered early version of the baritone, Francesco's, Act I cabaletta, "Tremate, o miserî". A comparison of Verdi's recomposition of this number with his early setting encapsulates many of his artistic concerns and practical considerations found on a smaller scale elsewhere in *I masnadieri*. Reflecting Verdi's choices in matters of text declamation, melodic contour and character, structural articulation or continuity, internal proportional relationships, dramatic propriety, accommodation of a singer's vocal abilities, and adaptation of the music to stage movement; the two version of the cabaletta provide an opportunity to assess motivations that prompted the composer's compositional choices.

By investigating how Verdi reconciled his increasingly demanding aesthetic values with the often absurd, inflexible demands of the *ottocento* opera world -- without destroying his creation in the process but rather improving it; the study of the genesis of *I masnadieri* affords a glimpse into the complexities of his creative world.