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STAGE

Zanetto

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Below is an excerpt of a review from *The Stage*:

The [Festival of the Aegean] revealed Tiboris to be a fine conductor. The overtures went with a swing, while he was a considerate colleague to his singers.

Highlights included Todd Geer's deftly shaped *Cielo e mar* (*La Gioconda*), firm of line and free at the top; and William Power's powerful, deeply moving performance, the more harrowing for its restraint, of Philip II's great soliloquy '*Ella giammai m'amo*' (*Don Carlo*).

Zanetto is a two-hander, in which Silvia ("a widow and poor", as she describes herself), yearning for true

love, meets romantically with the wandering musician Zanetto, in thrall to freedom. She declines his offer to remain with her. The opera is a lightly sketched discourse on right choices in life.

Mascagni's deft, seamlessly tuneful score, not yet verismo, aptly traces the libretto's subtextual implications, important since the work is largely a talk-piece. Jennifer Larmore, singing with warm, vibrant tone, successfully catches Zanetto's knowing yet attractive youthfulness.

To read the entire review, please go to:

<http://www.thestage.co.uk/reviews/review.php/17455/zanetto>