

Priscilla Compton
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Glendale, California 91206-3448

Mr. Travis Edward Pike
1746 South Kingsley Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90006-5210

June 28, 2011

Dear Mr. Pike,

First, on behalf of myself and the other residents at Casa Glendale, I want to thank you for showing us your insightful documentary, VOLUNTEERS FOR VERDI. For me, it was a real trip down memory lane. I grew up some 400 miles from New York City, in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, where my father was a mill worker. He had a lovely tenor voice and when I was young, we often sang together. I had a high, clear voice and, as a teenager, I was cast in all of my high school's musical productions, sometimes singing several different parts in a single show.

One night, after a particularly well-received performance, a locally prominent professional voice teacher invited me to study with him. He charged \$150 an hour for lessons, which, for my father, was an enormous sum of money, so, although it was nice to be asked, that's as far as I thought it would ever go.

Miracle of miracles, somehow my father worked it out and I began lessons. Then, as summer approached, the maestro offered to get me an audition for the chorus of the Metropolitan Opera Company in New York City. If I was accepted, he even knew a nice family in the city who would be willing to put me up for the summer – and see that I stayed out of trouble. I was sixteen years old.

To make a long story short, I auditioned, was cast and for the four incredible summers until I married, I sang in the chorus at the Met! And that's why I'm particularly qualified to say that VOLUNTEERS FOR VERDI really does show what goes on behind the scenes. The names and faces may be different, but the hours of rehearsals, personalities and attitudes are sure familiar.

In your film, the members of the opera company tell their stories in their own words. Well, your movie got some of us sharing our stories, too, so I thought it was only fair I share mine with you.

Thank you and best of luck with VOLUNTEERS FOR VERDI.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Priscilla Compton". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

Priscilla Compton