



## Book Club with the Maestro: *Bel Canto*

### Questions for Consideration

We are so excited to see you at Book Club tomorrow night! In advance of our discussion, here are some questions to get the creative juices flowing. Feel free to brainstorm and bring your own questions as well!

- Why did Roxanne sing “O mio babbino caro” to Gen early on in the novel?
- What are your thoughts on opera as “story with words” vs. opera “as music” when one cannot understand the words, like most characters in the story who couldn’t understand the words of the arias?
- Is there an American way of accepting gifts? Do Americans (or all humans) expect to give something in order to receive a gift as Fyodorov suggests on page 222?
- What are your reactions to the rehearsal process described on page 200?
- Do you have any favorite sentences? For me on page 209, “Tell me about sentences,” is a charming and simple phrase. On page 224, the sentiment here “Most of the time we’re loved for what we can do rather than who we are...” makes me think about my own existence.
- Was there an arch in the storytelling? Was there an overall shape that you experienced?
- What relationship(s) developed which you least expected?
- Can you recall a moment when music unified you with those around you in a profound way?
- What will you remember about this book?

Remember, this is a friendly and casual Zoom Room, so please participate in whatever way works for you. Camera on? Great! Off? Wonderful! Prefer to ask questions via the chat instead of aloud? Perfectly fine! We’re just glad you’re joining us.

Take care, and we’ll see you tomorrow!