

Waterfront

IT'S NEWS FOR YOU *Journal*

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Tony-Winning Composer Applauds Singing Book

Stephen Flaherty, the Tony-winning composer of the musical "Ragtime," sings the praises of the new book entitled *Singing: Body & Soul* written by voice teacher Barbara J. Simon.

Flaherty says, "... a very wise, witty, and accessible book on the technique and art of singing. Barbara's book is unique in that it combines the technical and interpretive aspects of singing in a user-friendly way"

Simon and Flaherty first met in 1983, and in the next two years, Simon performed several cabaret acts in Manhattan with Flaherty as her Musical Director.

Flaherty's composing credits (with his collaborator, Lynn Ahrens) include "Ragtime," "Seussical," "Once on This Island," the animated film "Anastasia," and his most recent Lincoln Center production "A Man of No Impor-

ance" which was the Winner of the 2003 Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Musical Off-Broadway.

"A Man of No Importance" is set in Ireland, which makes the songs ideal for experimenting with characters who speak English in a foreign dialect. In the sixth chapter of her book, Simon explains "Different dialects can help access new parts of your voice. You may discover more open vowel sounds and new pockets of resonance. Emotions that have been squelched in the mother tongue can sometimes find a new expressive voice in a foreign one."

For private singing lessons, or to order your copy of *Singing: Body & Soul*, call the BJ Simon Singing Studio at 201-798-5029 or visit www.BJSimon.com.