Glass discusses opera at MFA

Philip Glass, inquiring at the Museum of Fine Arts, December 4.

A well-filled auditorium at the Museum of Fine Arts last Wednesday heard commentator Philip Glass comment on his operas, which are currently being performed by the Boston Premiere Ensemble. The evening did not quite come up to expectations. A strong anticipation, due to Glass's high-speed oral delivery, was not sustained, but his energy was kept high by the audience's attention to his Everyman-like, talkative style, which could be expected to excite concertgoers.

Glass discussed the various stages of his career, from the beginning of his musical studies in the late 1950s to his concert performances to his more recent works. His comments were interspersed with anecdotes about his life and work, such as his early experiments in minimalism and his collaboration with the novelist Jonathan Safran Foer on the opera Akhnaten.

Glass also discussed the role of the composer in today's musical world, and the importance of the role of the conductor. He emphasized the importance of the conductor in bringing the composer's vision to life, and the challenges of working with different conductors.

In conclusion, Glass spoke about the future of opera and the importance of keeping the art form alive in today's world. He ended his talk by thanking the audience for their time and attention.