

# Lorenzo Malfatti

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Baritone Lorenzo Malfatti, internationally recognized voice and opera coach, is Professor Emeritus at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music. He was chief preparatory coach of the opera department and for many memorable years collaborated with the legendary leading basso of the Metropolitan Opera, Italo Tajo.

His career began at the age of nineteen during World War II as a G.I. in India where he was chosen by Andre Kostelanetz and Lily Pons to perform with them during their famous tour of the Orient. After the war he was a merit scholar at Juilliard where he became a protégé of the celebrated baritones Mack Harrell and Giuseppe De Luca, and was one of the first recipients of the Fulbright Award along with Aaron Copland, David Diamond, Lucas Foss and Lee Holby.

While in Italy Lorenzo studied at the Cherubini Conservatory in Florence, St. Cecilia Conservatory and Academy in Rome and enjoyed four years at the famous Accademia Chigiana in Siena where he sang leading roles in Franco Zeffirelli's first stagings. He then became permanent baritone soloist of the Italian Swiss National Radio singing everything from Monteverdi, Vivaldi, Rossini, Verdi and Schoenberg to Charles Ives. He also concertized with the RAI in Rome, where for four years he was on scholarship with opera's leading coach, Luigi Ricci.

At the invitation and under the supervision of the composer, Malfatti made his professional American debut in the Tanglewood premiere of Aaron Copland's *The Tender Land*. This led to a long tenured position as director of vocal activities at Chatham College as well as multiple appearances as soloist with William Steinberg and the Pittsburgh Symphony.

The most fun he ever had . . . Co-founder and Director of Opera Barga in Barga, Italy. . Head vocal coach of the apprentice program of the Lyric Opera of Chicago . . . substituting for Eleanor Steber at her request at the Cleveland Institute of Music . . . Italian diction coach at the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. His great love and knowledge of the wonderful regional folk songs of Italy culminated in his co-founding and becoming vocal director of the internationally famous company, I Campagnoli.

Highlights of his career include . . . dubbing in the singing voices of famous movie stars for film distribution in Italy . . . tutoring Sophia Loren in English while she was filming the role of *Aida* to the singing voice of Renata Tebaldi . . . performing the title role in the first television version of *Don Giovanni* at the Cine-Città in Rome . . . attending the American premiere of *Les Misérables* on Broadway in which three of his students were performing leading roles . . . judging innumerable Metropolitan Opera annual auditions all over the USA. His proudest moment was being selected to represent Italy throughout Europe singing the leading role, Testo, in *Il Combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda* by Monteverdi during the composer's 400th anniversary year.

Recognized world-wide as an expert in recitative, he is presently conducting master classes in Italian diction, emphasizing the "recitativo style," in the USA, Canada and Europe. He is also co-founder and Director of the Accademia Vocale in Lucca, Italy where he prepares leading singers for their debut performances at the world's leading opera houses including La Scala, the Metropolitan Opera and Covent Garden.

Mr. Malfatti inspired and is now the Associate Artistic Director of the Opera Theater of Lucca, Italy. This is a summer program and festival sponsored by the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and held at Teatro del Giglio, Puccini's opera house. The Italian government recently honored Mr. Malfatti for having brought more than 1,000 American students to study in Lucca since 1960.