

Malcolm Fraser

J. Ralph Corbett Distinguished Chair of Opera at CCM

Key Accomplishments @ CCM – Compiled May 2002

- Training some of the most aware and skilled young artists on today's opera stage in an atmosphere that nurtures the highest standards whilst encouraging artistic freedom, experimentation and risk taking, without the shell of self-protection that deadens the work of many of their colleagues. Singers from these 16 years follow their fine predecessors from the Italo Tajo generation and are working all over North America and Europe. Currently we have artists working in the following companies (in many cases three or four with each company): Metropolitan Opera, Chicago Lyric Opera, San Francisco Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Santa Fe Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Orlando Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Wolf Trap Opera, Seattle Opera, Skylight Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, Portland Opera, Canadian Opera, Vienna State Opera, Kassel Opera, Stuttgart Opera, Lucerne Opera, Karlsruhe Opera, Dusseldorf Opera and many more.
- Beginning a policy of performing all Operas in the Original Language. (commencing with *La bohème* in 1991).
- Introducing Surcaps for foreign language Mainstage productions (also commencing with *La bohème*).
- Staging six operas a year in various venues (including the two established Mainstage productions)
- Casting, on average, 66 singers in significant roles each year (excluding chorus)
- Between 1987 and 2001 CCM has won 26 awards for the best college opera productions in North America. Awarded by the National Opera Association, 15 of these productions were directed by Fraser and, of the remaining 11, 7 were directed by MFA Opera Stage Directors.
- Establishing the University of Cincinnati's Opera Theatre of Lucca in 1996, in conjunction with Lorenzo Malfatti, a former CCM faculty member. Singers, instrumentalists, coaches, designers and production staff recruited by an international faculty to join CCM students in the most comprehensive summer opera program in Italy.
- Invited to Teatro Colon, Buenos Aires, to teach classes and develop students and faculty exchange between CCM and Teatro Colon.
- Developing, over the years, a teaching method that involves Improvised Opera which has proved instructive, inspirational (in some cases) and entertaining. Annual presentation of Improvised Opera and Pizza.

- Making Opera Workshop a six-hour a week requirement for all first year masters students in voice, and negotiating a reduction in shop hours and choral hours for masters in voice students.
- Initiating afternoon rehearsals for opera in order to reduce evening and weekend commitment.
- Revamping the Opera Scholarship Competition to reward quality and encourage outside recruitment. Through the efforts of the Dean, doubling the number of scholarships available.
- 1999. Awarded the Post-Corbett Award for Service to the Arts.
- 1999. Awarded University of Cincinnati Award for Excellence at Commencement.
- CCM designated by US and World Reports in top three Opera Training Schools.
- Encouraging an average of six Opera Companies to audition annually at CCM.
- Establishing regular reviewing in *Opera News* and *Opera Magazine* in Europe with Charles Parsons as regular and respected critic. Thus giving us a higher international critical profile than any other Conservatory.
- Bringing the National Opera Association 2000 Conference to Cincinnati.
- Bringing Opera America Regional Singer Training Seminar to Cincinnati in 2001.
- Being invited as a panelist to International Singer Training Conference in Amsterdam in 2000.
- Beginning a Manual for the Dramatic Training of the Singer covering his work on singer training over the past 33 years. Edited by MFA Opera Directing Graduate Jim Haffner with a projected publication of 2004.