

# Vincenzo Grisostomi Travaglini

## A life in the Opera

Vincenzo Grisostomi Travaglini, born in Ripatransone, lived first in Fermo, the town of origin of his family, and then in Rome where he obtained the School-leaving Certificate (Science) and studied Law. Here he also attended courses in psychology at the university. He studied the piano, first under the guidance of his mother, Paolina Crotti, a graduate of the Conservatorio di Perugia, and then under Professor Iris Bresciani, a pupil of Sgambati.

His first experience in the world of theatre was in 1974 when he was permitted, for two seasons, to assist and work as a volunteer at the rehearsals of “Parsifal”, “La Reine Morte”, “Murder in the Cathedral”, “La Fanciulla del West”, etc. under the guidance of Lovro von Matacic, Margherita Walmann, Gian Carlo Menotti, Luchino Visconti, Alberto Fassini, Franco Zeffirelli, Ceroli for the set-design and others.

The, in 1978, he attended the History of the Theatre course at the International Institute for Theatrical Research in Venice at the Fondazione Cini.

He worked with the E.R.I. doing research in the field of culture, with particular reference to the world of entertainment.

He worked with FONIT CETRA for a substantial series of records of MARTINI e ROSSI concerts and on the Fonit Cetra MUSICA magazine, an insert in the MUSICA VIVA magazine, and wrote an essay on the problems of the RAI files for the Biblioteca Marcelliana magazine of Florence.

He worked with Vatican Radio and with Radio Lugano (Italian Switzerland).

Since 1977 he has done a considerable amount of radio work (RAI):

- For the first radio network, he worked on the feature “Opera quiz”, directed the programme “Tornami a dir che m’ami”, which involved extensive research in the RAI files for historic documents and recordings, and directed a long series of “La gazzetta”, a topical weekly programme on classical music.
- For the second radio network, he worked on the programmes “Romanza” and “Vi piace Toscanini?”. In the programme LE ORE DELLA MUSICA, directed by Laura Padellaro, he was the author of the “Quarta corda” and “Le piace il classico?” features.
- For the third radio network, he devised a feature, first weekly then daily, of musical news as part of the POMERIGGIO MUSICALE programme directed by Paolo Donati. He was also anchorman of that programme and planned and implemented several features devoted to different leading Italian and international performers but also to young artists, the activities of foreign theaters and the great Summer Festivals and also to the promotion of minor activities in less well-known places. In 1987 he directed the feature “Fatti e personaggi nel mondo dell’Opera”, in 1988 “Una settimana a teatro” and in 1988/89 he worked on a weekly music criticism feature in “Foyer” and, since 1998, in “Il club dell’Opera”; in 1993 he introduced some of the “Il concerto del mattino” broadcasts. In the field of fashion he has worked with Sarli, Balestra and Litrico.

In 1973 he started writing for local newspapers and magazines and has been a frequent contributor to the magazine “Il mondo della musica” and the daily paper “Il Mattino”. He contributed for a long time to the magazines “l’Opera”, “Musica e Dossier” and “Monsalvat” (Spain) and wrote special inserts for “Il Corriere della Sera”, on the occasion of the World Cup in Italy, dealing with musical events, and for the weekly paper “Gente” also.

He is a member of the Italian Musical Critics Association and the Journalist’s Association .

He has written texts for the sleeves of records and for theatre programmes (San Carlo Theatre – Naples; Ente Arena of Verona; Festival of Asolo; Monte-Carlo Opera House; etc.).

In 1986 he was Head of the press office of the Osimo opera season. From 1986 to 1990 he was Head of the press office of the Sagra Musicale Umbra; from 1987 he held the same position at the Festival delle Nazioni di Città di Castello for which he was also Art Adviser; at the Teatro Giordano in Foggia and from 1988 (for two years) at the Festival Pucciniano di Torre del Lago and the Sagra Malatestiana of Rimini.

He has written special articles not only in Italy but in Spain, England, France, Austria, Germany, the Soviet Union, Switzerland, Tunisia, Egypt, Iraq, Canada, Greece, China, Japan, Turkey.

In 1986 he was the Art Adviser to the Teatro Petruzzelli of Bari and was later offered the post of Art Director by that Body. In 1987 he was Art Adviser at the Festival di Fermo where he promoted co-operation with the principal events in Italy and abroad. Again, at the Festival di Fermo, he was appointed Art Director from 1988 to 1991 and planned the “first performances in modern times” of musicians of 1700/1800, including Cimarosa, Rossini, Donizetti and Cherubini (“première”) and commissioned work by the most famous modern composers, launching the event at the international level.

In 1988 he was a member of the jury for the young singers’ competition “Giacomantonio” promoted by the Teatro Rendano of Cosenza, where he was also Head of the press office, and for the Premio Calpurnia in Città di Castello for young instrumentalists and acted on many other juries during the following years. In 1989 he taught at the Refresher Course promoted by the Teatro di Adria. In 1991 he was Chairman of the Board for assistant conductors at the Teatro Massimo Bellini di Catania and Chairman of the Board for the assembling of a new orchestra for the Festival of Fermo. He was appointed as member of the jury for the “Cilea” award in Reggio Calabria. From ’93 to ’94 he was on the Board of Directors of the Sperimentale di Spoleto “A.Belli”, representing the manager of the Teatro dell’Opera, and in 1993 was a member of the Board of Judges of the “Comunità Europea” competition for young opera singers of the Teatro Lirico Sperimentale di Spoleto. He was a member of the Board of Judges of the Accademia Lirica di Mantova and in ’95 of the “Giuseppe Verdi” competition in Busseto and in 1996 of the “Opera Studio” project for the Opera of Roma. In 1997 was part of the Board for the International Competition for opera singers “F. Viñas” in Barcellona.

He was Art Director from 1990 of the “Progetto Alaleona”, promoting concerts in the Marche and in Rome for two years. He was Art Adviser to the Accademia Organistica Elpidiense and the “Incanto” concerts in Ancona.

In 1989 he was appointed Head of the press office of the Teatro dell’Opera of Rome where he also established and managed the Publications Office and had several cultural publications printed. Also at the Opera, he acted as Assistant to the Commissario alla Sovrintendenza and in this capacity helped to organise the “Concerto dei tre tenori” at the Terme di Caracalla and acted as Assistant to the manager with specific art-direction duties and was confirmed as Head of the Editorial Office.

He has lectured on the Theatre and, in 1991, was one of the creators and executors of the Festival di Musica Barocca in co-operation with the Municipality of Rome.

In 1993 he was appointed to the Teatro dell’Opera as assistant to the Art Director, Maestro Gian Carlo Menotti, and put in charge of some sectors of the “Il Teatro dell’Opera per la Città” project. For the Opera of Roma he was in charge of the art direction for the theatre’s tournée in Japan (Nagoya). Also at the Opera of Roma, he was a member of the Art Direction Team until 1997.

In 1994, by a Government Decree, he was appointed as new member of the first Board of Experts at the Dipartimento dello Spettacolo della Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri for the three-year period 1994/96.

From 1994 to July ’96 he was Art Adviser to the restored Teatro Ventidio Basso in Ascoli Piceno, which reopened after fifteen years on 15 October ’94, where he organised seasons of opera, ballet, symphony and chamber music concerts.

In 1995 he was Art Adviser to the “Concerto per la Pace” organised by the International Committee for the fiftieth anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and by the Secretary-General of the Bishops Congregation of Japan, on August the 5th, in the “Sala Paolo VI”, Vatican City, recorded by Rai and by NTV Nippon TV.

In 1995 and '96 he was Art Secretary of the Festival delle Nazioni in Città di Castello.

He was appointed by Melos Art as an Art Director for the project of “Turandot” in China and in this duty he participated in a new production and in Pechin with Maestro Zeffirelli who directed, and designed set decoration and and customs. The project was never implemented.

He has been appointed as “Artistic Consultant of Production” of “Aida”, directed and staged by Franco Zeffirelli, which was performed in Japan on the occasion of the inauguration of the New National Theatre of Tokyo during the 1997/'98 season.

From 2000 to 2001 he was called by Councillor of Culture for the Rome region in order to become a part of a committee for the creation of the new symphony orchestra .

In 2000 he was appointed by the Ministry of Culture of Turkish Republic as general manager of Ankara State Opera and Ballet together with Musical Director up to the year 2002.

He wrote a book on the life of “Katia Ricciarelli”, which was published on the occasion of 25 years of her career, and the book “I teatri a Roma - il Costanzi-” as well. One musical study regarding Verdi's opera “Macbeth” was translated in french and published by Monte-Carlo Opera. Another musicologic book on “Madama Butterfly” was translated in spanish for the Puccini Festival in Valencia and it was presented to the audience during a conference. Two others music-books , on “Aida” and “Turandot”, where translated in Turkish and published by the Ankara State Opera and Ballet.

In 2002 he was asked once again to go to Tokyo as director at the New National Theatre for a new production of “Lucia di Lammermoor”. The premiere on October 11 was attended by Their Imperial Majesties, the Emperor and Empress of Japan.

In 2004 Tokyo's “LaVoce inc” invited him to the New National Theatre to direct a new production of “Lucia di Lammermoor”. The performance was staged at the New National Theatre and recorded on DVD. Cast: Mariella Devia, Marcelo Álvarez, Renato Bruson, Carlo Colombara. Conductor Stefano Ranzani. The DVD was released commercially in 2005

# The Operas

## **Claudio Monteverdi**

- Il Combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda

## **Giovan Battista Pergolesi**

- La Serva Padrona

## **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

- Die Entführung aus dem Serail
- Le Nozze di Figaro
- Don Giovanni
- Die Zauberflöte

## **Gioachino Rossini**

- La Cambiale di Matrimonio
- Il Barbiere di Siviglia
- La Cenerentola
- L'Italiana in Algeri

## **Gaetano Donizetti**

- Pigmalione
- Rita
- Lucrezia Borgia
- Lucia di Lammermoor
- Don Pasquale

## **Vincenzo Bellini**

- La Sonnambula

## **Giuseppe Verdi**

- Nabucco
- Ernani
- Rigoletto
- La Traviata
- Il Trovatore
- Aida
- Macbeth
- Don Carlos
- Otello

## **Charles Gounod**

- Roméo et Juliette

## **Georges Bizet**

- Carmen

## **Jules Massenet**

- Werther

## **Ruggiero Leoncavallo**

- Pagliacci

**Giacomo Puccini**

- Manon Lescaut
- La Bohème
- Tosca
- Madama Butterfly
- Turandot

**Pietro Mascagni**

- Cavalleria Rusticana

**Umberto Giordano**

- Andrea Chénier

**Barbara Giuranna**

- Mayerling

**Claudio Ambrosini**

- Il Giudizio Universale