Application for Grant: The Los Angeles Academy of Vocal Arts

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APPLICATION FOR GRANT

Prepared for:

The Los Angeles Academy of Vocal Arts

June 7, 1982
June 7, 1982

Mr. Daniel Selznick
Louis B. Mayer Foundation
9441 Wilshire Boulevard
Beverly Hills, CA 90212

Dear Mr. Selznick:

The purpose of this letter is to submit to the Louis B. Mayer Foundation an application for a planning grant for and on behalf of the Los Angeles Academy of Vocal Arts.

The Los Angeles Academy of Vocal Arts is a proposed teaching institution formed under the leadership and direction of Mr. Seth Riggs. Its program will offer a comprehensive and intensive instruction for a full time enrollment of 20 singers with recognized talent and professional potential. They will receive intensive instruction in vocal technique, repertory, site singing and ear training, audition preparation, movement, dance, pantomime, fencing, acting, language and other skills and techniques essential to the preparation of the aspiring vocal artist. The teaching approach and the vocal techniques espoused will be those developed by the director of the institution, Mr. Seth Riggs, whose pupils have demonstrated an uncommon ability and preparation for professional advance (see attachment A). Mr. Riggs' pupils completely dominated this year's western regional audition awards for the Metropolitan Opera Association (first and second place).

At this stage of its development, the institution needs funding for the planning and feasibility study which will guide and launch its formation. Topics to be covered include:

- Legal structure and non-profit incorporation
- Trustee selection
- Statement of purpose and philosophy
- Curriculum and instruction plans
- Space requirements
- Site alternatives
- Proposed operating Budget including revenues, expenses, and development needs

Considerable progress has been achieved in all of these areas—in particular a prominent list of interested citizens—vocal performers, business people, entertainers, producers, medical doctors and the like have expressed willingness to serve in a trustee role.
Among those who have expressed such receptivity and interest in trusteeship are Ms. Jean Dalrymple, Mr. Thomas Hayward, Mr. Georgi Tozzi, Mr. Frank Guerra, Ms. Carol Burnett, Mr. Hal Prince, Mr. Stevie Wonder, Dr. Lillian Glass, Dr. Edward Cantor, Dr. Henry Rubin, and Mr. Daniel Wolfus.

Tentative curriculum plans and programs have been developed and investors identified. A first year operating budget of $320,000 is estimated and initial space requirements on the order of 4,000 to 5,000 square feet are indicated. Tuition of $4,000 is proposed which is 25 percent of the per student cost of the proposed educational service. A need for endowment and scholarship support on the order of 50 percent of cost is indicated and a student teaching support program equivalent to 25 percent of cost is planned. Students in the Academy will teach affiliated apprentice students to earn these funds. Degree programs are proposed. The Academy objective as to accreditation is not yet determined.

What is now needed is a presentation which communicates all of the planning done to date in a format which aids its implementation. The non-profit corporation needs to be incorporated and a board of trustees put in place. A calendar for implementation needs to be established which would include a statement of Academy programs and curriculum, staffing, budgetary and operating requirements, alternative sites and space availabilities and other aspects of planned operations.

The magnitude of the grant requested for these purposes is $7,500. The largest part of that amount would be used to fund the costs of preparing the required planning documents identified above. This statement will be prepared under my direction and its costs are estimated at two thirds to three quarters of the stipend requested. My qualifications in preparing planning materials of this kind are known to you and include extensive feasibility planning for CalArts, Orange County Music Center, and other cultural institutions shown in the attached brochure.

Please let me know if additional data is required.

Respectfully submitted,

Harrison A. Price
President

cc: Seth Riggs
SETH RIGGS VOCAL THERAPY AND TECHNIQUE

STUDENTS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND AWARDS

National Metropolitan Auditions, N.Y.C.

1971: Thomas McKinney, $6,000 co-winner
1974: James Wagner, $6,000, 4th Place

Metropolitan Opera Western Regional Auditions

1970: 20% of the finalists
        Judy Klinger, $300, 2nd Place
        Marvelee Cariaga, runner-up
1971: 96 Entrants
        20% of the 1/4 finalists
        25% of the 1/2 finalists
        25% of the finalists
        Thomas McKinney, $1,000, co-winner
1972: 160 Entrants
        17% of the 1/4 finalists
        20% of the 1/2 finalists
        27% of the finalists
1973: Lynn Cole Adcock, finalist
1974: James Wagner, $1,350, 1st place (Local)
1977: Kathleen Riggs, $300, 1st place (L.A. Regional)
1981: Angela Blasi, $800, 4th Place (L.A. Regional)

Metropolitan Assistance

1972: Thomas McKinney, $300 (given by Mr. Gentele)

National Opera Award

1972: First Year Award
        Thomas McKinney, $10,000 (from George London)

Rockefeller Foundation Grant

1977: Kathleen Riggs, $3,000
1978: Linda Anders, $3,500

United States Fulbright European Scholarship

1971: James Wagner, $5,000; first year at the Vienna Academy of Music
1972: James Wagner, $5,000; second year at the Vienna Academy of Music
1973: James Wagner, $5,000; Rome & London
Salzburg Festival - International Mozart Competition for Singers

1978: James Wagner, $2,500, 1st place

Seattle Opera Company - Debut

1970: Ellen de Groat, $11,500 Grant; Resident Soprano. Among 12 finalists of the 56 world entrants.

Ariel Bybee, one of two entrants sponsored by Metropolitan Opera National Council for Madame Butterfly in Tokyo, Japan.

San Francisco Opera Company - Debut

1970: Ariel Bybee
1971: Ariel Bybee
1972: Ariel Bybee
1973: Marvelee Cariaga
   Nolan Van Way
1974: Ariel Bybee
   Marvelee Cariaga
1975: Thomas McKinney
   John Ferrante

Marian Anderson Competition, Philadelphia

1970: James Wagner, $600, 2nd place
   115 Entrants

Illinois Opera Guild (WGN)

1974: Lynn Cole Adcock, $2,000, 2nd place
   Only representative from Western States' among 24 National finalists.

San Francisco Opera Auditions

1970: 25% of the finalists
   Marvelee Cariaga and Judy Klinger, runners-up
1971: Zaven Tashjian, $2,500, runner-up
1972: No Entrants
1973: Judy Klinger, $300, winner, Merola Award, $2,500
   Karen Yamatt, $150, 3rd place, Merola Award, $1,500
1976: Frederick Obrycki, $600, 1st place
SETH RIGGS VOCAL THERAPY AND TECHNIQUE
STUDENTS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND AWARDS

Young Musicians Foundation

1971: James Wagner, $1,000 Grant
      Joan Zajac, $500
1974: Kathleen Brown, $400
1975: Roger Love, $500
1976: Roger Love, $500
      Deborah Gourman, $500
1977: Jubilant Sykes, $500
1978: Cheryl Woods, $400
1979: Cheryl Woods, $400
1980: Cheryl Woods, $400

Christian Education for the Blind Competition

1977: Lynda Anders, $2,000, 1st place
      Stephanie Miller, $750, 3rd place

Turk Foundation

1970: Ellen de Groat, $500
1971: Beryl Streeter, $750
1972: LaRissa Randolph, $1,000
      Janis Eckhart, $2,250
      Geraldine Zanvettor, $2,250
      Robbi Jensen, $2,200
      Ellen de Groat, $1,000
      Zaven Tashjian, $2,400
      Leslie Easterbrook, $2,000
      Lynn Cole Adcock, $2,200
      Donna Baccala, $1,000
      Sharon Keyes, $500
      Judy Klinger, $650
      Edith Diaz, $500
      Margaret Immerman, $750

1973: Roger Love, $600
      Rolinda Wolk, $600
      Thea Bold, $600
      Laurie Rimland, $600
      JoAnne Purtle, $1,000
      Kitty Berci, $600
      Chip Hand, $2,500

1974: Rosemary Scott, $1,500
      Kathleen Brown, $2,000
      Mary Grover, $2,000
      Laurel Barnett, $900
      Marilyn O'Leary, $900
      Janis Eckhart, $900

1975: Leslie Easterbrook, $500
      Deborah Gourman, $400

Frank Sinatra Award - UCLA Pop Division

1970: Michael Sughtich, $2,000
1972: Chip Hand, $500
1973: Jerome Broomfield, $500
1976: Chip Hand $500
Los Angeles Civic Light Opera Workshop Scholarship

1970: Richard Leon, $300
Carol Stromme, $300
Dean Rhodus, $300
1971: Kathy Dougher, $350
Nina Shiller, $350
Leslie Easterbrook, $350
Thomas McKinney, $350
Scott Stevens, $350
John Pulcifer, $350
1972: Janis Eckhart, $350
Zaven Tashjian, $350
Joseph Daniel, $350
Dennis Heath, $350
Kim Chalukian, $350
Dennis Bacigalupo, $350
1973: Tony Silva, $350
Gordon deVol, $350
1973: (Cont'd)
Anne Sullivan, $350
Judy Thompson, $350
Peggy Wilms, $350
Jerry Free, $350
Lynn Cole Adcock, $350
Linda Miles, $350
Steve Ward, $350
Jerome Broomfield, $350

Burt Reynolds Talent Award

1974: First Year
Jerome Broomfield, $300

Etude Music Club Award

1970: 66% of the finalists
Ariel Bybee, $250
1971: 33% of the finalists
1972: 50% of the finalists
Lynn Cole Adcock, $500
1973: 50% of the finalists
Janis Eckhart, $600
1974: Instrumental winners

Euterpe Opera Club Awards

1970: 70% of the awards
Dean Rhodus, $700
Marvelle Cariaga, $300
Ariel Bybee, $300
Roger Audrey, $200
Lloyd Bunnell, $100
1971: Joan Zajac, $250
1972: Dean Rhodus, $250
Janis Eckhart, $250

Loren Zachery Award

1977: Kathleen Riggs, $300
SETH RIGGS VOCAL THERAPY AND TECHNIQUE
STUDENTS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND AWARDS

Victor Fuchs Award
1970: Joan Zajac, $100, 3rd place
1972: Kathleen O'Brian, $200, 2nd place
1981: Angela Blasi, $800, 1st place
     Cynthia Blough, $400, 3rd place

William Mathews Sullivan Award
1973: Zaven Tashjian, $500

Music Teachers Association of California Award Aria Concerti Contest
1970: Judy Klinger
1971: Lois Vaccariello
1972: Janis Eckhart
1973: Leslie Easterbrook
     Zaven Tashjian
1974: Kathleen Brown

(Music Teachers Association of California Award Aria Concerti Contest - VOCE)
1972: First Year
     Joseph Gole, $100
1973: Second Year
     Lynn Cole Adcock, $150
1974: Third Year
     Margaret Immerman, $150
1975: Fourth Year
     No Entrant
1976: Fifth Year
     No Entrant
1977: Sixth year
     No Entrant
1978: Seventh year
     Cheryl Woods, $300
1979: Eighth Year
     Kathy Van Kampam, $300
1980: Cynthia Blough, $300

National Federation of Music Club Scholarships to Academy of the West
1971: Lois Vaccariello, $400
1972: Joseph Gole, $400
     Dennis Heath, $400
     Zaven Tashjian, $400
1973: Dennis Heath, $400

Hollywood Women's Club Contests
1970: Judy Klinger, $100
1971: Joan Zajac, $100
1972: Janis Eckhart, $200
1973: No Entrant
1974: Kathleen Brown, $50, 2nd place
1975: Kathleen Brown, $100, 1st place
1980: Jenny Rae, $50, 2nd place
Secondary Teachers Association of California Award

1971: Chris O'Meara, age 16, $400
1972: Linda Taylor, age 18, $100
1973: No Entrant
1974: Roger Love, age 15, $100
1975: Roger Love, age 16, $100
        Deborah Gourman, age 17, $100
1976: Roger Love, age 17, $100
        Deborah Gourman, age 17, $100

Matinee Music Club Award

1970: Joan Zajac, $300, 1st place
1971: Marji Tucker, $300, 1st place
1972: Gale Land Hart, $300, 1st place
        Tony Silva, $100, 2nd place
        Geri Zanvettor, $50, 3rd place
1974: Margret Immerman, $200, 2nd place
1975: Kathleen Brown, $100, 2nd place

Bureau of Music - Voices of Tomorrow

1970: Joan Zajac, $250, 2nd place
        Michael Sugitch, $75, 3rd place
1971: Cathy Dougher, $250, 2nd place
1972: 30% of the finalists
        Dennis Heath, $250, 2nd place
1973: No Entrants
1974: No Entrants
1976: Roger Love, $75, 3rd place
1977: Jubilant Sykes, $600, 1st place
1978: Roger Love, $300, 2nd place
1979: Cheryl Woods, $300, 2nd place

Western Regional National Association Teachers of Singing

1970: James Wagner, winner; also local NATS winner, $300
1971: 30% of the finalists
1972: 50% of the finalists
1973: Lynn Cole Adcock, winner, was disqualified
SETH RIGGS VOCAL THERAPY AND TECHNIQUE
STUDENTS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND AWARDS

Opera Reading Club

1971: Joseph Daniel, $200
      Diana Rivero, $200
1972: Judy Klinger, $200
      Janis Eckhart, $100
      Diana Rivero, $200
      Zaven Tashjian, $100
1973: Zaven Tashjian, $200
      Toni Silva, $200
      Janis Eckhart, $200
      Lynn Cole Adcock, $100
      Steve Covington, $100
      Judy Klinger, $100
      Geraldine Zanvettor, $100

1974: Lynn Cole Adcock, $250
      1975: Roger Love, $100
      1976: Roger Love, $100
      1978: Roger Love, $400
      Kathleen O'Sullivan, $400
      1980: Cynthia Blough, $300
            Jennie Brown, $300

San Gabriel Symphony, Contest and Appearance

1974: Kathleen Brown, $100
      Lauris Jones, Conductor

Brentwood/Westwood Symphony, Contest and Appearance (Alvin Mills, Conductor)

1974: Margret Immerman
1977: Dianne Pikher
      Cheryl Woods

Music Teachers Association of California, West Los Angeles Branch, Young Artist's Contest

1974: Margret Immerman, $100

National Association of Negro Musicians

1974: Joyce Hodges, $1,000, 1st place
1977: Jubilant Sykes, $300, 2nd place

MTNA

1975: Kathleen Brown, National Finalist

National Masonic College Auditions

1975: Joyce Hodges, $2,500
1980: Wilshire Masonic European Tour, $10,000
      Cheryl Woods
California Association of Professional Music Teachers

1976: Roger Love, $500

National Opera Award

1978: Cheryl Woods, $2,000

Cantorial Students

Samuel Brown
Jacob Erblich
Yuri Frenkel
Joseph German
Benjamin Glickman
Joseph Gole
David Kane
Yehuda Keller
Nathaniel Lam
Roger Love
Frederick Obrycki
Linda Rich
Robert Scherr
David Serkin
Steve Sherry
Moshe Shulhof
Irving Zane
SETH RIGGS VOCAL THERAPY AND TECHNIQUE

STAGE, SCREEN, AND TELEVISION PERSONALITIES

Edward Albert
Mohammed Ali
* Peter Allen
Loni Anderson
Edward Andrews
Susan Anspach
Desi Arnaz, Jr.
Luci Arnaz
* Jim Bailey
* Phil Bailey
Scott Baio
Lucille Ball
Anne Bancroft
Alan Bates
Brian Bedford
Dirk Benedict
George Benson
Janet Blair
* Cher Bono
* Sonny Bono
* Debbie Boone
* Pat Boone
Eileen Brennan
* Didi Bridgewater
Georgia Browne
Jackie Brown
Carol Burnett
Levar Burton
Ruth Buzzi

Judy Canova
Judy Carne
* Vicki Carr
* Diahann Carroll
Lynda Carter
Ralph Carter
* David Cassidy
George Chakiris
Richard Chamberlain
Stockard Channing
* Stanley Clark
Gary Collins
William Conrad
Gretchen Cryer
Tim Curry
Tony Curtis

Bill Daniels
* John Davidson
Altovise Davis
* Billy Davis, Jr.
Pamela Dawber
Don Defore
* Tony DeFranco
Susan Dey
Susan Dubois
Patty Duke
Sandy Duncan
Nancy Dussault

Richard Eastham
Lisa Eichorn
Ron Ely

* Lola Falana
Patricia Finley
George Firth
Jane Fonda
Steve Forrest
Arlene Francis

Peter Gallagher
Terry Garr
* Hiromi Go
Leslie Gore
Theresa Graves
Kathryn Grayson
Julie Gregg

Gene Hackman
* John Hall
Monty Hall
George Hamilton
John Hancock
Barbara Harris
Greg Harrison
Goldie Hawn
Rita Hayworth
Linda Kaye Henning
* Jonnie Holiday
* Linda Hopkins
Tab Hunter
Ron Husman
* Paul Jabara  
* Michael Jackson  
* Sonny James  
* Anne Jeffries  
* Lynn Kellogg  
* Paula Kelly  

Florence La Rue  
Ronnie Laws  
Kay Lenz  
* Eloise Laws  
* Anne Lockhart  
* Tina Louise  
* Barbara Luna  
* Cheryl Lynn  
* Roberta Lynn  

George Maharis  
Nancy Malone  
* Steven Torme March  
* Ann-Margret  
* Steve Martin  
* Les McCann  
Geraldine McEwan  
Shirley Maclaine  
Ed McMahon  
* Barbara McNair  
* Bette Midler  
* Liza Minelli  
* Mary Anne Mobley  
* Terry Moore  
* Don Murray  

Leslie Nielson  
Maxine Nightingale  

Janis Paige  
* Bernadette Peters  
* JoAnn Pflug  
* Mackenzie Phillips  
* Jane Powell  
* Dick Powell (Jr.)  
* Pamela Powell  

Anthony Quinn  
* Bonnie Raitt  
* Leno Renaud  
* Madlyn Rhue  
* Chita Rivera  
* Jimmy Rodgers  
* John Rubenstein  
* David Ruffin  

Telly Savalas  
* John Saxon  
* William Shalbert  
* Ray Sharkey  
* Talia Shire  
* Renee Simard  
* Lizabeth Scott  
* Sybil Shepard  

Ann Sothern  
* David Soul  
* Dusty Springfield  
* Bernadette Stanis  
* Connie Stevens  
* Marti Stevens  
* Bo Svenson  

Lili Tomlin  
* Liz Torres  
* Tina Turner  

* Frankie Valli  
* Joan Van Ark  
* Sylvie Vartan  
* Ben Vereen  

Lyle Wagonner  
* Jessica Walters  
* Leslie Anne Warren  
* Patrick Wayne  
* Raquel Welch  
* Maurice White  
* Vedeen White  
* Denise Williams  
* Lenny Williams  

* Paul Williams  
* Fred Williamson  
* Paul Winfield  
* Stevie Wonder  
* Syreeta Wright  
* Ken Woods
SETH RIGGS VOCAL THERAPY AND TECHNIQUE

GROUPS

Stevie Wonder
Ben Bridges
Greg Phillinganes
Ray Pound
Hank Redd
Mike Sembella
Nathan Watts

Lou Rawls
Judy Jones
Yvonne Wright

Earth, Wind & Fire
Phil Bailey
Verdine White
Maurice White

Wonderlove
Shirley Brewer
Carolyn Pound
Mary Lee Whitney

Captain & Tenille
Andrew Boettner
Melissa Boettner
Jubilant Sykes
Joyce Hodges

Love Machine
Cathy Bradley
Sheila Dean
Rene Gentry
Paulette Gibson
Bernice Givens
Mary Hopkins
Sandra Sully

Neil Sedaka
Diane Bellis

Paul Jabara
Peter Allen
Bob Dylan
Carolyn Dennis
Helena Springs
JoAnne Harriss
Robert Goulet Show

Leslie Erin
Josie James
Beth Robbins
Lori Tritel
Ann-Margret Show

Peter Barton
Larry Roman
Larry Rosenberg
Steve Ward
Sonny & Cher
Bruce Tuthill
Supremes

Cindy Birdsong
Linda Laurence
Joanne Turrell
Mary Wilson

Andrew Gold
Marvin Gaye
Johnny Simon
Florence Lyle
Ray Charles
Madeline Quebec
SETH RIGGS VOCAL THERAPY AND TECHNIQUE
GROUPS

Emotions
Sheila Hutchinson
Pamela Hutchinson
Jeanette Hutchinson
Wanda Hutchinson
Joey Hutchinson

Manhattan Transfer
Tim Hauser
Laurel Masse
Janis Siegal
Allan Paul
SETH RIGGS VOCAL THERAPY AND TECHNIQUE

BROADWAY SHOWS

Rothchilds, 1972
Joel Parks
Richard Balin

No, No, Nanette, 1972
Bill Biskup
Dennis Atkesson
Michael Mitchell
Jason Holt
Jeannie Moore

Sound of Music, 1972
Janis Eckhard
Steve Ward
Don Shrum
Karen Yarmet
Marvelee Cariaga

Cyrano de Bergerac
Richard Chamberlain (Cyrano)
Leslie Easterbrook

Gone With the Wind
Leslie Anne Warren (Scarlett)
Udana Powers (Melanie)
Larrie Miles

Gigi, 1973
Gordon de Vol
Udana Powers
Janis Eckhard

Oliver, 1973
Cherie Davis
Leslie Easterbrook

King and I, 1974
Leslie Easterbrook
Eric Silyu
Steve Ward

Fiddler on the Roof, 1974
Lynn Cole Adcock
Michael Kermoyan
Peter Kavoian
Aleko Korallis

Macbeth, 1974
Patricia Wynant
Leslie Easterbrook

Camelot, 1975
Leslie Easterbrook
Charles Bergman
Ron Husman

Odyssey, 1975
Martin Vidnovic
Linda Vidnovic
Bob Slater
Suzanne Sponsler
Gerron Douglas

Wonderful Town, 1975
Leslie Easterbrook

How To Succeed In Business... 1975
Charles Bergman

Purlie, 1975
Helen Gelzer
Dennis Williams
SETH RIGGS VOCAL THERAPY AND TECHNIQUE
BROADWAY SHOWS

The Wiz, 1976
Carolyn Dennis
Kutlee
Charles Harris
Marcie Thomas

Festival, 1978
Gregg Harrison
Leslie Easterbrook
Pamela Cordova
Roger Case

Timbuktu, 1979
Priscilla Baskerville

King and I, 1979
Robert Vega
Michael Kermoyan
Cho Yung Kim
Lauretta Giles

Tempest, 1979
Priscilla Baskerville

Evita, 1980-81
Cynthia Hunt
Angela Blasi
Sharon Scott
Harold Clausing
Derrin Otay
Vincent Pirillo
Dina Sue Gillmore
Evan Richards
Bruce Senesak
Julia Hannibal

Let's Call The Whole Thing
Gershwin, 1980
Jubilant Sykes
Larry Ceder

Barnum, National Company, 1981
Stacy Keach (Barnum)

Georgia Brown & Friends, 1981
Georgia Brown

Evita, New York Company

Little Johnny Jones
David Cassidy

Pirates of Penzance,
Los Angeles Company

Pam Dawber (Mabel)

They're Playing Our Song
New York Company

Ted Wass
Diana Canova

Can Can, New York Company, 1981

Ron Husmann
SETH RIGGS - LECTURES, AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Retained in New York by the following:

Richard Rogers
Alan Jay Lerner
Jules Styne
David Merrick

President and Chairman of the Board of the Camerata Foundation (California State Charter, tax-exempt)

(Grants for vocal technique study to any supreme vocal talent without financial means)

Staff teacher on Vocal Staff: Cal. State Fullerton, Fullerton, California, under Dr. Roger Audrey, Department Head

Actors Studio West

Los Angeles City College, Los Angeles, California

California Institute of Performing Arts

Banff Centre, Lake Louise, Canada (opera vocal technique)

Immaculate Heart College, Hollywood, Ca. Sister Theresa de Rocco, Music Dept. Head

Mt. St. Mary's College, Brentwood

Postoperative Therapy and Restoration:

Dr. Richard Barton, UCLA Medical Staff
Dr. Edward Kantor, Beverly Hills
Dr. Hans von Leden, Westwood, Ca.
Dr. Henry Rubin, Beverly Hills, Ca.
Dr. Robert Feder, Beverly Hills, Ca.

Lecture:

Vocal Technique and Master Classes:

L.A.C.C.
Occidental College
Pierce College
Ventura College
University of California at Fullerton
Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas
University of Southern California
University of Calgary, Calgary, Canada
SETH RIGGS VOCAL THERAPY AND TECHNIQUE

SPEECH & SINGING

NORMAL & POST OPERATIVE

UNIONS: AFA, AGVA, AFTRA, AGMA
SAG, ACRA (Canada)

HEIGHT: 6' 1"
WEIGHT: 190

460 South Las Palmas
Los Angeles, California 90020
938-4780

PROFESSIONAL THEATRE EXPERIENCE

BROADWAY:

Bill Starbuck - 110° IN THE SHADE - opposite Inga Swenson
John Henry Wheeler - DO RE MI - opposite Nancy Dussault
and Phil Silvers
Lun Tha - KING & I - opposite Barbara Cook (Revival)
Harry Easter - STREET SCENE - New York City Center Opera
CRADLE WILL ROCK - opposite Barbara Harris
conducted by Leonard Bernstein

DIRECTED BY:

Joseph Anthony, Abe Burrows, Howard DaSilva, Eddie Dowling,
John Fearnley, Garson Kanin, Herbert Machez, George
Schaeffer, Frank Silvera, Alex Segal, Frank Shaffner

CHOREOGRAPHED BY:

Gene Baylos, Danny Daniels, Gemze DeLapp, Agnes DeMille,
Peter Gennaro, Carol Haney, Joan Mann, Matt Mattox,
Herb Ross, Jimmy Russell, Anna Sokolow, Frank Wagner,
Frank Westbrook, Ona White, Yuriko, Jimmy Starbuck

CONDUCTED BY:

IN LOS ANGELES:

Owen Brady, Ken Darby, Lennie Hayton, Ray Heindorf,
Michelle Parrier
CONDUCTED BY:

IN NEW YORK, BALTIMORE AND WASHINGTON D.C.


PERFORMED PRINCIPAL OR SUPPORTING ROLES WITH:

Ethel Merman, Fernando Lamas, Alfred Drake, Doretta Morrow, Henry Fonda, Tammy Grimes, Walter Pidgeon, Myrna Loy, Jeanne Crain, Tab Hunter, Farley Granger, Jane Powell, Magda Gabor, Keith Andes, Barbara Cook, Nelson Eddy, Walter Cassel, Robert Weede, Phil Silvers, Peggy Lee, Mel Torme, Earl Wrightson, Buddy Hackett, Patrice Munsel, Ray Bolger, Carol Bruce, Bob Fosse, Katherine Sergeva, David Brooks, Carol Lawrence, Greta Thyssen, June Carol, Lucille Ball, Mort Sahl, Stephen Douglass, Inga Swenson, Andy Devine, Keely Smith

PERFORMED MALE LEAD IN:


STUDIED ACTING WITH:

Bobby Lewis, Lee Strasberg, Allan Fletcher, Bill Ball, Frank Silvera, Sandy Meisner (currently)
TELEVISION:

Tonight Show
Bell Telephone Hour
The Good Years
Meet Me in St. Louis
Gold Rush
Bloomer Girl
Sgt. Bilko
Revlon Review

OPERA:

Baritone - N.Y. City Center

INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOWS:

Industrials (29)
Cadillac (2)
Chevrolet (2)
Ford-Edsel
Pontiac (2)
Carrier Air Conditioner
Amoco
Oldsmobile
American Motors
General Electric
Westinghouse
Rheingold (2)
Motorama

RADIO:

The Right to Happiness (3 months)

COMMERCIALS:

Noxzema, Brylcream, Filter Kools (v.o.) Schaefer,
Carling's Black Label

HOTELS AND CLUBS:

Waldorf, Astor, Commodore (N.Y.); Bradford, Statler-Hilton
(Boston); Shamrock (Houston); Roosevelt (N. Orleans);
Mayflower, Statler (Washington D.C.); Moulin Rouge, Coco-
nut Grove (L.A.); Mulebach (Kansas City); Mark Hopkins
(San Francisco); Multnomah, Benson (Portland); Chalfonte-
Haddon (Atlantic City)

OPERA HOUSES:

Boston Opera House, Symphony Hall, Chicago Lyric, Baltimore
Lyric, Constitution Hall (Washington), St. Louis Aud.,
Masonic Temple, (Detroit)
SETH RIGGS BIOGRAPHY

First professional job in 1938 - Singing Bach and Handel as a boy-soprano at the Washington National Cathedral in Washington D.C.

Graduate John Hopkins University with a Voice Diploma from the Peabody Conservatory of Music.

Master's Degree in Opera Theater from Manhattan School of Music.

Joined first professional union, Actors' Equity, two years before completing undergraduate degree.

Since then became member in all performing unions: AFTRA, SAG, AGVA, AGMA, and also Association of Canadian Radio Artists.

Spent 10 years in New York City.

Studied acting with Sandy Meisner, Bobby Lewis, Lee Strasberg, and Frank Silvera.

Studied dance with Peter Gennaro, Matt Mattox, and Luigi.

Studied voice with John Charles Thomas, Keith Davis, Robert Weede, and Tito Schipa.


Of the 10 years in New York, three years were on
SETH RIGGS

Broadway, with six seasons as guest-artist with the New York City Opera, and on their tours.

Basic premise of teaching is that "if you can't sing your own English language with an 'even registration' it is not going to sound better in a foreign language."

Loves foreign languages and loves all of foreign repertoire but he's not so impractical as to believe that it is the "end all of singing."

"In the U.S., unfortunately for a young singer, state requirements for accreditation are foreign languages and foreign repertoire, which brings about a sad opportunity to sing poorly through bad instruction. English language can be unintelligible because of the ignorance of the foreign language, i.e., when the singer uses English, both teacher and student have to 'bite the bullet' as poor vocal technique is exposed."

Pet Peeve: "That musical theater, which is a truly American form, and opera, which is primarily an European form, are made to look down on each other through the ignorance of a workable vocal technique which can support both forms, and enable the singer to earn a decent living in this country."

He suspects that "it is the teachers' ignorance of such technique which makes them fear such a concept."

"This is understandable because many of the teachers
were 'brought up' in academia and have never done professional work in this country, and, therefore, have no direct knowledge of the vocal requisites. And, even though they may be members of an opera union, they don't have the experience of working as an actor on stage, or as a dancer that can move."

Mr. Riggs, himself, has been used in four productions by Agnes de Mille, as 'an actor-singer who can move well.'

Mr. Riggs will show baritones vocalizing through Hi C, without strain, without pulling "bottom," or going into "falsetto," heavy soprano voices, up through coloratura range, and show vocal similarities between pop, musical comedy, and opera.

Last summer, Mr. Riggs replaced three international voice technique teachers at Banff, (in Lake Louise, Canada,) where he was in charge of 33 opera singers for the Canadian government. He was asked, and consented, to work with 20 young actors from Stratford. This, again, is an indication of the practicability of his vocal approach to a workable technique.

He also does vocal therapy, that is, elimination of vocal nodules, polyps, and various conditions of fibrosis for Dr. Hans Von Leden, President of the L.A. Medical Association, Dr. Edward Kantor, Dr. Henry Rubin, and Dr. Robert Fedder.
SETH RIGGS

Mr. Riggs' students have won over $250,000 in prizes, grants, and fellowships over the last 10 years including Metropolitan National Awards; Chicago's WGN; Rockefeller Grants; Young Musicians' Awards, Saltzburg Festival Award; and Fullbright and Rotary Scholarships to Europe.

He draws an average of 600 new voice students per year; 40% opera, and 60% musical theater.

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