

Theodore L. Gargiulo

December 19, 1915- December 11, 2006

Conductor, Composer, Musicologist

"Our Father was a very rare, gentle soul who walked the earth. His spirit soars with love and passion which is expressed in the legacy of his music and performances. But, his greatest opus is the love of life he instilled in his family."



Born in New York City Taddeo Luigi Gargiulo was the son of immigrant parents Salvatore Gargiulo, a baker from Sorrento and Erminia Mascia from Castellamare di Stabia, Italy.



Maestro Gargiulo appears in a promotional photo for the New York Opera Festival in Wash. D.C

He passed away on the morning of December 11, 2006 with his loving and devoted family at his side.

Amid the hardships of the Great Depression, Theodore discovered his passion for the piano and found a way to begin his studies. His talent and pursuit was rewarded with a scholarship to the Manhattan School of Music. Theory and harmony took its root and he was asked to join the National Youth Administration Symphony under the direction of Leopold Stokowski where he expanded his knowledge of orchestra and composition.

Twenty years later, in 1935, he received another scholarship from the New York Philharmonic Symphony Society and studied under a pupil of Rimsky-

Korsakoff. He was asked to be a part of the Simeon Bellison Clarinet Ensemble where he played bass clarinet. His concentration here continued to be harmony and composition. An original "*Romanza*" and his arrangement of Borodin's "*On the Steps of Central Asia*" received a monetary prize and was performed by the ensemble at Town Hall on April 28, 1938 to standing ovations. He continued to charm the music cognoscenti in New York City and was writing, arranging and leading the "Coro d'Italia" to three gold cups at the 1939 World's Fair. According to one of New York's newspapers, "Thirty-two nations joined hands in bringing colorful songs and dances of the old world to the world of tomorrow...The talent and grace of the young and old performers all costumed was something the huge crowd will never forget. The show lasted over seven hours."

Teachers' College of Columbia University was another stomping ground as he added vocal art to his accomplishments. Maestro Fritz Stiedry of the Metropolitan Opera embraced Theodore as his protégé. Here his passion grew deeper in the world of opera.

Subsequent years found Maestro Gargiulo performing as Music Director, Assistant Conductor and Conductor with opera companies such as The Miami Opera Guild, Wagner Opera Company's National Tour, New York Opera Festival in Washington, DC, Cafarelli Opera in Cleveland, Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Columbus Symphony Orchestra in Columbus, Georgia, Connecticut Opera Association, Philadelphia Opera and the Cincinnati Summer Opera. As a member of the Sacred Musical Service in New York City he was a freelance choir master, organist and pianist.

Theodore's last international conducting tour included the symphony orchestra of Ottawa, Vancouver and other cities in Canada. These orchestras provided accompaniment to the four hour silent film epic of the restoration of Abel Gance's 1927 classic "*Napoleon*" produced by Francis Ford Coppola.

He was chief music critic, reviewer and feature writer for the Columbus Ledger/Enquirer newspapers for seven years and his articles appeared in many publications.

The Gargiulo family came to Monterey in 1972. He organized the Peninsula Clarinet Quartet for the Monterey Museum of Art and established the chamber concert series, "Music in the Museum." Colonel Moskowitz, and

Theodore organized the Pan Cultural Orchestra of the Defense Language Institute (DLI). The orchestra performed concerts in Steinbeck Forum and throughout the community. With Specialist Bill Zornes, a student from the Russian Department Theodore wrote a pageant to celebrate the Army's 208th Birthday Ball, "*Music – the Great Motivator.*" Interspersed with narration, the pageant revealed how music has inspired patriotism throughout history. It was described as a "spine thrilling performance."

In November 2001 Maestro Gargiulo received a lifetime achievement award at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City. The award was presented by The Licia Albanese – Puccini Foundation.

Theodore found the love of his life, Gloria Moschella and they were married in September 1959. They have two children. He is survived by Gloria, his wife of 48 years, his daughter Franca Gargiulo and son in law Tom Quinn of San Francisco and Monterey, his son Terrence L. Gargiulo and daughter in law Cindy Brodsky of Monterey, and Ted Gargiulo Jr. and Jann of Seaside. He is also survived by two grandchildren by Terrence and Cindy, Gabriel Francesco and Sophia Rose.

The family extends its heartfelt prayers and thanks to all the angels in Theodore's life who guided his entry into God's Divine Kingdom, especially Dr. E. John Kennedy, Dr. Michael Galloway and Hospice of the Central Coast.

Maestro Gargiulo was a prolific composer with a collection of art songs in various genres, symphonic works, chamber music, a wedding mass, and two opera. His opera *Tryillias* was accepted for consideration for a Pulitzer Prize in music in 2004. More recently with his son Terrence as lyricist he completed another popular romantic ballad titled *Tehema Monterra Now and Forever*. However his last composition was still to be penned. On August 30th, 2006 Maestro Gargiulo wrote his last 101 measures - a musical setting of the Catholic Profession of Faith. "We believe in one God the Father, The Almighty, the maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen..."

We will miss you Maestro.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions in his name may be sent to:

The Music Scholarship Fund, Santa Catalina School, 1500 Mark Thomas Drive, Monterey, CA 93940

To see and hear more about his work go to:

<http://www.makingstories.net/opera/opera.htm>