



***This issue is  
dedicated  
to the memory of  
Luciano Pavarotti***



photo by Judy Kovacs

### **R.I.P Maestro**

*"Penso che una vita per la musica  
sia una vita spesa bene ed è a questo  
che me sono dedicato."*

*"I think a life in music is a life  
beautifully spent and this is what I  
have dedicated my life to."*

***Luciano Pavarotti  
(1935-2007)***

## **Luciano Pavarotti Is Dead at 71**



By **BERNARD HOLLAND**

Luciano Pavarotti, the Italian singer whose ringing, pristine sound set a standard for operatic tenors of the postwar era, died September 6, at his home near Modena, in northern Italy. He was 71.

His death was announced by his manager, Terri Robson. The cause was pancreatic cancer. In July 2006 he underwent surgery for the cancer in New York, and he had made no public appearances since then. He was hospitalized again this summer and released on Aug. 25.

Like Enrico Caruso and Jenny Lind before him, Mr. Pavarotti extended his presence far beyond the limits of Italian opera. He became a titan of pop culture. Millions saw him on television and found in his expansive personality, childlike charm and generous figure a link to an art form with which many had only a glancing familiarity.

Early in his career and into the 1970s he devoted himself with single-mindedness to his serious opera and recital career, quickly establishing his rich sound as the great male operatic voice of his generation — the “King of the High Cs,” as his popular nickname had it.

By the 1980s he expanded his franchise exponentially with the Three Tenors projects, in which he shared the stage with Plácido Domingo and José Carreras, first in concerts associated with the World Cup and later in world tours. Most critics agreed that it was Mr. Pavarotti’s charisma that made the collaboration such a success. The Three Tenors phenomenon only broadened his already huge audience and sold millions of recordings and videos.

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And in the early 1990s he began staging Pavarotti and Friends charity concerts, performing with rock stars like [Elton John](#), [Sting](#) and [Bono](#) and making recordings from the shows.

Throughout these years, despite his busy and vocally demanding schedule, his voice remained in unusually good condition well into middle age.

And although he planned to spend his final years performing in a grand worldwide farewell tour, he completed only about half the tour, which began in 2004. Physical ailments limited his movement on stage and regularly forced him to cancel performances.

Yet his wholly natural stage manner and his wonderful way with the Italian language were completely intact. Mr. Pavarotti remained a darling of Met audiences until his retirement from that company's roster in 2004, an occasion celebrated with a string of "Tosca" performances. (*pictured above*) At the last of them, on March 13, 2004, he received a 15-minute standing ovation and 10 curtain calls. All told, he sang 379 performances at the Met, of which 357 were in fully staged opera productions.

In the late 1960s and '70s, when Mr. Pavarotti was at his best, he possessed a sound remarkable for its ability to penetrate large spaces easily. Yet he was able to encase that powerful sound in elegant, brilliant colors. His recordings of the Donizetti repertory are still models of natural grace and pristine sound. The clear Italian diction and his under-

standing of the emotional power of words in music were exemplary.

Luciano Pavarotti was born in Modena, Italy, on Oct. 12, 1935. His father was a baker and an amateur tenor; his mother worked at a cigar factory. As a child he listened to opera recordings, singing along with tenor stars of a previous era, like Beniamino Gigli and Tito Schipa. He professed an early weakness for the movies of [Mario Lanza](#), whose image he would imitate before a mirror.

As a teenager he followed studies that led to a teaching position; during these student days he met his future wife. He taught for two years before deciding to become a singer. His first teachers were Arrigo Pola and Ettore Campogalliani, and his first breakthrough came in 1961, when he won an international competition at the Teatro Reggio Emilia. He made his debut as Rodolfo in Puccini's "Bohème" later that year.

In 1963 Mr. Pavarotti's international career began: first as Edgardo in Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor" in Amsterdam and other Dutch cities, and then in Vienna and Zurich. His Covent Garden debut also came in 1963, when he substituted for and Giuseppe di Stefano in "La Bohème." His reputation in Britain grew even more the next year, when he sang at the Glyndebourne Festival, taking the part of Idamante in [Mozart's](#) "Idomeneo."



A turning point in Mr. Pavarotti's career was his association with the soprano Joan Sutherland. In 1965 he joined the Sutherland-Williamson company on an Australian tour during which he sang Edgardo to Ms. Sutherland's Lucia. He credited Ms. Sutherland's advice, encouragement and example as a major factor in the development of his technique.

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Further career milestones came in 1967, with Mr. Pavarotti's first appearances at La Scala in Milan and his participation in a performance of the Verdi Requiem under Herbert von Karajan. He came to the Metropolitan Opera a year later, singing with Mirella Freni, a childhood friend, in "La Bohème."

A series of recordings with London Records had also begun, and these excursions through the Italian repertory remain some of Mr. Pavarotti's lasting contributions to his generation. The recordings included "L'Elisir d'Amore," "La Favorita," "Lucia di Lammermoor" and "La Fille du Régiment" by Donizetti; "Madama Butterfly," "La Bohème," "Tosca" and "Turandot" by Puccini; "Rigoletto," "Il Trovatore," (*pictured bottom, previous page*) "La Traviata" and the Requiem by Verdi; and scattered operas by Bellini, Rossini and Mascagni. There were also solo albums of arias and songs.



In 1981 Mr. Pavarotti established a voice competition in Philadelphia and was active in its operation. Young, talented singers from around the world were auditioned in preliminary rounds before the final selections. High among the prizes for winners was an appearance in a staged opera in Philadelphia in which Mr. Pavarotti would also appear.

He also gave master classes, many of which were shown on public television in the United States. Mr. Pavarotti's forays into teaching became stage appearances in themselves, having more to do with the teacher than the students.

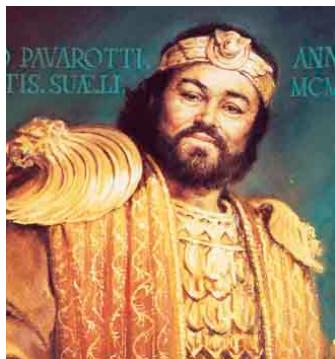


### An Outsize Personality

In his later years Mr. Pavarotti became as much an attraction as an opera singer. Hardly a week passed in the 1990s when his name did not surface in at least two gossip columns. He could be found unveiling postage stamps depicting old opera stars or singing in Red Square in Moscow. His outsize personality remained a strong drawing card, and even his lifelong battle with his circumference guaranteed headlines: a Pavarotti diet or a Pavarotti binge provided high-octane fuel for reporters.

In 1997 Mr. Pavarotti joined Sting for the opening of the Pavarotti Music Center in war-torn Mostar, Bosnia, and Michael Jackson and Paul McCartney on a CD tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales. In 2005 he was granted Freedom of the City of London for his fund-raising concerts for the Red Cross. He also was lauded by the Kennedy Center Honors in 2001, and he holds two spots in the Guinness Book of World Records: one for the greatest number of curtain calls (165), the other, held jointly with Mr. Domingo and Mr. Carreras, for the best-selling classical album of all time, the first Three Tenors album ("Carreras, Domingo, Pavarotti: The Three Tenors in Concert"). (*three tenors pictured above*) But for all that, he knew where his true appeal was centered.

"I'm not a politician, I'm a musician," he told the BBC Music Magazine in an April 1998 article about his efforts for Bosnia. "I care about giving people a place where they can go to enjoy themselves and to begin to live again. To the man you have to give the



spirit, and when you give him the spirit, you have done everything.”

Mr. Pavarotti’s health became an issue in the late 1990s. His mobility onstage was sometimes severely limited because of leg problems, and at a 1997 “Turandot” performance at the

Met, extras onstage surrounded him and helped him up and down steps. In January 1998, at a Met gala with two other singers, Mr. Pavarotti became lost in a trio from “Luisa Miller” despite having the music in front of him. He complained of dizziness and withdrew. Rumors flew alleging on one side a serious health problem and, on the other, a smoke screen for his unpreparedness.

### A Box-Office Powerhouse

It was a tribute to Mr. Pavarotti’s box-office power that when, in 1997, he announced he could not or would not learn his part for a new “Forza del Destino” at the Met, the house substituted “Un Ballo in Maschera,” a piece he was ready to sing.

Around that time Mr. Pavarotti left his wife of more than three decades, Adua, to live with his 26-year-old assistant, Nicoletta Mantovani, and filing for divorce, which was finalized in October 2002. He married Ms. Mantovani in 2003. She survives him, as do three daughters from his marriage to the former Adua Veroni: Lorenza, Christina and Giuliana; and a daughter with Ms. Mantovani, Alice.

Mr. Pavarotti had a home in Manhattan but also maintained ties to his hometown, living when time permitted in a villa in Santa Maria del Mugnano, outside Modena.

He published two autobiographies, both written with William Wright: “Pavarotti: My Own Story” in 1981 and “Pavarotti: My World” in 1995.

In interviews Mr. Pavarotti could turn on a disarming charm, and if he invariably dismissed concerns about his pop projects, technical problems and

even his health, he made a strong case for what his fame could do for opera itself.

“I remember when I began singing, in 1961,” he told Opera News in 1998, “one person said, ‘run quick, because opera is going to have at maximum 10 years of life.’ At the time it was really going down. But then, I was lucky enough to make the first ‘Live From the Met’ telecast. And the day after, people stopped me on the street. So I realized the importance of bringing opera to the masses. I think there were people who didn’t know what opera was before. And they say ‘Bohème,’ and of course ‘Bohème’ is so good.’ ”

About his own drawing power, his analysis was simple and on the mark:

“I think an important quality that I have is that if you turn on the radio and hear somebody sing, you know it’s me,” he said. “You don’t confuse my voice with another voice.”

*(this article by Bernard Holland appeared in the NY Times, September 6, 2007).*



### In Memoriam...

*Below is a web address to a video performance by Pavarotti from Puccini's Turandot: “Nessun Dorma” :*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VATmgtmR5o4&mode=related&search=>

*(Thanks to Margae Cenci-Frontera for providing this information.)*

## **Italian-American News**



### **MEET CHEF LIDIA BASTIANICH!**

*At Chef Central's Paramus NJ Location.*

**Tuesday, December 4, 2007 at 7:00 pm**

In addition to her role as one of the best-loved chefs on television, Lidia is a best-selling cookbook author, restaurateur, and owner of a flourishing food and entertainment business. Her cookbooks include her latest, *Lidia's Italy* -- a companion book to her new television series, as well as *Lidia's Family Table*, *Lidia's Italian-American Kitchen*, *Lidia's Italian Table* and *La Cucina di Lidia*.

She is the chef/owner of four acclaimed New York City restaurants -- Felidia, Becco, Esca and Del Posto as well as Lidia's in Pittsburgh and Kansas [livepage.apple.com](http://livepage.apple.com)City. She is also founder and president of Tavola Productions, an entertainment company that produces high quality broadcast productions including "Lidia's Italy." In addition, Lidia has developed her own line of specialty sauces that are sold at discriminating retail establishments nationally, and together with her son Joseph, produces award winning wines at the Bastianich and La Mozza wineries in the Italian regions of Friuli and Maremma respectively.

### **FREE TASTING, Q&A and BOOK SIGNING**

*All of Lidia's books and products will be available for purchase at this event.*

**FREE EVENT! NO RESERVATIONS  
STANDING ROOM ONLY**

*Note: there is limited capacity in the store. At past Lidia appearances, we were required to form a line outside the store in order to accommodate those waiting for books to be signed. As a result, some customers were not able to see the Q&A. Come early for the best view.*

### **Paramus, NJ**

#### **Address:**

Paramus Towne Square

240 Route 17

North Paramus, NJ 07652

(between Buy Buy Baby & Circuit City)

#### **Store Phone:**

(201) 576-0100

### **Lidia's Biscotti**

**Servings:** 36 cookies

#### **Ingredients:**

6 cups cake or all-purpose flour

2 cup cornmeal

1 tablespoon baking powder

1 teaspoon salt

6 tbs unsalted butter, softened

2 1/2 cups sugar

4 large eggs

1/4 cup anisette

2 cups peeled and toasted whole almonds

**Directions:** Preheat the oven to 350F. Line a 15 x 11-inch jelly roll pan with parchment paper. Combine the flour, cornmeal, baking powder and salt in a bowl and stir well. In a separate bowl, beat the butter with an electric hand mixer until creamy. Continue beating, adding the sugar gradually, until light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in the anisette. Pour the dry ingredients and almonds into the bowl, switch to a wooden spoon and stir until the dough is smooth.

Divide the mixture into two equal portions.

Shape each into a loaf 12 inches long by 3 inches wide, making the sides and top even and smooth.. Place the loaves side-by-side on a parchment-lined jelly-roll pan, leaving at least 2 inches between them and 1 inch between the loaves and the side of the pan. Bake until golden and the top of the loaves springs back when lightly poked with a finger, about 30 minutes. Remove the baking sheet from the oven and reduce the oven temperature to 300F. Cool the loaves until barely warm but still soft enough to cut, about 30 minutes.

Slice the loaves crosswise into 1/2-inch wide cookies. Lay the cookies on their side and bake until evenly golden brown and very firm, about 10 minutes. Cool completely.

*For more recipes by Lidia, go to:  
<http://www.lidiiasitaly.com/>*

**POINTers in Person.**

The POINTers In Person program, an autonomous branch of **POINT - Pursuing Our Italian Names Together** was founded in 1992. Our group, Chapter 15, was organized in September 1996. The 21 nationwide chapters of POINTers In Person provide genealogical researchers an opportunity to meet socially, and learn and share information pertinent to Italian research. Each chapter is independent and sets forth its own procedures and schedules of events.

We cordially invite Italian genealogical researchers to attend our quarterly meetings. Membership is open to all. In addition to regular meetings our group takes occasional field trips to genealogical research sites in the New Jersey/New York area.

Membership in our parent organization, POINT, is not a prerequisite to joining our group; however, it is highly recommended.

**La Notizia Italiana**

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**The Lou Costello Chapter**

POINTers In Person  
Chapter 15  
Northern New Jersey  
(201) 803-9117

**OFFICERS****President:** Maria Carparelli**Vice President:** Phil Oddo**Treasurer:** Maryanne Graham**Corresponding Secretary:** Lucille Kent**Recording Secretary:** Albert Marotta**Newsletter Editor:** Maria Carparelli**Web Master:** Annita Zalenski

Your letters and comments are welcomed.  
We reserve the right to edit submitted materials.

*POINTers in Person does not accept responsibility for errors, omissions, or opinions expressed or implied by contributors.*

**Calendar****Chapter 15 Future Meetings:**

Elmwood Park Municipal Building  
10 AM

*Come early, have coffee!*

February 2, 2008

May 3, 2008

August 2, 2008

**Passaic County Genealogical Society:**

Meeting dates:

**November 7, 7:30PM:**

(At the Little Falls Historical Society)

PCHS Quarterly Meeting & Program:

History of Little Falls,  
by Clifford Swisher,  
President of the LFHS.

**November 10:** Genealogy Club Meeting

(At the Hawthorne Library, 10AM)

**November 21, 7PM:** PCHS Board Meeting

**Dec. 8, 10AM** Hawthorne Library:  
Genealogy Club Meeting & Brunch

**December 16:** Members Holiday Party**Lambert Castle Events**

Nov. 3 - 25: Holiday House Boutique

**Genealogy Society of Bergen County:**

Ridgewood Library, 7PM

Meeting dates:

**November 26:**

*Methodist Records*  
presented by Dr. Dale Patterson,  
Archivist and records administrator,  
United Methodist Archives Center,

**Annual Meeting:** The program will be preceded by a short business meeting to elect Officers and Trustees and act on any other items of business.