

STEPHEN DICKSON
BARITONE OPERA SINGER
February 9, 2009

Stephen Dickson was a Baritone opera singer. He is being submitted for consideration for induction into the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame and Museum, Inc. in Muskogee Oklahoma in 2009.

The induction category is Other Musical Genres:

(to include, but not be limited to, gospel, contemporary Christian, Broadway, folk, classical, OPERA, Latin, American Indian individual or group artists, rap/hip hop, new age or world music or any other genre not covered by the above styles).

Stephen was born and educated in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. His talent in Opera started in High School and continued until his death at the age of 40.

Stephen's professional career started immediately after his college graduation in 1974. His first year, he interned with the Santa Fe Opera and then moved on to the Houston Grand Opera and debuted as Figaro in "Il Barbiere of Seville" in 1977. Upon hearing Stephen, Mathew Epstein signed him in the COLUMBIA ARTISTS MANAGEMENT 2-year Studio Program in New York City. After Mr. Epstein left, he continued with Bruce Zemsky. He studied with Dr. Isaac Van Grove at Opera in the Ozarks at Inspiration Point and with Marlena Malas in New York City.

Stephen was famous for his performance of Mozart operas, particularly "The Magic Flute." Because of a lawsuit, his performance cannot be purchased at this time. A short 4.5 minute review of his performance can be seen and heard on the YouTube Internet site by input of "Stephen Dickson in "The Magic Flute." This site has had many viewers since it was added to its listing. I have included a DVD of his performance with the San Francisco Opera in "La Boheme" and "Ariadne auf Naxos" with The Metropolitan Opera.

During Stephen's college years at Oklahoma City University, he taught private lessons to help opera students in their development.

He was dedicated to the pursuit of quality performance through language study, style and interpretation. His accomplishment has been attributed to Stephen's ability to couple interpretive excellence and bravura with technique.

During Stephen's professional career of 14-years, he performed with these recognized opera groups in the United States: Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, San Francisco Opera, Chicago Lyric Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Santa Fe Opera and the Edmonton Opera in Alberta, Canada. In 1979 his Europe debut began. He performed at Aix-en Provence, France, Music Festival, Gurin, Italy Music Festival Bavarian State Opera, Glydebouner Opera, London Opera, Dublin County Choir, Paris Opera, Zurich Opera and many other European locations.

His debut at the Metropolitan Opera was on November 26, 1981 in Die Zuberflote (The Magic Flute) as Papageno. He continued to be a regular performer at the Metropolitan and he performed for international telecasts of "Live at the Mets."

Beverly Sills took him into her fold and showcased him when her group performed Barber of Seville at the White House for President Lynden B. Johnson & Lady Bird. She also played "Papageno" in "The Magic Flute" for President Ronald Regan and First Lady Nancy in 1988. He performed at the Lincoln Center in New York City and several universities.

He was most recognized in the United States and Europe for his performance in:

Ein Madchen oder Welchen, "The Magic Flute"
Golden Gate 1979 presentation

Giacomo Puccini LA BOHEME with Luciano Pavarotti,

Irella Freni, Gino Quilco, Nicolai Ghiaurov,
Sandra Pacetti, Italo Taio, Stephen Dickson
and the San Francisco Opera chorus and Orchestra

Richard Strauss Ariadne auf Naxos with Kathleen Battle,
Tatiana Troyanos, James King, Franz Ferdinand Newtzig,
Stephen Dickson
and the Metropolitan Opera

Oklahoma City University added him to the Performance Hall of Honor in 1987 for his contributions in the Performing Arts.

Oklahoma Governors recognized his international contribution twice:

In 1989, Governor Bellman awarded Dickson the title
"Contributor to the
State of Excellence: and appointed him as an official
Ambassador to the
United States and all over the World.

In 1990, the Governor of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma City Arts Council recognized Stephen's artistic contribution to Oklahoma by presenting him with "The Oklahoma Cultural Ambassador Award."

In 2008, two Oklahoma City University opera students received the first annual scholarships given by Oklahoma City University for exceptional vocal talent by an Opera Student or Music Major. The scholarship was established in honor of Stephen Dickson by Ron Raines, a student and friend of Stephen's.

His artistic ability and influence is still a positive influence for Oklahoma. He continues to stimulate Oklahoma artistic artists through the students he taught, from internet opera reviews and DVD sales of his lasting performances with great performers.

Stephen's spirit and artistic integrity was matched only by the regard and love of his friends and colleagues from all over the world. In his short 14-year career, he truly represented the talent and gift of an Oklahoma Artist and I hope you will evaluate him as being worthy of recognition in the Oklahoma Hall of Fame and Muskogee Museum.

Pat Downing
3709 N.W. 67th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73116
405-843-6996

Dean and Bonnie Taylor
2813 Camelot Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73120
405-749-9441