

## **David Lloyd** **Tenor, Artistic Director, Educator**

Minneapolis, MN, February 29, 1920 -  
New York, NY, February 8, 2013

*Memorial tributes by Ronald and Barbara Hedlund, and Dorothy Williams*

**David Lloyd**, Illinois Opera Theater Director from 1971-1985, transformed a fledgling group into a full-scale program. Before coming to Illinois, Lloyd had a distinguished career as a leading tenor with the New York City Opera and as an international star at European festivals including Glyndebourne, Edinburgh, and others. Benjamin Britten chose him to sing the title role in the U.S. premiere of his opera *Albert Herring*. Lloyd appeared as soloist with the Boston Symphony 72 times (including for the opening of the UN in 1952), with the New York Philharmonic 58 times, and with the Philadelphia Orchestra 48 times. Among his recordings are Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* with the Boston Symphony and Handel's *Messiah* with the New York Philharmonic.

As an academic, Lloyd headed the opera programs at the University of Iowa and Hunter College in New York. As Artistic and General Director of the Lake George Opera from 1965-1980, he brought students and faculty to work there during the summer. Believing singers not only needed to learn roles, but also know what went on backstage, students worked alongside production staff on technical aspects both on and off stage. Graduate students directed fellow singers in staged programs of opera scenes, plus faculty members and visiting artists directed performances.

Opera lovers enjoyed sold out UI productions in summer, fall, and spring interspersed with six evenings of one-acts and scenes. Performances included operas such as *Carmen*, *Boheme*, *Butterfly*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Rake's Progress*, and *Black Widow*. In 1976, Illinois Opera Theatre staged a major coup: the Gershwin estate, which maintains tight control over performances, gave IOT permission for the first college production of *Porgy and Bess*. Summer and fall productions were sold out including five performances at Lake George.

Lloyd believed that American singers did not need to go to Europe to await discovery; IOT graduates sang at the Met, Chicago Lyric, NY City Opera, San Francisco Opera, and others. Students from Lloyd's era with international careers included soprano Erie Mills, bass Eric Halfvarson, and the late tenor Jerry Hadley. Lloyd left Illinois in 1985 to oversee the Juilliard American Opera Center, and served a long tenure as director of the William Matheus Sullivan Foundation, which funds up-and-coming singers.

Born in Minneapolis on Feb. 29, 1920, he enjoyed celebrating every four years -- and once sang the role of Frederick in *The Pirates of Penzance*, who also was born in Leap Year. After receiving a bachelor's degree from the Minneapolis College of Music and a diploma from the Curtis Institute of Music, Lloyd served as a Navy pilot during World War II.

His first wife, Maria (violinist in the UI Walden Quartet), and a son, Timothy, predeceased him. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, his son, David Thomas, and a grandson.