

THE ONE TENOR

By Lindsay Perigo

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Foreword by Tenor Anthony Kearns



I am very happy to introduce Lindsay Perigo's book, *The One Tenor*. Mr. Perigo is a tenor aficionado and an authority on the subject of Mario Lanza. Throughout the years, I have had the privilege of being interviewed by him for the Lanza Legend newsletter and on New Zealand radio. I'm pleased to be joined by my fellow tenor and friend, Simon O'Neill, who also has a great appreciation for Mario Lanza. It's too bad we can't be photographed for the book as we raise a toast to a man who has and continues to inspire singers the world over.

I remember watching Mario Lanza in *The Great Caruso* at a very young age growing up in rural Ireland. I was inspired by his passion, power and vocal control. I thought: "I want to sing like him! I want to captivate an audience with my voice and move them to incredible heights like he did!" Mario Lanza didn't just hit the notes – he felt the words, and he expressed their meaning with every fiber of his being. His ability to convey emotive power remains a benchmark in the "tenor hall of fame". Correct breathing, diaphragmatic support, clear diction -- all these are important, of course, but after that, it must come from the heart. Mario Lanza always gave us all he had.

Mario Lanza also brought opera into the living rooms of millions – introducing the genre to a new audience and popularizing it through his hugely popular movies, which have lived on, thanks to television. His talent inspired some of the finest tenors of subsequent generations, including the great Luciano Pavarotti, Jose Carreras, and Placido Domingo. Like them, he has been an ongoing inspiration for me during my entire career.

More than 50 years later, we continue to listen to the many recordings and watch the movies he left behind. Despite what may have been a turbulent personal life, his talent, skill, and the exuberance with which he sang are still deeply felt by his audience. Mario Lanza took our hearts, and he never gave them back.