**Louis Menendez Biographies January 2022**

Short Biography

Currently Senior Vocal Coach at Opera in the Ozarks and member of the Opera Department at University of Central Arkansas, LOUIS MENENDEZ has been active in the world of opera for more than thirty years as a vocal coach, conductor, pianist and educator. He was appoint to the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia in 1988 and the following year Philadelphia’s Academy of Vocal Arts appointed him vocal coach and assistant conductor. Over the last three decades he has assisted over 150 opera productions and conducted more than 30 opera productions with companies throughout the US and Europe.

Summer programs where he has taught, conducted or coached opera include The Israel Vocal Arts Institute, Tel Aviv, The International Institute of Vocal Arts, Chiari Italy; The Spoleto Festival, Spoleto Italy; Sarasota Opera, Opera in the Ozarks, California Music Festival, San Francisco, University of Minnesota Duluth Opera Training Program, Martina Arroyo’s Prelude to Performance, NYC, Sherill Milnes’s VOICE Experience, Tampa; Lingua e Canto, Sant Angelo in Vado, Italy; The New York Opera Studio, Vassar College.

He is proud of the musical preparation he’s given his many clients and former students who have sung and/or are singing in just about every major opera house around the world.

Long Biography

Louis Menendez has earned a reputation for extraordinarily sensitive and powerfully dramatic musicianship whether it is at the podium as an opera conductor, on stage collaborating in recital, at the piano as vocal coach, or at the desk composing.

Immediately following his graduate studies in piano with a concentration in chamber music and accompanying at Temple University, Mr. Menendez was invited to join the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music and subsequently, Philadelphia’s Academy of Vocal Arts, holding both positions for a number of years.

He has an expansive background in the operatic repertoire, having assisted such major conductors as Max Rudolf, Placido Domingo, Anton Coppola, Julius Rudel, John DeMain, John Mauceri, William Anthony Waters, Steven Mercurio, Marco Armiliato, Yuri Temirkanov, Bruno Rigacci, William Barkheimer, John Adams, James Caraher, Victor DeRenzi, and Ted Taylor in over 140 productions in the U.S. and Europe.

As a conductor, Mr. Menendez recently toured with a production of *Porgy and Bess* in Italy, Spain, and Germany, where he made his European debut at the Staatsoper in Hannover. He has conducted Puccini’s *Madama Butterfly* with the Shreveport Symphony, *Cenerento*la with Jacksonville Lyric Opera, *Rigoletto* at Queens College and *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* with the Brooklyn Opera. Past productions conducted include *Idomeneo* and *Die Zauberflöte* for the California Music Festival in San Francisco; *La clemenza di Tito, Cosi fan tutte*, and *La traviata* at the New York Opera Studio; *Rigoletto* and *Die Entführung* with the Philadelphia Concert Opera; and *Suor Angelica* and *Falstaff* at the Academy of Vocal Arts

As one of New York’s busiest and most respected operatic coaches, Mr. Menendez has assisted such artists as Sherrill Milnes, Birgit Nilsson, Renata Scotto, Regina Resnick, Régine Crespin, Alfredo Kraus, Mignon Dunn, Luciano Pavarotti, Evelyn Lear, Jennifer Larmore, Carol Vaness, Fabrizio Melano, Martina Arroyo, Joan Dorneman, Tito Capobianco, Nico Castel, and Bruno Rigacci, in master classes and private sessions.

Mr. Menendez counts among his most memorable experiences in recitals with singers Louis Quilico, Jerome Hines, Stephanie Blythe, Nico Castel, Elizabeth Futral, Suzanne Mentzer and Allan Glassman. Many of these performances have taken him around the globe to places such as Japan, Korea, Italy, Israel, Germany, Spain, Austria and England to name a few.

Mr. Menendez’s passion and love for chamber music began early in his career – he has since had the distinct pleasure of working with such artists as Yo Yo Ma, Raphael Druian, Jaime Laredo, Aaron Rosand, Felix Galimir, Orlando Cole, Jasha Brodsky, and renowned flutists Julius Baker and James Galway. For ten years, he toured extensively with his piano trio Orpheus III, which included members of the Philadelphia Orchestra. In its tenure, the Trio commissioned and premiered original works and performed the Beethoven Triple Concerto with many regional orchestras.

In recent recitals with violinist Julia Sakharova at Julliard and Steinway Hall, Mr. Menendez worked with the award-winning composer Sean Hickey in the premiere of Ampersand. He has also had the honors of working with John Adams and Audra McDonald in excerpts from Dr. Atomic, premiered by the New York Philharmonic , Giancarlo Menotti on the composer’s *Amahl and the Night Visitors*  production in Spoleto, Italy, and Carlisle Floyd on a production of his *Susannah* with National Opera in DC.

Mr. Menendez’s own compositions include a recently premiered Christmas Oratorio for soloists, chamber ensemble and choir, commissioned by the United Methodist Church of Danbury, Connecticut, and his one-man show *Dragonfly* which enjoyed much success at the Dorothy Jones Theatre in New York City. The song “Laughing at the Sun” was just featured on the 2016 Cala Records album Destination Peace where it was recorded with The English Chamber Orchestra and Manny Perlmann.

A dedicated educator and administrator, Mr. Menendez has served as Artistic Director of the Anchorage Opera Studio Theatre; Music Director for Sarasota Opera’s Studio Artists; Founder and Artistic Director of the Philadelphia Concert Opera; Founder and Director of the Apprentice Coach Program at Sherrill Milnes “Voice Experience”; and has been on the coaching staffs for the International Institute of Vocal Arts in Chiari, Italy (7 summers), the Israel Vocal Arts Institute in Tel Aviv, the California Music Festival in San Francisco, Martina Arroyo’s “Prelude to Performance” and Music Director for the New York Opera Studio, headed by Nico and Carol Castel from 2003-7. As Artistic Director and Founder of the Bechstein Vocal Series at The Players in Gramercy Park NY, he presented and produced over 40 events and concerts between 2007 and 2009. Summer 2012 he was was vocal coach in Italy for Lingua e Canto, a training program for gifted young opera singers in Sant’Angelo in Vado near Pesaro. He is proud of the musical preparation he’s given his many clients and former students who have sung and/or are singing in just about every major opera house around the world.

Classical Singer Magazine interviewed him and published the article “Time Stands Still, a Formula for Developing Artistry” in the October 2005 issue. In an interview for the Live Sound Studios Singers Newsletter (Nov. 2005), he discusses “Your Demo from a Conductor’s Point of View.”

He has recorded for Centaur Records with soprano Raya Gonen in Vocal Jewels from Israel (#2324), for which he received superlative reviews from George Jellinek when it aired on WQXR.