



GINO QUILICO O.C. C.Q.

Professional Biography 2025

Gino Quilico's career spans more than forty years, marked by an exceptional trajectory across the world's most prestigious opera houses, including the Metropolitan Opera in New York, La Scala in Milan, the Royal Opera House in London, and the Opéra National de Paris, to name only a few.

Mr. Quilico has performed under the baton of some of the most distinguished conductors in the symphonic world, such as Herbert von Karajan, Leonard Bernstein, Seiji Ozawa, Zubin Mehta, Kent Nagano, and Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

Among the highlights of his career is his participation in the world premiere of *The Ghosts of Versailles* by John Corigliano at the Metropolitan Opera in 1991, created to commemorate the company's centennial. In 1987, for the first time in the history of the Metropolitan Opera, a father (Louis Quilico) and son (Gino Quilico) shared the stage in the same production of Massenet's *Manon*. They later appeared together in *The Barber of Seville* in 1989 and 1990.

In addition to his mastery of the classical repertoire, Gino Quilico has also enjoyed great success in musical theatre, notably in the roles of Quasimodo in *Notre-Dame de Paris* (Plamondon–Cocciante) and Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables*.

He has taken part in over forty opera recordings. In 1995, he received a **Grammy Award** for his performance in Berlioz's *Les Troyens* with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, and in 2003, was awarded a **Gold Record** for his album *Noël*.

Mr. Quilico has performed at numerous high-profile events, including a performance for Her **Majesty Queen Elizabeth II** in 1983, and a gala at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa during the ratification of Canada's new Constitution. In 1986, he gave a private recital for **Prince Charles and Princess Diana** at the Canadian Ambassador's Residence in London, hosted by the Honourable R. Roy McMurtry.

A passionate educator, Mr. Quilico has served as a guest vocal coach at the Mediterranean Opera Studio & Festival in Sicily (2019, 2020), and as guest stage director and vocal teacher at the Festival de Música de Santa Catarina in Jaraguá do Sul, Brazil (2015, 2017, 2018), where he directed full productions of *Carmen* (2016) and *La Bohème* (2017).

He has given masterclasses internationally since 1991 in cities such as Boston, Chicoutimi, Jaraguá do Sul, Kingston (Ontario), Milan, Montreal, Munich, Orlando (Rollins College), Paris, Philadelphia, Rimouski, San Francisco (youth program), and Toronto (University of Toronto).

Mr. Quilico has also participated in several **world premieres**, including: *Montségur* by Marcel Landowski (Opéra de Paris and Toulouse, 1985), libretto by Antoine de Lévis Mirepoix. *The Ghosts of Versailles* by John Corigliano (Metropolitan Opera, 1991), libretto by William Hoffman. *Les Feluettes* by Kevin March (Opéra de Montréal, 2016), libretto by Michel Marc Bouchard

Gino Quilico has always been deeply committed to the promotion of operatic art and has served as a proud ambassador of Canadian culture. In recognition of his artistic achievements and his contribution to the country's musical life, he was appointed **Officer of the Order of Canada**.

In 1990, he was named a **Goodwill Ambassador** by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

More recently, in June 2024, he was named a Chevalier of the **National Order of Quebec**.

Testimonials and Letters of Recognition

Luciano Pavarotti (Italy, December 8, 1990)

"Gino is a great talent, a beautiful voice, a true personality and a fine actor. He will be a Verdi baritone who will probably have one of the greatest careers of all time. He has everything. The public is mad about him. It is a great pleasure for me to see this."

Bill Clinton, President of the United States (Personal Letter, September 12, 1997)

"Dear Gino, Thank you so much for the copy of your album Le Secret. It brings back fond memories of seeing you perform at the Metropolitan Opera. Hillary and I are grateful that you shared your work with us and send you our best wishes."

Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister of Canada (Personal Letter, September 11, 1987)

"Dear Mr. Quilico, On behalf of the Government of Canada, I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings and best wishes on the occasion of this historic first performance of a father and son at the Metropolitan Opera. Canadians, and indeed all those who appreciate opera, can be very proud of your accomplishments and your contribution to music both in Canada and around the world."