

Dramatic Coach

Scott Barnes graduated from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music as the musical theater kid who knew all the soprano operatic rep. (When he was a freshman, Kathleen Battle, Barbara Daniels, and Deborah Polaski were doctoral students.) Scott went on to perform on and off Broadway and around the country, sang on six of the Disney animated films (including *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin*, and *Pocahontas*), starred in scores of television commercials between 1977 and 1990. Scott is a two-time winner of the MAC award for NYC cabaret director of the year (five nominations), and has created acts for Bette Midler, Kathie Lee Gifford, Rita Moreno, Alix Korey and many other wonderful singers. He has produced and/or artistic-directed twenty-six CDs, and for four glorious years directed, managed, and publicized the late, legendary cabaret singer Nancy LaMott.

During the last fourteen years, Scott has written dozens of features for *Opera News*, including eleven cover articles, reviews, and opinion pieces on operatic acting, English diction for American singers, and his most unforgettable operatic performance. After years in “showbiz”, (and years teaching master classes in song interpretation and audition strategies for Broadway-bound performers) Scott has found his unique ability to help opera singers strategize for (and enjoy) auditions, and to broaden their actors’ imaginations (through the Sanford Meisner acting method) to better inhabit songs, arias, and roles. He is enough of a “vocal vocabulary junkie” to work with just about any vocal technique, having taught audition and interpretation master classes at home and abroad, and team-taught with singing actress supreme Lauren Flanigan. In the summer of 2015, he was a faculty member for Aprile Millo’s *OperaVision Academy* in Italy. In the summer of 2019, Scott joined the faculty of Michael Paul’s *Accademia Lirica Internazionale d’Ischia* in Italy. He plans to return in 2021.

For the past several seasons, Scott has judged several of opera’s top singing competitions, including the Gerda Lissner, Puccini Foundation, Giulio Gari, Veronica Dunne (NYC and Wexford prelims), AVA’s Giargiari, Loren L. Zachary Society, and Opera at Florham. *Scott loves and respects singers (and those who love them).*