TEACHING CURRICULUM

WILMA VERNOCCHI



Wilma Vernocchi 2025 (foto Annick Noermann)

Wilma Vernocchi is a leading soprano in Italian opera, who began teaching during her tours in Japan, at Japan University of the Arts - Nagoya School of Music. Wilma has been a teacher there from 1986 to 2008.

Wilma has taught singing at the “A. Vivaldi” Conservatory in Novara (1987/88), the “F. Cilea” Conservatory in Reggio Calabria (1989/90), the “G. Verdi” Conservatory in Milan (1990/95), and the “G.B. Martini” Conservatory in Bologna (1995/09). In Novara and Reggio Calabria, Wilma held public lessons with her students entitled “La voce cantata” (The Singing Voice).

In 1992, Wilma held her first Chinese masterclass on vocal technique and the interpretation of Italian opera at the Beijing Opera and the Shanghai Conservatory of Music.

From 1994 to 2000 Wilma conceived, planned, and organized the international seminar on bel canto and Italian melodrama “**Vacanze in lirica**” for the Municipality of Riccione. The lessons were enriched by meetings with phoneticians, documentary and iconographic exhibitions, lessons open to the public, lessons given by experts in ancient vocal techniques, debates, and conferences dedicated to composers Francesco Paolo Tosti and Gaetano Donizetti.
The seminar was endorsed by journalists and music historians, and prestigious lecturers highlighted its high educational value. Students were awarded scholarships donated by the course management, with prizes offered by the tourism office of the Republic of San Marino and the Ceramists' Association of Faenza.
The numerous public concerts accompanied by piano, and the “Riccione Grande Musica” orchestra conducted by Maestro Giorgio Leardini were valuable experiences for the students. Renata Tebaldi, Rosanna Carteri, Giulietta Simionato, Giuseppe Taddei, and actress Liliana Feldmann were some of the distinguished guests at “**Vacanze in lirica**”, which has travelled through severa Italian cities, celebrating its 30th consecutive edition in 2024.

In 1997 Wilma conceived and organized the singing and performing arts course "Accademia di studio e perfezionamento lirico“ (Academy of opera study and refining technique) in Faenza, at the historic ”Loggetta del Trentanove" headquarters of the Matteucci-Muki ceramists.

In October 1998, Wilma was invited to Tokyo, where she held her first lessons of stage art at the Fuchu-no-mori Theater.

In August 2000, Wilma taught opera singing at the “Intensive Course for Singers” at Villa Chiericati in Vicenza, the Italian headquarters for Japanese students from the Showa Music University in Tokyo.

In July and August 2002, Wilma taught at the singing seminar at the Tulliano National Boarding School for the City of Arpino Music Interpretation Course (Frosinone).

In April 2003, Wilma taught the art of Italian opera at the Hatagaia-Aspia Theater in Tokyo.

Wilma also taught singing in weekly masterclasses at the Borgatti Theater in Cento (FE) for the “F. Busoni International Center for Advanced Musical Studies” (2003/04).

In May 2004, Wilma presented a public lecture with a concert by her students from the “G.B. Martini” Conservatory in Bologna, at the Accademia degli Incamminati conference in Forlì on the theme “Melodrama, Italian language school for foreign singers,”.

In September 2004, in Parma, Wilma held an opera course at the historic Convitto “Maria Luigia,” with the patronage of the municipality and the Fondazione Banca del Monte.

From 2004 to 2009, Wilma was one of the singing teachers of the course “Vivere insieme la musica” (Inhabit Music Together) in Castrocaro Terme (FO) with the participation of students and artists from different Italian regions and foreign countries such as Russia, the Republic of Buryatia (Lake Baikal), Finland, Belgium, China, and the Czech Republic. Students from Nagoya University of Arts Japan - School of Music joined as well, and their participation was very meaningful.

In August 2006, Wilma taught singing and stagecraft at Shandong We Hai (Yellow Sea) University in China, and her students were part of public theatrical performances.

In 2004 and 2007, Wilma held masterclasses at the Opera Festival Study Center in Urbania.

In September 2007, in the Republic of Moldova, Wilma was a member of the jury for the Japanese competition “World Wide Madama Butterfly Competition” and taught a masterclass in Italian singing at the Conservatory in Chisinau.

From 2005 to 2009, Wilma held "Italian Opera Masterclass" courses at the prestigious J. Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, as part of the European Erasmus programs and projects, followed by private courses until 2023.

In January 2009, Wilma held masterclasses at the Music College in the city of Arkhangelsk (Russia-White Sea).

Wilma collaborated with the Union of the Blind and Visually Impaired at the Francesco Cavazza Institute in Bologna from 2002 to 2009, and her students from the G.B. Martini Conservatory, performed for the Institute multiple times.

In July 2007, Wilma coordinated and presented at the Teatro Comunale in Bologna the opera concert (not a school concert) by the young singing students of the “G.B. Martini” conservatory.

In 2008/2009, Wilma was part of a very successful and fruitful collaboration with the Bologna Festival for the school performances of Rossini's opera Il Barbiere di Siviglia (The Barber of Seville) at the Teatro Antoniano in Bologna.

In December 2007, Wilma’s visit to the Teatro alla Scala on the occasion of the celebrations for the tenor Giuseppe Di Stefano, with live broadcast on Canale 5 in Milan, was significant for the students of the “GB.Martini” conservatory. They also had the chance to witness the performance of G.Puccini's “Trittico” at the Teatro Comunale in Piacenza.

In February 2011, Wilma collaborated with the Istituto Nazionale Tostiano in Ortona for the realization of the commemorative concert “Festival Francesco Paolo Tosti” connected with the Japanese city of Tokyo and the Finnish city of Helsinki.

In February 2013, joined by the Istituto Nazionale Tostiano (Ortona) and the Sibelius Akatemia in Helsinki (Finland), Wilma planned and presented a concert with Finnish opera singers for the cultural exchange of contemporary compositions by the Finnish composer Oskar Merikanto and Francesco Paolo Tosti.

Wilma has been a member of juries and committees for opera competitions such as: the 5th Worldwide Madama Butterfly Competition in Tokyo (Japan, 1986); the G. Enescu International Competition for Musicians and Singers in Bucharest (Romania, September 1992); auditions for the artists of the Arena di Verona choir in 2000 and 2001; the “XXXV Concorso della Lirica Italiana” Makizo Nakagawa Association in Osaka, Japan (2004); in Chisinau (Republic of Moldova) “Concurs International Madama Butterfly” (September 2008); Italian edition of the “Francesco Paolo Tosti” Competition in Ortona (April 2010); 4th edition of the “Mykola Lysenko International Music Competition” in Kyiv (Ukraine - November 2012).

Wilma has taught at the Liceo Musicale “G Paisiello” in Pomiliano d'Arco, Naples (school year 2010/2011) and the “XIX Edition of Estate in Musica della Romagna –Toscana” (August 2010 and 2016).

In July 2011, Wilma was part of the Italian delegation at the “Youth Festival of Song and Dance” in Latvia, in Riga, an extraordinary musical event under the patronage of UNESCO with the participation of Italian students. Wilma held a public lecture “Mastering vocals” at the European Union House in Riga.

In Estonia, Wilma held masterclasses at the Eesti Muusika-Ja Teatriakadeemia Academy in Tallinn (2010 and 2013), in Tokyo at the Gotanda Theater and in Osaka (2010 and 2013), where she gave lessons in vocal technique and scenic art; Wilma has also taught in the Czech Republic for the “Narodni Institut Pro Dalsi Vzdelavani”, doing masterclasses in Karlovy Vary from June 2011 to July 2019.

In 2013 and 2014, Wilma held an “Advanced Course in Opera Singing” at the Ceub University Residential Center in Bertinoro (FC); the same initiative was subsequently carried out in

Portico di Romagna for the Olmo International Academy (2015).

From 2013 to 2017, Wilma taught singing in Estonia for the “International Summer Academy for Singers” at the Rapla Festival.

In 2017, Wilma returned to China for masterclasses on Italian opera, invited by the Universities of Shiao Xing and Jin Hua in Zhejiang province.

In 1980, Wilma created and hosted the television series “Lirica in salotto” on Globo TV (based in Milan) and in 1990, the twelve-part radio series “Lirica oggi” broadcast on RAI-Radio Italiana's Terza Rete.

Wilma conceived and presented a new eight-part television series for Teleromagna entitled “Lirica oggi” (Opera Today) for educational purposes, with the participation of guest musicians and artists from the Italian opera world (web:www.Teleromagna.it/LiricaOggi/2015/16).

Since 2013, Wilma has been an honorary member of the Rotary Club District 2072 of Forlì, where she has collaborated on humanitarian concert activities. From February 2017 to May 2019, Wilma conceived and created lessons on the history of Italian opera entitled “Insieme cantando, il canto lirico entra nelle scuole” (Singing together, opera enters schools) in Forlì, Tredozio, and Rimini, with final public performances by 4th and 5th grade students.

In July 2021 and 2022, Wilma held opera singing masterclasses for the 14th and 15th editions of the “Federico Cesi-Musica Urbis” Festival in Trevi (Umbria) as well as at the “Angelo Masini” Music Institute Foundation (Forlì) for the seminar “La voce cantata” (The Singing Voice) (September 2021).

In September 2022, Wilma was the Italian opera singing teacher for students at the “Teatro Opera” in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon, Vietnam).

The traveling singing seminar “Vacanze in lirica” (Opera Holidays) celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2024, the event was joined by students coming from several Italian regions and foreign countries such as South Africa, Brazil, South Korea, Austria, Slovenia, Russia, Belgium, Finland, Lapland, the USA, the Czech Republic, Iran, Denmark, Estonia, Sweden, Spain, Serbia, China, Israel, the Republic of Buryatia (Lake Baikal), and Japan. 35 students from Nagoya University of Arts Japan - School of Music, were part of the celebration their participation was very meaningful.

Wilma Vernocchi believes that every singing student, from the early years of study, should perform in public with a repertoire appropriate to their level of study. This is why she has always collaborated with non-profit opera organizations and humanitarian associations, organizing concerts for young artists and students.

Wilma was a singing teacher at the summer festival “Lunigiana International Music Festival 2025.”

Wilma currently teaches singing at the “Istituto Musicale Angelo Masini” Foundation, in Forlì, her hometown.

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