

Peel Biog. Bk.

July 27-83 ^{mn}

MAURO, Ermanno



Famous tenor calls our city home

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NOT FOR CIRCULATION
By MELODY CHARD
Staff Writer

When you think of opera, it is hard not to think of Ermanno Mauro.

Mauro is one of the top five tenors in the world and he has made Mississauga his home base for the past year.

The Trieste-born tenor was urged by his church choir to become a member of the Alberta Opera Association in 1961, and that following year made his Canadian debut after only a few casual lessons with Jean Letourneau, who gave him the lead role in the production of *Il Trovatore*.

Mauro had no stage presence, could not read music and, as an actor, had many shortcomings.

Nonetheless, his natural vocal quality quickly became the talk of the town.

Mauro has achieved critical acclaim from his appearances with leading opera companies of the United States, Europe and South America.

A *lirico spinto*, his repertoire includes a wide range of Verdi, Puccini, Bellini as well as French opera.

Mauro, who is a husband and father to one girl and two boys, generally likes what he does to earn a living.

"Sometimes it gets pretty heavy, though. I'm lucky if I get to spend three weeks at one time at home. The kids hate it when they don't get to see me," said Mauro.

The singer has appeared in many concert and opera houses throughout the world, including London's Covent Garden, Paris Opera, La Scala, the Arena di Verona, Lyon, the Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, to name just a few, and has performed with the likes of Joan Sutherland, Carol Neblett and Roberta Knie.

The renowned tenor was received extremely well in the Golden Gate Park in San Francisco last year, where he performed in front of an audience of 75,000 admirers. "They were hanging from the trees," said Mauro.

When listening to the radio, the opera star prefers to listen to classical music, but with youngsters in the house he often gets the opportunity to hear a lot of rock and roll and new wave. "Rock is nice, too," he said.

Mauro feels opera is becoming more popular these days, but cautions young opera hopefuls. "Think three times before you try to make a living out of it," he said. "It's not as easy as it looks."

World-renowned tenor, Ermanno Mauro left Sunday for a three-week tour in Italy where he will perform in front of adoring crowds of opera lovers. The Mississauga resident will be appearing at the O'Keefe Centre in the production of *Turandot* this fall.

(Staff photo by Tim Chevrier)

Ermanno Mauro, who is now in Italy for another three-week tour, will be performing in the stage production of *Turandot* at the O'Keefe Centre this September and October.