

# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION *of* TEACHERS *of* SINGING



## **BERNARD TAYLOR**

### **THE BERNARD TAYLOR FUND**

PROVIDES FUNDING FOR THE NATS ARTIST AWARDS

Bernard U. "Bee" Taylor was a founder and President of the National Association of Teachers of Singing from 1954-56. When he died in 1987, he was ninety years old and had been a teacher of singing for approximately seventy years.

At the age of fourteen or fifteen Professor Taylor first heard Caruso in person, an event which marked the beginning of his lifelong absorption in the world of opera and the art of song. He began vocal studies with Frank Croxton and William Henshaw. Enrolled at the University of Pennsylvania, Professor Taylor studied privately with Horatio Connell in Philadelphia. For several years Connell had studied in Germany with the renowned Julius Stockhausen, a pupil of Garcia and the first great lieder recitalist. Connell was sufficiently impressed with the youngster that he assigned pupils to him while he was still in college.

In 1917, Professor Taylor joined the French Ambulance Corps and spent the remaining months of the World War I in the dangerous work of evacuating the wounded from the battlefields to field hospitals for emergency treatment. For his heroism he was awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French Government. During the armistice, Professor Taylor auditioned and was accepted for an all-soldier review, "Let's Go!" which was presented in Paris before such notables as President Woodrow Wilson and General John J. Pershing, and then toured Allied military installations in France and Germany.

Returning to America in 1924, he established a conservatory in Fort Worth and pioneered group vocal instruction, which had gained several prominent adherents throughout the country. When he established residence in New York City in 1929, he resumed vocal study with another noted teacher, Percy Rector Stevens.

In 1930, Professor Taylor joined the faculty of the Institute of Music and Art, later known as The Juilliard School, where he remained until 1953 and served as Chair of the Voice Department. His continuing concern with group instruction led to his 1936 publication *Group Voice*, a systematic manual for use in voice class or private studio. His many other publications, which have made him a familiar name in institutions and studios throughout the nation, were devoted to vocal literature. He compiled and edited seventeen song albums.

Professor Taylor was honored for fifty or more years of distinguished service to the American Academy of Teachers of Singing, The New York Singing Teachers Association, and the Bohemians (The New York Musicians' Club). He was also a valued member of the Metropolitan Opera Club. His lifetime concern with professionalism and ethics prompted him to join in the effort to found our present national association.

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