

M° Gioacchino Longobardi, Conductor, Pianist

“La Musica, prima”...

Born in Castellammare di Stabia, near Naples, M° Longobardi began a life dedicated to his love of music. When he was five years old his family moved to Capri where his father continued his family tradition working as a gunsmith and blacksmith; his mother took care of the family accompanying Gioacchino to his piano lessons in Napoli.

He began studying music with his father, a violinist, whose career was cut short by the war and family commitments. While working at the home of M° Angelo Parigi, a voice teacher, his father was introduced to Professoressa Tita Parisi who became Gioacchino’s teacher and mentor.

Through Professoressa Parisi, M° Longobardi continues an unbroken line of masters, becoming a direct descendent of the Neapolitan Piano School, attributed to Francesco Lanza, student of Muzio Clementi. It was through his mentor that he first began his love affair with the Neapolitan School of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

M° Longobardi studied at the Conservatorio San Pietro a Majella in Napoli, receiving Diplomas in Piano, Choral Music, Choral Conducting and Composition. He studied Sacred Music, Opera and Orchestration with M° Ugo Rápalo, conductor at the San Carlo Opera House and Composition with M° Aladino Di Martino, Director of the Conservatorio.

After completing his diplomas, M° Longobardi moved to Salzburg, attending the Hochschule für Musik Mozarteum, and becoming one of the last students of his teacher, M° Herbert von Karajan.

He also studied under Rafael Kubelik, attended the Royal Academy of Music in London and traveled extensively throughout Europe as Pianist and Conductor.

Gioacchino Longobardi is presently the President and Artistic Director of the Neapolitan Music Society, and Artistic Director and Conductor of the Saratoga Springs Youth Orchestra.

Beside music, M° Longobardi has great passion for vintage Italian motorcycles and Cadillacs.

He also enjoys working as a gunsmith and welder trades he learned working with his father.