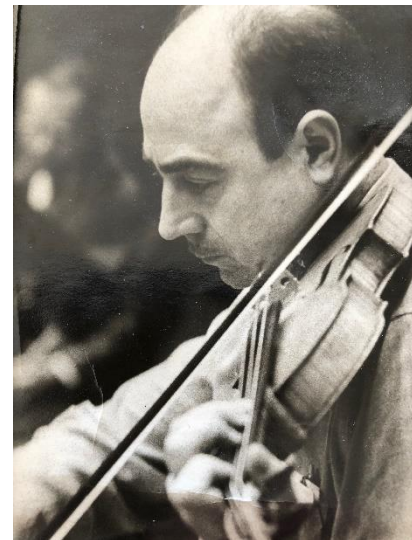


PYSO Membership Dues Scholarship Fund

Made possible in part by contributions in memory of:

LUCIO ROSSETTI

Lucio Rossetti, a versatile musician and member of the violin section of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra for 43 years passed away March 22, 2018 at age 106. Born in Lettopalena, Italy January 2, 1912 he started his musical career studying guitar at age eight. Violin studies began at age fifteen in Greensburg, Pennsylvania and continued at the Boccherini Conservatory in Lucca, Italy where he played violin in a touring opera company under the baton of Maestro Pietro Mascagni, composer of the well known opera *Cavalleria Rusticana*.



It was during his conservatory time as orchestra concertmaster that backstage after a concert Benito Mussolini, also a violinist, grabbed Lucio's violin and played a few bars. On returning the violin he commanded that Lucio play Anthem of the Fascist Italy. A slap on the back and an order to his aide, "Give that man a medal" was Mussolini's reward. Lucio rejected fascism in all its forms and immediately after graduation fled Italy a few days before he would have had to serve in the Italian army. His performances in the ship's orchestra financially supported his trans Atlantic passage.

On his return to the United States in 1934 he was soon hired by the Pittsburgh Symphony then conducted by Antonio Moderelli. He was successful in subsequent auditions for Otto Klemperer as well as Fritz Reiner and continued to play for conductors Leopold Stokowski, Charles Munch, Erich Leinsdorf, Victor de Sabata, William Steinberg, Andre Previn and innumerable noted guest conductors until his retirement in 1977. He developed a special affection for Carlo Maria Giulini when in 1967 and 1969 Rossetti served as translator for the great Italian maestro during his early American conducting engagements with the PSO. When a mandolin was needed for some concerts during the 11 week US State Department sponsored European tour in 1964, the personnel manager said "Let Rossetti do it, he can play anything ". He played the mandolin as well as the violin in concerts for the Shah of Iran and the Queen of England. He was likewise enlisted to play the accordion for certain concerts in Pittsburgh.

In his professional career he played with many ensembles in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio and taught piano, guitar, violin and accordion to innumerable students, some of whom have enjoyed successful careers as professional musicians. He was proud of his influence on musicians in the immediate family, Jarrett Laskey, classical guitar, graduate of Carnegie Mellon University and Austin Larson, horn, graduate of The Curtis Institute of Music currently playing in the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. Rossetti was a strong union advocate and continued to maintain membership in the Pittsburgh Musicians Union paying yearly dues until his death totaling even more years in retirement than employment.

At the time of his retirement he said, "Music has been so good to me. After 43 years in the symphony it is in your blood and although musicians have very different personalities the feeling that pervades the orchestra when they are making music together is unforgettable."

Subsequent to retirement he continued to teach and pursued his lifelong interest in nutrition on a 52 acre hobby farm where he produced most of the family's food organically. He was a gifted chef and enjoyed cooking for his colleagues both at home and when on tour. An avid bocce player, he installed a court on the farm and delighted in showing off his special techniques for winning games.