



Ira Malaniuk – Venus (R. Wagner «Tannhäuser»)

Ira Malaniuk ranks among the most prominent opera singers of the second half of 20th century. Her name stands beside those of such world-famed performers and her stage-mates, as Renata Tebaldi, Mario Del Monaco, Maria Cebotari, Giuseppe Di Stefano and others.

Ira Malaniuk was born on the 29th of January, 1919, in Stanisław (currently, the city of Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine). She came from a noble family. One of her umbilical ancestors was Duke of Guise, a contender for the French crown. Ira's father, firstly – a military doctor in the Austrian army, and later – Ukrainian Galician Army Colonel Osep Malaniuk, was a relative of Solomiya Krushelnytska.

In 1937, Ira Malaniuk began her vocal studies in Lviv with the famous bass singer Adam Didur. In May 1939, the young actress made her debut on the stage of the Lviv Opera House. Ira Malaniuk continued practicing her vocal in Vienna with Professor Anna Bahr-Mildenburg (1944).

Ira Malaniuk began her professional career as an opera singer in Graz in 1945. Her rich repertoire included over 100 big and small mezzo soprano opera parts and various chamber vocal pieces. In 1950s, Ira Malaniuk was recognised «one of the best Carmens in present-day Europe».

Ira Malaniuk was the first Ukrainian artist who with great success performed at Wagner Festivals in Bayreuth. In 1951, she was invited to take part by the composer's grandson Wieland Wagner.

Ira Malaniuk performed with an ongoing triumph at various theatres in Austria, Italy, Germany, France, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Argentina and other countries. For many years, she was a leading soloist of the Munich (1952–1970) and Vienna (1956–1974) State Opera Houses. Ira Malaniuk was awarded by the title of the Kammersängerin twice, according to the initiative of those theatres in Germany and Austria.

Having left the stage, Ira Malaniuk for many years (1970–1991) successfully taught vocal classes at the Graz Music Academy.

After Ukraine gained independence in 1991, she visited Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk, and gave master classes for Ukrainian students and young performers.

Ira Malaniuk died on the 25th of February, 2009, in the town of Zirl, Austria, and was buried there.



*Ira Malaniuk – Octavian
(R. Strauss «Der Rosenkavalier»)*



*Ira Malaniuk and Giuseppe Di Stefano
(P. Tchaikovsky «Yevgeny Onegin»)*



Ira Malaniuk – Eboli (G. Verdi «Don Carlos»)



Ira Malaniuk at a concert



*Ira Malaniuk and a conductor,
Wilhelm Furtwängler. Rome, 1953*



Ira Malaniuk with her husband, Ernest Baasch