

# Carolina Lazzari, Stony Creek's noted opera singer

Carolina Antoinette Lazzari was born in Milford, Mass. on Dec. 25, 1891, the daughter of Joseph J. and Marietta (Ambrosoli) Lazzari. Joseph worked for Norcross Brothers, which owned quarries in Massachusetts and Stony Creek. Many Stony Creek families alternately worked in Milford, Mass. and Stony Creek at the two quarries. The Lazzari family permanently settled in Stony Creek, living on School Street with daughters "Carrie," Annie and Rose. Carolina studied voice and Italian for three years in Milan, Italy at the Ussoline Academy.



PICTURES OF THE PAST

Jane Bouley

She made her premier performance in Chicago in 1918 and her Metropolitan Opera debut on Christmas Day in 1920.

She was an immediate success as "the phenomenal contralto who has flashed meteor-like into operatic and concert glory." In 1920 she made more than 100 concert appearances throughout the country under the management of Charles L. Wagner.

Rave reviews followed wherever she performed, "her contralto voice is one glorious and mellow beauty;" "her voice has great range and great power and she seems to be able to color it at will." She had starring roles in several operas including Samson and Delia and as Amneris in Aida. "Through the magic of Mr. Edison's machine" she made over a dozen recordings and was featured in Edison's advertising

for the phonograph.

After touring for several years with frequent concerts and roles with the Metropolitan and Chicago Opera Co., she went to Buenos Aires in 1921 as the starring contralto.

While in South America she appeared in many concert venues to excellent reviews.

She traveled extensively, including a rugged trip by mule caravan over the Andes. The weather conditions during this trip affected her voice, which never fully recovered.

Upon returning to this country she lived in New York City where she had a studio at 1425 Broadway and taught voice. Her pupils included Dennis Day, Judy Garland, Frank Parker, Iona Massey, Irene Manning and Mitzie Green. She continued with a limited concert schedule, including a benefit concert for the Hospital of St. Raphael at Woolsey Hall in 1922.

Though she lived in New York City, she made frequent visits to see her family in Stony Creek. She spent the last several months of her life in Stony Creek where she died Oct. 17, 1946, leaving her mother and two sisters.

Madame Lazzari is buried at St. Agnes Cemetery.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Jane Peterson Bouley is the historian for the Town of Branford.*



Photo courtesy of the Branford Historical Society  
**Madame Carolina Lazzari** was a Metropolitan Opera singer and the foremost contralto of her day.

# Concert

GIVEN BY

**Mlle. Carolina Lazzari**

ACCOMPANIED BY

**Miss Blanche Barbot**

FOR THE BENEFIT OF

**Hospital of St. Raphael**

**WOOLSEY HALL**

**SATURDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 2nd, 1922**

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## Programme

- 1.—(a) Rend' il sereno al ciglio.....HANDEL  
(b) Girometta .....SIBELLA  
(c) Chi vuol la zingarella.....PAISIELLO
  - 2.—ALL AMERICAN COMPOSERS.  
(a) The Crucible (Dedicated to Carolina Lazzari).....MACFAYDEN  
(b) Lonely Forest Pathway.....GRIFFES  
(c) Song of the Open.....LA FORGE
  - 3.—Aria II capraio from Opera "Dinorah".....MEYERBEER
  - 4.—(a) L'heure exquise.....POLDOWSKI  
(b) La Retraite.....L. PUGENT  
(c) Amour viens aider, from "Samson et Dalila".....SAINT SAENS
  - 5.—(a) A Memory.....GANZ  
(b) Little Stars (Swedish folk song) arranged by GUSTAV HAGG  
(c) Dusk in June.....FOSTER  
(d) Eagle .....GRANT-SCHAEFER
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MEHLIN PIANO USED  
FROM LOOMIS TEMPLE OF MUSIC