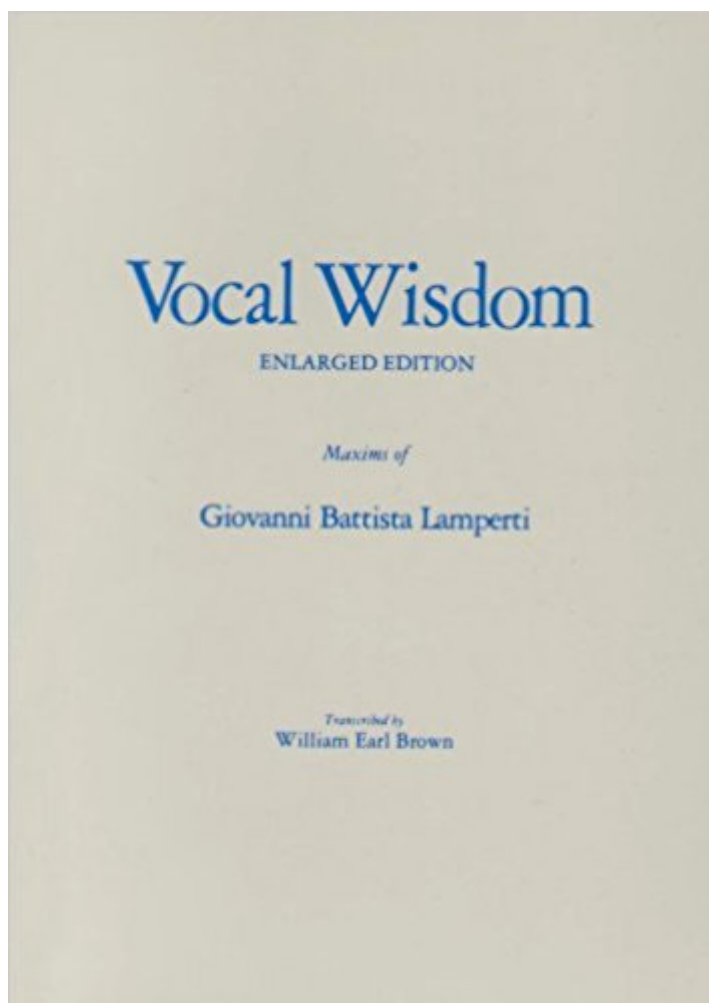


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# Vocal Wisdom: Maxims Of Giovanni Battista Lamperti



## Synopsis

The maxims of singing master Giovanni Battista Lamperti have now become classic among students of the voice. They were first written down by a student of Lamperti in the 1890s. Lamperti had in turn learned them from his father, Francisco Lamperti, who gathered them from Presto, Bellini, Donizetti, Rossini, et al. The precepts that developed the great voices of the Golden Age of Song are made available in this edition to all vocal students and aficionados of today.

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## Customer Reviews

The maxims of singing master Giovanni Battista Lamperti have now become classic among students of the voice. They were first written down by a student of Lamperti in the 1890s. Lamperti had in turn learned them from his father, Francisco Lamperti, who gathered them from Presto, Bellini, Donizetti, Rossini, et al. The precepts that developed the great voices of the Golden Age of Song are made available in this edition to all vocal students and aficionados of today.

This book is a collection of wise precepts by one of the greatest vocal teachers in history. G.B. Lamperti was a world-recognized expert in the field, who taught hundreds of the most successful singers of his day. Lamperti was not an academic theoretician--he was a practicing expert with world-class credentials. I admit that at first, I did not realize the significance of this book. At first glance, you might be tempted (as I was, briefly) to write off this book as an assortment of light fluff. If you make that mistake, you will be missing out on some of the most important, as well as

inspirational, ideas central to the art of singing. Note that this is not a book on vocal technique, or a list of vocal exercises, that upon mastering, you will have arrived as a great singer. It is important to understand Lamperti's perspective on the art of singing. He sees vocal "gymnastics" as a way of sensitizing your body and mind to the art, with the ultimate goal of diction, breath-control, and vibration working together as one. Here's Lamperti: "Mental and physical gymnastics must of necessity be specific in order to stimulate and sensitize the various parts of brain and body. But these methodical exercises should not be confused with final singing because they inhibit nature's instinctive processes." "Fundamental exercises are only to make the body and imagination more supple and sensitive, to respond to the desire to produce a beautiful tone and sustain a melody." The vocal precepts are loosely categorized into short chapters. I found it helpful to go through the entire book quickly, to get a feel for the arrangement. It's hard to pick just a few key precepts, but here are a couple--just to give a slight taste: "Singing will be awkward unless focused vibration, distinct pronunciation, and compressed breathing remain inseparably linked together." "Sensitive co-action of the whole muscular and nervous energy is the condition demanded for the production of pure tone." As I re-read this book, I realize that I only understand Lamperti a bit. I have much more to learn. This short review does not do the book justice. Read his book many times. If you don't see the importance of his ideas, read it again, because you're missing the key to singing.

The title is right since this Master did know the true Principles of classic singing, which are rooted in the old Italian school. Nevertheless, it is not a simple manual for beginners because his maxims are so compact that they need an important background of specific knowledge to be thoroughly understood! From my personal point of view, as professional singer and teacher it summarizes briefly a lot of wise advice which I'm taking in good account, and of course, lately quoted in the book I'm actually writing on this beloved subject. G. B. Lamperti deserves to be studied even in our days and under the light of modern scientific advances in this controversial matter.

The title is very fitting as this little gem contains many a wise pearl. A must buy for vocalists and the musically inclined.

An interesting read, but like many things a voice teacher may say, but much of it is of little value to apply without understanding the teacher's whole approach and without audible singing examples and real-time feedback, which is of course why studio training is needed. A book on singing isn't

very helpful without going into serious detail about what is meant.

This slim collection of the teaching of one of the greatest vocal pedagogues in history is packed full of sound technical and philosophical advice about singing, music-making, and living a life of fulfillment. The poetry, density, and symbolism of Lamperti's guidance encourages the reader to absorb it in tiny increments - a page or a paragraph at a time - and then meditate on the passage to get the full benefit. Lamperti's training provided the foundation of many of the greatest operatic careers of the late 19th and 20th centuries, and his pupil's pupil's pupils are now using his method as laid out in "Vocal Wisdom" to train the great singers of the 21st century.

Every singer of classical technique should have this book. And buy one for your friends! The little gems are so true, so accurate and will help singers of all levels. It's also a very easy read. You can just read one "wisdom" a day and absorb it, or soak up a bunch. Each idea is short and simple.

I am reading this as one of the textbooks for my Vocal Pedagogy course at the USF School of Music. Let me tell you, this is a book that every single vocalist who is truly serious about their career **MUST** read at least three times through. It's a wonderful selection of some of the most powerful pedagogical statements. I think I have learned more from this small volume than I have in all of my voice lessons combined. Not to say that I haven't learned a lot, of course, but this affirms and debunks all of the myths and absolute, well, maxims, of proper vocal technique. Bravissimo, Lamperti!

Others have already stated this far more eloquently than I can, but this book should be a companion piece for every singer that desires a beautiful, healthy tone. For those who have worked in the trenches of technique, this book exposes the pitfalls that a singer may face, and it does it with aplomb! typically read a few pages in the morning with my coffee and then reflect upon what I've read throughout the day.

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