

MARCELO FERREIRA

By Josephine Andò

When baritone Marcelo Ferreira was growing up in sunny Brazil, he was surrounded by beautiful music; in his words, “Brazil is a very musical place.” He began learning music when he was only 7 years old, and he hasn’t stopped learning since.

“I started as a jazz and blues guitar player,” Ferreira said, “but when I fell in love with classical music, I wanted to learn how to be a full artist. This is why I have been teaching, conducting, singing and directing since then.”

Ferreira loves Brazil, but he grew up in a town that had not had opera performances for over 30 years.

“When I was 24, I decided that things had to change,” he said. “I founded an opera company of which I was the general director, and we performed Bizet’s *Carmen*. It was a success.”

After that experience, Ferreira had to face the fact that there was no money in Brazil to support fine arts, and he decided to move to America.

“America gave me great opportunities, and because I’m a big perfectionist, and I’m always very demanding with myself, I found in the States the perfect place to grow in a professional manner,” he said.

This year, he has been chosen to be an OTAP after his great performances during V.O.I.C.Experience. “The program went above and beyond my expectations,” Ferreira said.

Ferreira hopes to become a Verdi baritone, and his lessons with Sherrill Milnes have been a precious encouragement for him.

“I’m at a point in my career where my voice is almost where it’s supposed to be, and Sherrill gave me precious tips to learn how to use it in the best possible way,” he said.

He wants to bring his “dramatic power” to the OTAP program; he always tries to sing his pieces using the energy he has.

The OTAP performances will be the perfect opportunity for him to truly express his strength.