

Biographical Outline: Alan R. Lindquest

1891 – Born **Albert Lindquest** in Chicago, Illinois of Swedish parents. The family name was misspelled at Ellis Island. His Mother is a music lover and gives him violin lessons at an early age.

1906 – Always interested in singing, Lindquest auditions and gets his first singing job at age 15 at a large synagogue in Chicago. His starting salary is \$15 per week. He studies with an American tenor named **Henry Walker**, and a Bass named **Barron**. Both were students of **Manuel Garcia**.

1909 – Because his Father encouraged him to go to law school instead of becoming a musician, he attends Northwestern University. There, while singing a solo at a rehearsal for the glee club, he is discovered by the Italian tenor, **Allessandro Bonci**.

1910 – Travels to New York for the first time at the suggestion of **Allessandro Bonci**, who also recommends Lindquest to many professional musical contacts there. Due to these recommendations, Bonci is responsible for much of Lindquest's early success.

1911-1913 Lindquest hired to tour with the **Damrousch Symphony Orchestra** and he tours all of the U. S. and Canada performing 20 different oratorios. Lindquest, who was 19 years old at the time, later said this preparation was what made him a true musician. He also tours with the **Minnesota Symphony**.

1914 – Meets and coaches with **Enrico Caruso**, when he auditions for the Victor Company to record Swedish folk songs. Caruso, who loved his voice, recommended that he go to his teacher in Italy. However, Lindquest travels to Paris to study with **Jean de Reske**, because of his fame as the first tenor to connect the high C. Lindquest's study is cut short by the conflict of WWI. He escapes on a Canadian freighter ship, which was pursued by German U-boats, and makes it back to the U.S. via Canada.

1915 – Changes name from Albert Lindquest, to **Alan Rogers**, which becomes his stage name. (He later uses the name Alan Lindquest) Auditions and receives his first recording contract with the **Edison Company**, later becoming **Thomas Edison's** favorite tenor. He marries that same year and tours with a Vaudeville company, with a salary of \$1600 per week. Sings regularly at the Riverside Theater, 96th St. and Broadway to sold out performances. Sings concerts at **Carnegie Hall**.

1916 – Daughter Louise is born. Lindquest turns down a **Metropolitan Opera** contract, which he would later regret. He continues to perform and tour with Vaudeville Companies with wife and daughter and also performs opera, oratorio, and concerts.

1920 – After a divorce, he travels to sing concerts in London at **Royal Albert Hall** with a salary 200 pounds per performance.

1921 to 1925 – Attempting to expand his knowledge about the voice, he studies with various teachers, including Metropolitan Bass, **Herbert Witherspoon**, and **Maestro Rosati**, a teacher of **Gigli**.

1926 –Schubert Theater casts him in “**White Lilacs**”, a musical about the life and romance of Chopin and George Sands.

1930-1936 –Because of the depression, he is forced to accept a job in Hollywood as a leading radio tenor. Begins to appear in Hollywood movies such as “Ms. Wiggs of Cabbage Patch” (MGM) Lindquest begins to develop an interest in teaching singing. Sings concerts under **Toscanini** and **Leopold Stakowsky**. Because of his interest in vocal pedagogy, he opens his own voice studio in Pasadena, California (1936).

1938 –Because of several world-famous singers trained in Sweden, he travels to Stockholm to study. **John Forsell** (director of the Stockholm Opera) recommends that he study with **Joseph Hislop** (teacher of **Bjoerling**) and he later also studies with **Mme. Ingebjart Isene** (teacher of **Flagstad** 1929 to 1939). Both Hislop and Isene were students of **Dr. Gills Bratt**, primary technical teacher of Kirsten Flagstad. Dr. Bratt was a student of **Lamperti**. Lindquest interviews **Flagstad** in Stockholm that same year when she returns for a short visit. Lindquest is offered contracts at the **Stockholm Opera**.

1939 – Returns to U.S. in July, right before the invasion of Poland.

1940 – Helps establish **NATS**, the first national voice teacher organization in the U.S. Along with his friend **Lilli Lehmann**, assists in establishing the Academy of the West, summer music study program in Santa Barbara, California.

1941 – 1946 – Continues to write articles and expand his research, using the information he learned in Stockholm. Begins to write more and more for the NATS Journal.

1947 – Performs charity benefits to assist England and Europe after the war. Later that year, he travels to the Phillipines to teach children’s church choirs.

1948-1955- Continues his concert career on the West Coast. Helps establish the **American Academy of Teachers of Singing**, an organization established specifically for published vocal researchers. Lindquest becomes interested in voice therapy for singers.

1955-1957 -Taught **William Vennard** (teacher of **Marilyn Horne**) and **Berton Coffin** (author of “The Overtones of Bel Canto”) in Laguna Beach, California. Prepares **George London** for his recordings after he suffered vocal problems due to viral infection.

1960 – 1973 – Teaching tours at Universities throughout the U.S. Because of her fame as producing world famous singers, he studies with **Mme. Novikova** in the early 60’s.

1974 – 1984 – Teaches at his home in Santa Barbara, California. Alan R. Lindquest dies in Feb. of 1984 after teaching two 2-hour lessons at the age of 93.