



**By Daniel Vasquez**

[...]

**So much so that by the time you made your professional stage debut, it was in a lead role.**

That was a case of somebody putting the right material in my path at the right time. One of my first assignments at EPCASO was to learn a new role, and it happened to be Isabella in Rossini's *L'italiana in Algeri*. In the fall of 1993, I happened to audition for Florentine Opera, and was hired on the spot to sing the lead in their production of "L'italiana."

I had a year to work on the role with Claudia Pinza, and also with Enza Ferrari, who knows everything about the Bel Canto tradition.

[...]