

Tenor Robert Sheaffer was born in Chicago, Illinois. He developed an interest in opera at an early age. While still in high school, he was an usher at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, where he heard performances by opera superstars such as Franco Corelli, Alfredo Kraus, Renata Tebaldi, Tito Gobbi, Jon Vickers, etc. He attended Northwestern University. Later he took private voice training.

Robert sang in many productions with the West Bay Opera in Palo Alto, California, including the roles of Parpignol in Puccini's *La Boheme* and the Servant to Flora in Verdi's *La Traviata*. With the Bayshore Lyric Opera in Capitola, California he sang Gastone in *La Traviata* and Goro in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*. He sang Spoletta in Puccini's *Tosca* with the Livermore Opera, and Nicolao in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* with the Oakland Lyric Opera.

Moving to the San Diego area, he sang in several productions of the Lyric Opera San Diego, including Rossini's *Cenerentola*, Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*, and Bernstein's *Candide*, as well as in Wagner's *Tannhauser* with the San Diego Opera Chorus. He sang the role of Borsa in Verdi's *Rigoletto* and Spoletta in Puccini's *Tosca*, with the Pacific Lyric Association.