The Jack Lee Music Theatre Collection will be housed in a newly dedicated space at Jack’s alma mater, the Baldwin Wallace University Conservatory of Music. Donations to support this effort, as well as the Jack Lee Music Theatre Scholarship, may be sent to:

Baldwin Wallace University Development Office
Jack Lee Memorial Fund
275 Eastland Road

To submit gifts online:
https://www.b-wcommunity.net/give
Select “other” and add
Jack Lee Memorial Fund

More information about Jack’s phenomenal career and many photos are available on his website: www.maestrojacklee.com

A PDF of this program can be downloaded on the home page.
Cover photo courtesy of John Quilty.
Born in Lakewood, Ohio, and raised in Cleveland, John Francis Lee (“Jack”) started his career as a child star, performing onstage at the age of 10. He studied piano, voice and drama at the Baldwin Wallace University Conservatory of Music, receiving a Bachelor of Music in Voice and Piano in 1951, and a Bachelor of Arts in Drama in 1952.

Jack worked as an actor, singer, pianist and dancer on numerous productions before taking up the baton and becoming the legendary musical director, conductor and vocal coach loved by so many.

He dedicated his life to teaching the craft of musical theatre. Highly respected as a Broadway conductor, Jack’s prolific career spanned many Broadway shows, national and international tours, television appearances, movies and recordings. He coached and mentored hundreds (possibly thousands) of actors and singers who knew he would always bring out their best performance.

Jack had the singular ability to connect singers to the text they were singing, making their performances real and captivating. Many of his students and collaborators have become major stars and credit him as their greatest teacher and influence.

Jack holds a unique and special place in musical theatre history. His achievements are unmatched and his contributions immeasurable.

There will never be another Jack Lee!

If we’re not having fun, then we’re doing something wrong.”

May his legacy live on forever!
“Think about what you’re saying. Get yourself involved in the lyrics. You’re not presenting it to anyone.”

“Sing like you’re talking to a human being, not singing a song.”

“Don’t set it; don’t organize it. Allow it to come as you’re doing it.”

“Think about what your subtext is and don’t worry about pronouncing words.”

“Allow the thought to cover the whole phrase rather than coloring word to word.”

“Don’t set it; don’t organize it. Allow it to come as you’re doing it.”

“Think about what your subtext is and don’t worry about pronouncing words.”

“Singing is sustained speech.”

“Think about what you’re saying. Get yourself involved in the lyrics. You’re not presenting it to anyone.”

“Allow the thought to cover the whole phrase rather than coloring word to word.”

“Allow it to flow vowel to vowel as opposed to syllable to syllable.”

“The vowels we talk with are the vowels we sing with. Sing in American.”

“You can breathe anywhere you want to as long as that breath has a thought on it. Think through that breath.”

“You are who you’re playing. Don’t attach things to yourself or you will put a wall between you and the audience.”

“When you hold a note for a long period of time, you must think on the word that is being held into the next word. The sound will then live. If you stop and listen to yourself, that same note will become dead.”

“Truth is what we’re after. The truth of what you’re presenting is the truth of what that music and that lyric is. Always stay within the truth of what the number is.”

“Do not be afraid of ourselves, even of our dark, darkest, most doubting selves...be tender with the young, admire the old, fear neither age nor death, exalt in them both.”

Walt Whitman
“...Childhood’s joyland, mystic merry Toyland! Once you pass its borders, you can never return again.”

Babes In Toyland

“When you play what the words are, they become magic.”

“Theater has been my life since I was 8 years old.”

Little Jackie Rose Lee