

In Memoriam

Florenzo Petitta
1939–2010

On July 5th, Florenzo Petitta passed away. He had been associated with AES since 1972, promoted to Life Member in 2003, and has been president of the AES Italian Section since 2007.

After graduating from the Galileo Galilei Institute in Rome, he continued his studies at the Military School of Air Warfare in Florence, specializing in search radars and radar altimeters.

In 1962 he entered the Vatican Radio Technical Department, where he remained until retirement, working in several fields, from technical duties to organizational tasks, thanks to his wide competence in audio and his flexibility.

Among his many assignments at the Vatican Radio, we can remember the most outstanding ones.

He has been the technical supervisor at several Papal ceremonies with worldwide and European broadcast transmissions. He participated in 65 Papal journeys around the world (among which, almost all those done by Pope John Paul II) with different duties, dedicated to amplification systems for large crowds and satellite broadcasts.

He developed significant experience in recording large symphonic orchestras, conducted by Riccardo Muti, Zubin Mehta, and Leonard Bernstein, and solo performers such as Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli.

As manager of the Vatican Radio Audio Systems Development Office, he participated in the Work Group that implemented the Vatican Radio

transition from analog to digital.

In addition to his duties at Vatican Radio, he conceived and directed for five years an exhibition of radio and TC products within the *«Rassegna Internazionale Energia Nucleare e Areospaziale»* in Rome; created and directed a TV serial entitled *«Amico Spazio»* along with two of the candidate astronauts selected by ESA.

As president of the AES Italian Section, he tirelessly and extensively contributed to reorganizing and defining section activities, with a special eye to the collaboration with the Electronics Engineering Department of Rome University, and to the educational initiatives for younger people interested in techniques of sound recording and reproduction.

We remember him with affection and regret the loss of a sincere friend.

Salvatore Morello

