

Timothy Birt, a tenor, hails from San Antonio, Texas. He received his Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance from Texas State University in 2001. Following TSU, he was accepted at Indiana University where he continued his studies under the famous soprano Virginia Zeani. After her retirement, he studied with renown Baritone Andreas Poulimenos.

The Houston Chronicle praised Tim for his depiction of Nadir in *Les Pecheurs de Pearls* citing: "In a production full of vocal highlights, Birt's romantic aria Je Crois Entendre Encore is a beautifully realized pinnacle."

He has debuted at Carnegie Hall as the tenor soloist in Arwel Hughes' *Dewi Sant*. Notable performances include Don Ramiro in *La Cenerentola*, Elvino in *La Sonambula*, Count Almaviva in *Barber of Seville*, Nadir in *The Pearl Fishers*, Rodolfo in *La Boheme*, and Il Duca di Matua in *Rigoletto*. Timothy Birt has sung with Chicago Opera Theater, Battle Creek Symphony, Distinguished Concerts New York Carnegie Hall, Indianapolis Opera, The Atlantic Coast Opera Festival, Teatro di Comunale di Cagli, Teatro Grattacielo, South Texas Lyric Opera, San Antonio Opera, Lakeland Opera, Ashlawn Opera, Salt Marsh Opera, Opera Piccola, Sparkling City light opera, and Opera in the Heights.



Donald Braswell was born and raised in a quiet country town in Texas North of San Antonio. This fourth child of performing artist parents was already singing at the age of seven in local theatre with his mother. Throughout his teens, Donald became heavily involved in local theatre productions.

Donald planned to attend the University of Texas to study petroleum geology. It was at this same time, he was urged to audition for and was awarded a full scholarship to study at the renowned Juilliard School in New York City. Following his College/Conservatory years, Donald was selected as one of the winners of the Liederkranz Foundation Vocal Competition and was awarded an artist grant from the Licia Albanese-Puccini Foundation International Vocal Competition. As a result, Donald was privileged to study

with the great Franco Corelli. He was also privileged to be a student of Franco Bertacci. To this day, he attributes his study of voice to Maestro Bertacci's technique. Following his studies, Donald embarked upon the development of a career as a young premier operatic tenor singing lead roles in regional theatres throughout the United States and all over Europe. He was making huge strides as a young professional becoming a well know seasoned veteran coined "the singer to watch" and was on the brink of significant opportunities when tragedy struck.

In 1995 when performing in the United Kingdom, Donald was hit by a car while riding a bicycle. The accident caused severe damage to the soft tissue in his throat. Donald, told by medical professionals he might not sing or speak normally again, was determined to beat the odds. He spent the next few years working diligently to regain the normal use of his voice.

Without a means of survival, he and his wife moved away from New York, back to their home state of Texas to start again. With a great deal of faith, determination, and hard work, Donald overcame the physical obstacles and made his way back to the performance stage. In 2008, he placed as one of the top 5 out of over 300,000 who tried out for the hit television show America's Got Talent.

Since America's Got Talent, Donald Braswell has performed in his own variety show at the Las Vegas Hilton. He has done USA performance tours, national fundraisers for those in need, Symphony Pops Concerts, concerts in Mexico, the UK, Carnegie Hall, plus radio and television guest appearances. Since 2012, Mr. Braswell has performed in a Florida Circuit Tour. His Three Tenor Group, Gli Unici, starring Donald, William Chapman and Timothy Birt has grown with acclaim.

Donald teaches voice development and acting to young individuals aspiring a career in the professional performing arts.

His third and fourth album ("Unchained" and "The Traveler's Tale") released to great success. Mr. Braswell is planning for a European and American tour after the release of a new album project. His book, <u>Revival</u>, depicting the story of his life is currently available with online booksellers.

You can learn more about Donald at www.donaldbraswell.com.

"It is God's job to know when the end is, and he will surely let us know when that time comes. Until then, we are not serving anything if we give up. Keep going, no matter what the odds." *Donald Braswell*



Upon graduation in New Mexico, **William J. Chapman** began his music career by auditioning for the United States Army Band. William was accepted and completed the Nations Armed Forces School of Music in Norfolk, Virginia, where he specialized in trumpet. He served in the army while stationed at Fort Stewart, Georgia and Fort Huachuca, Arizona. After six years of service with an honorable discharge, William completed his undergraduate degree in vocal performance at the University of Mary-Hardin Baylor. As his academic career launched forward, William Chapman acquired various top standings in vocal competitions. For two consecutive years, he placed undergraduate entries in the National Association of Teachers in Singing Competition. William made his East coast debut with

the Atlantic Coast Opera's inaugural season performing as "Alfred" in Johan Strauss's Die Fledermaus. Mr. Chapman has performed as a principal artist in *La Boheme Tosca* and as Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni* for the San Antonio Opera as well as notable concert performances with the Three Tenors' performances. William Chapman has extended his vocals across the United States and internationally. He brings a fresh voice to the opera world that keeps fans coming back for more.