

Tenor **John Wesley Wright**, D. M. A., is known for his artistic and soulful interpretations of music from baroque to Broadway. Holding degrees from Maryville College and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, his diversity as an artist has afforded him nationally televised concerts for the Belgian Royal Family (Brussels, Belgium) and the Kennedy clan (New Ross, Ireland), as well as tours as a soloist and with professional ensembles throughout the United States, Europe, and Japan.

With a host of opera and oratorio roles, art songs, spirituals, chamber and cabaret music in his repertoire, Wright is a member of the internationally acclaimed American Spiritual Ensemble. His rendition of “Here’s One” is highlighted in the PBS documentary, *The Spirituals: Featuring the American Spiritual Ensemble*, released in 2007. In recent years, Wright was guest soloist for the Baltimore Choral Arts Society (Mozart's *Requiem*, Bach's *B Minor Mass* and *Magnificat*); Dayton Bach Society (*St. Matthew Passion*, Evangelist); *Messiah Festival of the Arts* in Lindsborg, Kansas (*Messiah*, *St. Matthew Passion*); and performed in Lucerne, Switzerland as guest artist with the *Matthäuskantorei* choir for a program entitled “Black and White Spirituals”.

Having worked with such conductors as Tom Hall, Nicolas McGegan, Ton Koopman, and Robert Page, many of Wright’s concert career experiences have been under the baton of Neal Gittleman and the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra. With Gittleman and the DPO, he has sung the title roles of Bach’s *Passions*, Britten’s *War Requiem*, Handel’s *Messiah*, Monteverdi’s *Vespers of 1610*, and Einhorn’s *Voices of Light*. In May of 2011, Wright returned to Ohio and triumphed in the role of the Celebrant in Bernstein’s *Mass: A Theatre Piece for Singers, Players, and Dancers*, reviews praising his “mastery of the oratorio genre” and “impressive acting range and voice”.

John Wesley Wright is the gold medalist and top prizewinner of the *American Traditions Vocal Competition 2000* and has claimed top prizes from the National Federation of Music Clubs, Metropolitan Opera National Council, and the International Schubert Competition (Vienna, Austria).

A native of Rome, Georgia, Dr. Wright is coordinator of the voice and opera programs at Salisbury University (Salisbury, Maryland) and guest faculty artist at Bay View Music Festival (Bay View, Michigan). He is an active clinician, consultant and leader of workshops on voice production, song interpretation, acting for singers, and African American song traditions.