

Jim Raycroft

Born in Canada, Jim Raycroft received his Bachelor's degree in Music as a voice major at the University of Alberta in 1981, where he studied with Harold Wiens and then with the renowned Theo Lindenbaum of the Detmold Music Academy of Germany. He then received his Master's degree in Fine Arts as a Voice/Opera major at the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia in 1984, studying with Bunny Thornburgh and Jeannine Wagner.

He has done extensive classical solo work and includes Figaro (Rossini and Mozart), Count Almaviva (Mozart), Raimondo (Lucia di Lammermoor), Bartolo (Barber of Seville) and the bass solos in the Verdi Requiem as roles he has sung. He has appeared with several local orchestras as soloist and has done recordings with local ensembles.

He has sung with many of the renowned ensembles in Southern California, including the Los Angeles Master Chorale, the Los Angeles Opera Chorus, the Los Angeles Chamber Singers, the Dapper Dans of Disneyland, the Dickens Carolers of Disneyland, the Hollywood Symphony Orchestra Chorus, the Zimriyah Chorale and the Roger Wagner Chorale. He works regularly in the studios of Los Angeles and can be heard on the soundtracks of films such as *Jurassic Park*, *Hook*, *Home Alone*, *Mars Attacks*, *Inspector Gadget*, *Wild, Wild West*, *XXX*, *Quest For Camelot*, *Waterworld*, *The Postman*, *First Knight*, *Sum of All Fears*, *Godzilla*, *Lady In The Water*, *Star Wars 9 - The Rise of Skywalker*, and many others. He has performed at Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall (now the David Geffen Hall) in New York, the Barbican Hall in London, the Salle Pleyel in Paris and the Lucerne Culture and Congress Center in Switzerland. He has been seen on the Grammy Awards show, on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, as a singing pirate in the *Pirates of the Caribbean - At World's End* and in numerous television shows, recorded *The King and I* with Julie Andrews and Ben Kinsley, and performed for President George H.W. Bush and Queen Elizabeth.

He studied conducting with Ray Danley of York University in Toronto and Greg Lyne of the University of Washington. He has conducted several local

ensembles, including the Valleyaires Chorus, the Verdugo Hills Chorus and the San Fernando Valley Children's Chorus. He has been chorus master for the Santa Monica Symphony Orchestra, the Los Angeles Symphony Orchestra, and is currently entering his 10th year as chorus master of the Legal Voices, the chorus for the Los Angeles Lawyers Symphony Orchestra and chorus. Over the past 30 years, he has directed both traditional and contemporary music and worship at churches in the Pacific Palisades, Granada Hills, the Wilshire District, Redondo Beach and Burbank.

He is a published arranger (ASCAP) with commissions for everything from small anthems for choirs to concert suites for full orchestra and chorus. He operates a professional vocal contracting service in Los Angeles that provides costumed vocal entertainment for local events and assembles choirs for live performances and film score recording sessions. Currently, he is entering his 38th year with the Los Angeles Master Chorale and has been a member of the elite L. A. Master Chorale Chamber Singers.

His barbershop quartet, the Nickelodeon, is still busy around Southern California, and his vocal jazz quintet, Pacific Swingline, can be seen on YouTube, along with his most audacious project, the Singers Elite Vocal Big Band.