

Dr. Everett McCorvey, Founder and Music Director,
The American Spiritual Ensemble

Everett McCorvey, tenor, is a native of Montgomery, Alabama. He received his degrees from the University of Alabama, including a Doctorate of Musical Arts. He has performed in many cities around the world and theaters across the country, including the Metropolitan Opera, the Kennedy Center, Aspen Music Festival, Blossom Music Festival, Whitewater Opera Company, Radio City Music hall, Birmingham Opera Theater, Teatro Comunale in Florence, Italy, Queen Elizabeth Hall in London, England, as well as performances throughout Spain, the Czech and Slovak Republics, Austria, Japan, China, Brazil, Poland, Portugal and Hungary. He is tenor soloist on two CD recordings conducted by Maestro Julius Williams—one entitled *Symphonic Brotherhood* featuring the Bohuslave Martinu Philharmonic Orchestra performing the symphonic works of African-American composers, released in the fall of 1994, the other entitled *The American Soloist* featuring the Dvorak Symphony in Prague, Czech Republic, highlighting new American works and released in the fall of 2004. He has returned to the Czech Republic to perform with the Bohuslave Martinu Philharmonic under the baton of Maestro Kirk Trevor as well as for performances in the Slovak Republic. He has also appeared in television movies and feature films including *The Long Walk Home*.

Dr. McCorvey's operatic roles include Don Jose in *Carmen*, Ferrando in *Così fan tutte*, Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*, Fenton in *Falstaff*, Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus*, Puck in *La Grande Duchesse de Gerolstein*, and many others. Orchestral and oratorio works include the Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Mozart's Requiem, Verdi's Requiem, Handel's *Messiah*, Bach's Mass in B Minor and St. Matthew Passion, among others.

As a recitalist, Dr. McCorvey has given concerts, master classes, and workshops throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia as a soloist and with his wife, soprano Alicia Helm. Dr. McCorvey has presented recital and master classes in Beijing, China, and recently returned from Warsaw, Poland, where he performed with the Warsaw Symphony Orchestra as a part of a commemoration concert for the events of September 11th. Dr. McCorvey is the founder and Music Director of the American Spiritual Ensemble, a group of 24 professional singers performing spirituals and other compositions by African-American composers. In the 15-year history of the group, the group has presented over 100 concerts including 14 tours of the United States and 12 tours of Spain. The American Spiritual Ensemble has released four CD's: *On My Journey Now: The American Spiritual Ensemble on Tour*; *Ol' Time Religion*; *Lily of the Valley*; and the recently released CD, *The Spirit of the Holidays*. In March of 2004, The American Spiritual Ensemble was invited by the city of Madrid to present a commemoration concert dedicated to the victims of the March 11th bombing in Madrid. In February of 2007, US Public Broadcasting Stations (PBS) presented a nationwide

special on the American Spiritual Ensemble. Dr. McCorvey toured the United States, Europe, and the Far East with the Sherwin Goldman Production of *Porgy and Bess*. In 1992 he played the role of Peter in the Asian debut of *Porgy and Bess* in Tokyo, Japan. Dr. McCorvey has served on the faculty of the New York State Summer School of the Arts in Saratoga Springs, where he was Artist-in-Residence and Associate Conductor, and he is also a frequent advisory panelist and on-site reviewer for the National Endowment for the Arts Opera/Musical Theatre program in Washington, D.C.

Dr. McCorvey is also a teacher and vocal advisor to many students in the profession. In 1998, he was chosen by the Kentucky Advocates for Higher Education as the Recipient of the 1998 Acorn Award given by the Kentucky Advocates. This prestigious Award goes to only one professor in the state of Kentucky who exemplifies excellence, innovation, and creativity in teaching and research. Dr. McCorvey was also the recipient of an outstanding faculty award from the University of Kentucky Lyman T. Johnson Alumni Association for 1998, and he was selected to receive the Outstanding Alumni Award in the Arts from the Society for the Fine Arts at the University of Alabama, his Alma Mater, in February of 1999. Dr. McCorvey produced only the second full-length recording of *The Tender Land* by Aaron Copland with the University of Kentucky Opera Theatre. It was recorded in Zlin, Czech Republic and released in January 2002, featuring singers from the University of Kentucky Opera Program with Kirk Trevor conducting the Boshuslave Martinu Philharmonic Orchestra. Two other CD's released in 2008 were a world premiere of a new opera, *The Hotel Casablanca*, by Thomas Pasatieri, produced by Dr. McCorvey and performed by the University of Kentucky Opera Theatre, and a collection of songs by John Jacob Niles, performed by soprano Hope Koehler and produced by McCorvey. Albany Records will release both recordings. In the spring of 2010 UK Opera released a new CD of *Die Fledermaus* with Maestro John Nardolillo conducting and in December of 2010 a World Premiere CD of Thomas Pasatieri's new opera *God Bless Us Everyone* which premiered in New York at DiCapo Opera with students from UK Opera and which received a rave New York Times Review.

Dr. McCorvey has served as guest Master Clinician at the Opera Theatre of St. Louis Artist in their Artist-In-Training Program and in the summers, Dr. McCorvey serves on the faculty of the American Institute of Musical Studies (AIMS) in Graz, Austria. He was recently selected to give a master class at the Voice Symposium held by renowned Professor of Otolaryngology Robert Thayer Sataloff in Philadelphia.

Dr. McCorvey produced a CD for Metropolitan Opera Soprano Angela Brown, which was released by Albany Records in October, 2004. The CD entitled *Mosaic* has received rave reviews. Ms. Brown, whose Metropolitan Opera Debut in the title role of *Aida* was called the most exciting debut since Leontyne Price, is a protégée of Dr. McCorvey. The CD release coincided with her MET debut.

Dr. McCorvey is also Vice-Chairman of the Kentucky Arts Council for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He has also served on the boards of the National Association of State Arts Agencies (NASAA), and the Alltech 2010 World Equestrian Games Federation Board. Dr. McCorvey was elected to the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees in 2009.

Dr. McCorvey holds an Endowed Chair in Opera Studies and is Director of Opera and Professor of Voice at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. In September of 2010, Dr. McCorvey served as the Executive Producer of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Alltech 2010 FEI World Equestrian Games held in Lexington, Kentucky. The Alltech 2010 FEI World Equestrian Games was the largest equestrian event to ever be held in the United States.

Dr. McCorvey is married to soprano Alicia Helm. They have three children.