

# DONALD BRASWELL II

## Biography

Donald Braswell II was born and raised in a quiet country town in south Texas. This fourth child of Broadway 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 theatre productions and sought to further his musical aspirations after High school.

Upon graduation from High school, Donald auditioned for and was awarded a full scholarship in 1986 to study at the renowned Juilliard School in New York. After graduating in 1990 his career was on a fast track. Following his college years, Donald was selected as one of the winners of the Liederkrantz Foundation Vocal Competition and was also awarded an artist grant from the Licia Albanese-Puccini Foundation International Vocal Competition. As a result of his involvement with the Licia Albanese-Puccini Foundation, Donald was privileged to briefly study with the great Franco Corelli, and he was a long-time student of Franco Bertacci. To this day he attributes his knowledge of voice to Maestro Bertacci's technique. Following his studies Donald embarked upon a career as a young premier operatic tenor singing lead roles in Regional Theatres and Major Opera Houses throughout the United States and Europe. He was making huge strides as a professional when tragedy struck.

While performing in 1995 in the United Kingdom, Donald was hit by a car while riding a bicycle. He suffered severe damage to the soft tissue in his throat and was told by medical professionals that he might not be able to sing or speak normally again. Donald was determined to beat the odds and spent 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, Texas, to start again. With a great deal of faith, determination, and hard work, Donald has overcome the physical obstacles that he was told he might always have and now is back performing for audiences around the world.

In 2008 Donald auditioned for the Talent Competition, "America's Got Talent". Ready to let the world know he was back, he won a position in each round, pouring out his heart and soul every step of the way. Out of over 250,000 contestants Donald managed to make the Top 5 and was awarded the great privilege of being selected to perform at The MGM Garden Arena in the "America's Got Talent" Live Show in Las Vegas.

He now has evolved from his life experiences to an artist that can sing all genres of music with a classically trained technique. Highlights of his new career include a one-man show at the Las Vegas Hilton; a live PBS Televised Special in Detroit; Symphony Pops concerts; Carnegie Hall appearances; and performances around the US and Mexico.

"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 anyone or ourselves if we give up. Keep going, no matter what the odds." Donald Braswell

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