

Matthew Patrick Morris

Biography

Matthew Patrick Morris believes that each of us is inextricably linked with the world around us, and that by shifting the way we pay attention to that world, we can find the deep inner beauty, truth, and peace that has been waiting both outside and inside of us all along. His quest to find, live, create, and share that deep inner beauty, truth, and peace has drawn labyrinthine lines through traditional professions and art forms.

His professions include actor, singer, model, writer, director, choreographer, artistic director, administrator, producer, and teacher. His art forms include film, television, physical theater, musical theater, concert, and opera. As **Le Monde** in Paris declared, *"you really want to hear him in either an opera or a musical. He has a big presence, a warm baritone voice, immense humanity, and the gift of an actor."*

In recent seasons, he has performed with the American Repertory Theater, Barbican Theatre on The West End, Les Bouffes du Nord in Paris, Piccolo Teatro in Milan, Gotham Chamber Opera, New York City Opera, The Kennedy Center, Santa Fe Opera, El Paso Opera, Aldeburgh Music Festival, Tanglewood, Théâtre de Caen, Amarillo Opera, Savannah Voice Festival, Fire Island Opera Festival, Summer Opera Tel Aviv, Scrag Mountain Music, Bay Chamber Concerts, Boston Symphony Orchestra, American Symphony Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Leipzig MDR Symphony Orchestra, the National Tour of **Scrooge: The Musical**, on television in **Law & Order**, and in the feature film **The Producers!**

As a writer, director, and choreographer, Matthew created a new musical review **Brooklyn, Baby!** for the **Brooklyn College Opera Workshop**, with songs by all Brooklyn composers and lyricists and a book he wrote featuring an all female cast, a female president running on the "Make America Great Again, Again" platform, an all female senate, a beauty pageant of all Russian contestants, and a Women's March Protestor that captures the President's heart and perhaps party affiliation.

Along with LA Opera, the Library Foundation of Los Angeles, SongFest at Colburn, and USC professor and MacArthur Genius Grant Recipient Josh Kun, Matthew produced, directed, and choreographed a tour of **Songs in the Key of LA**: a multi-platform collaboration that brings to life the Library's extraordinary Southern California Sheet Music Collection. In a week-long series of concerts in venues as diverse as Los Angeles itself, from the Huntington Library to the Stern

MASS school, singers from SongFest and LA Opera performed some of these greatest hits from Los Angeles' past. Consisting of sheet music pieces that range from the 1840s through the 1950s, the Collection offers a singular portrait of Los Angeles history and culture rendered in music and visual art. The motto of the project: archives should not just be preserved and maintained. Archives should come back to life.

From 2012-2017 Matthew was the **associate artistic director of SongFest**, the premier art song training program and festival in the United States, where he also directed the vocal performance programs and created a new curriculum, innovating tailor-made courses for complete singing-actors from undergraduate through professional levels. Highlights every year included teaching his **"Discovery" Class**: a laboratory for discovering dynamic, honest story-telling through music. Discoveries in class were practically applied in a series of **"Honest American" recitals**, featuring songs selected by the performers in their native languages, which Matthew directed and choreographed, as well as an annual concert featuring hits from the **American Songbook** with music director and pianist John Musto.

As an avid activist for equal rights Matthew has produced and performed in the concert series **You Are Not Alone** alongside Betty Buckley, Lea DeLaria, Aaron Lazar, Ricky Ian Gordon, John Tartaglia, Jeanine Tesori, and many more. The concerts have raised tens of thousands of dollars for **The Trevor Project**, a national suicide prevention hotline for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth.

Matthew received his **BM in voice from the Juilliard School**, **MM in vocal arts from Bard College Conservatory** under the direction of world-renown soprano Dawn Upshaw, and completed further studies in Lecoq with Marcello Magni and with Peter Brook as Papageno in Brook's adaptation of *The Magic Flute*, **Une Flûte Enchantée**. He is currently training to be an Alexander Teacher at the **Balance Arts Center**, director of the Opera Workshop at **Brooklyn College**, and lives in NYC with his partner Edwin Cahill and dog Thisbe.