

PHILIP WEBB – My Personal Biography

Hello and thank you for visiting my web page. The first several pages of my web site are my professional resume, but this is a personal note from my heart. Please allow me to tell you a little bit about my family and myself.

I grew up outside of Kansas City, Missouri, the son of a Baptist minister. From an early age I was deeply involved in church and the teaching of the Bible. Like all children I learned early on the Biblical verse: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believeth in Him should not perish but have eternal life". As a child



I believed that verse and became a Christian. As I grew up I realized that the decisions I made needed to be guided by the understanding that I belong to God and should bring worship to Him with the use of my God-given abilities. Since I was always involved in church, my first inclination was to be a Church music minister. I did that for several years in a few churches and it was very exciting and meaningful. As time went on

I found that directing the choir and the orchestra as well as leading the worship services took a toll on my primary gift: my voice. Time passed and after a lot of voice lessons and training I began to wonder if I was heading down another career path. The year of 1993 was the turning point. I had never seen an opera in my life and only knew about five or six arias. I would listen to my CD of Pavarotti and pick the arias I wanted to learn. My voice teacher insisted that I enter a Chicago singing competition called Bel Canto. I did but I must confess not too enthusiastically. First prize was six weeks at Northwestern University with other winners from around the country and Giorgio Tozzi leading an opera seminar and master classes. The good news was that second prize was \$1,000, third prize \$750 and fourth prize \$500. I felt I had a good shot at some cash! To make a long story short, I won! That first day of class I was terrified; there were people talking in Italian and there were singers from Julliard, Manhattan School of Music, Indiana and Northwestern University. I was selected to sing first for the Maestro. After the class he pulled me aside and said, "I don't know what you are doing for a living, but you should consider pursuing this field." Well, after several months of praying and thinking about it, my wife and I decided that this was the direction God had been leading us in all these years. In November of

1993 I began studying with Margaret Harshaw in Chicago. She said to me, "Give me two years of your life and I'll make you an opera singer." She was a gift from God and was true to her word.

Sometimes it is hard and I travel a lot, but this is the path God chosen for me. I also realize that my opera voice is young and I have much to learn, study and experience. My heart tells me to use my voice and life to worship God. We are reminded of the Apostle Paul's words, "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father." We enjoy the great music and the chance to know many wonderful



people. We are grateful to God for giving us the opportunity to have such an interesting career. There are five of us in our family. My wife Barbara and I have been married for over twenty-eight years and she has been my constant support and encouragement. Even with no background in opera, she has become a fan and a lover of the music I sing.

In spite of her own health struggles, she was diagnosed in 2000 with PSC ([Primary sclerosing cholangitis](#)) a terminal liver disease; she has remained steadfast that I must be true to my calling. There were many difficult years as I would be on the road working and she would be in the hospital close to death or suffering from complications from the disease. We are grateful that God heard the prayers of many, and chose to let us enjoy her on earth for many more years. In 2009 she received a liver at the last moment at the Indiana University Medical Center in Indianapolis. Her transplant and recovery has been a series of miracles and amazing stories. We are looking forward to the years of good health that God has given her.

It has been a privilege to have met my colleagues and to be working with them. My family's life is richer and we are the more blessed by the lives we have been in contact with during this wonderful adventure. Please drop us a note if you stop by this site. God willing, we'll meet again in the real world.