



**Dr. William Lavonis** holds degrees in voice, opera and musical theatre from the University of Cincinnati, Philadelphia's University of the Arts, and Shenandoah University. He was a voice student of Barbara Honn, Harold Parker, Jackson Sheats, and the late Elena Nikolaidi. Dr. Lavonis has held teaching positions at the universities of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Northern Iowa, Southwest Missouri, UT-Knoxville, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where he served for 15 years as Professor of Voice and Director of Opera and Musical Theatre. There he produced, directed and conducted such stage works as *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, *Marriage of Figaro*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *The Crucible*, *West Side Story*, *The Coronation of Poppea*, *The Threepenny Opera* and *Hair*. He is currently on the voice faculty at Georgia Southern University and teaches privately in the city of Savannah.

A native of Southern New Jersey, Bill made his professional singing debut at New York's Avery Fisher Hall with the American Symphony Orchestra in *Israel in Egypt* and has performed over 100 leading and supporting roles in opera and musical theatre throughout the United States. He has appeared with the Santa Fe Desert Chorale and has been heard in recital and oratorio on Wisconsin Public Radio, in New York City and at the Berkshire Choral Festival where he was a faculty member for ten years. Other notable performances include a recital of works by Poulenc with Dalton Baldwin and duet recitals with his partner, baritone, Kurt Ollmann.

Lavonis has been published in the NATS and Choral Journals. He is associate editor of *The Songs of Richard Faith* (Leyerle Publications), producer of the companion CD recording *Remember Me* (on Amazon) and author of the recent Wikipedia article on Mr. Faith. His book entitled *A Study in Native American Singing and Song* is published by the Edwin Mellen Press. Bill's most recent venture is the composition of both the libretto and music to *Tom and Sally in Paris*, an opera based on the relationship between Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings during the French Revolution, excerpts of which can be found on You Tube.