



2023  
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI RECIPIENT

**JAMES TAYLOR**

Kingwood High School, Class of 1986



James (Jimmy) Taylor is a proud Kingwood High School graduate of the Class of 1986. Jimmy spent twelve years in Humble ISD schools, having attended Foster Elementary, Kingwood Middle School, and Kingwood High School. At Kingwood High School, Jimmy shared his musical talents by participating in band, choir, and theater. While he enjoyed marching in KM4B and acting and singing in numerous theater productions, the choir was where Jimmy rose to impressive heights and was named to the Texas Music Educators' All-State Choir three times. He served as a choir officer and a member of the barbershop quartet, won the senior award for most talented, and enjoyed years of choir trips. While at Kingwood High School, Jimmy was in the German Club and traveled to Germany for the first time with them. It was actually on that trip that he decided he wanted to live in Germany one day!

After high school, Jimmy attended Texas Christian University where he graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education in 1991. He was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to attend the Hochschule für Musik in Munich, Germany. These years of study began what would become over 30 years of professional singing in countries across the globe. He spent two years in the Opera Studio at the Munich National Opera, from 1992-1994.

Jimmy began 30 years of professional singing as a soloist, singing in the United States, South America, Japan, Korea, Israel, and in major concert halls in Europe. He is largely regarded as the premier Bach tenor of our generation. He has sung under the direction of many famous conductors including Kurt Masur, Helmuth Rilling and Masaaki Suzuki, and his storied career has included an impressive array of large scale Bach works, Handel's great oratorios, and a performance of Britten's War Requiem in the Munich Residence on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of World War II.

For 21 years, Jimmy has been a professor of voice, shaping the talent and passions of countless young singers and future voice teachers. Teaching is his primary focus and his true contribution to the community of musicians and music lovers from Connecticut to Texas. Because of his gifts as a performer, vocal pedagogy expert, and a master of multiple languages, Jimmy is a sought-after docent and master class instructor. He was first a Professor of Voice in Augsburg, Germany, at the Hochschule für Musik, and is now a Professor at Yale University and the Yale Institute of Sacred Music. In the fall of 2022, he received the George Perrin Prize for his contribution to musical life in America as a singer and a teacher. Professor Taylor serves as the head of the voice program in Early Music, Art Song, and Oratorio.