

## American Portrait Biographies

**Sam Hagan**, Tenor, is one of the Southeast's finest tenors, didn't actually plan to be a professional singer. He spent almost 3 decades teaching biology and chemistry teacher at The Westminster Schools and Atlanta Metropolitan College. He is an avid gardener and a skilled home renovator, but all that frequently takes a back seat to a very busy and demanding career as a soloist, not only in his hometown of Atlanta, but around the USA and the world. Hagan has performed as a featured soloist with some of America's best orchestras including the Atlanta Symphony, Cleveland, Cincinnati, and the Flagstaff Festival Orchestras, and at the world-famous Spoleto (Charleston) Festival under such noted conductors as James Levine, Lorin Maazel, Skitch Henderson, Louis Lane, and, of course, Robert Shaw. He has studied with Metropolitan Opera baritone Timothy Nolen, and Patricia Heuermann. He has been featured in concert in England, Europe, (where he served as cantor for a mass at St. Peter's Basilica) Canada, and Mexico. He has twice sung for Pope John Paul II, and sang for the inauguration of President Jimmy Carter. Some of his roles include Ferrando in Mozart's *Così fan Tutte*, Pinkerton in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, Alfredo in Strauss's *Die Fledermaus*, Rudolfo in Puccini's *La Bohème*, Sportin' Life in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, numerous cantatas, the Christmas Oratorio, the Passions of St. Matthew and St. John, by J. S. Bach, several masses and requiems by Mozart and numerous works by Handel, including *Messiah* and *Israel in Egypt*. In Atlanta, Hagan is a member of the 3 Inspirational Tenors, a popular trio that offers sacred and secular inspirational classics on concert stages, in churches, at conventions, and for organizations celebrating special occasions. He cantors at St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church.

**Dawn-Marie**, Mezzo Soprano, is one of Jamaica's premier classical performers. Dawn-Marie proudly represented Jamaica at singing competitions in Santiago de Compostela, Spain; Leipzig, Germany and Brazil, and enjoyed engagements in Jamaica with the National Chorale and Orchestra of Jamaica, Jamaica School of Music, Jamaica Musical Theatre Company and the Virtue-James Studio. As a now-native Atlantian, she has performed extensively with The Atlanta Opera since 1989, singing more than ten roles, under the baton of Artistic Director William Fred Scott. Also in Atlanta, she has performed solo engagements with the Grammy Award-winning Atlanta Symphony Orchestra during their acclaimed summer series at Chastain Park, the Atlanta Bach Choir, the Cobb Symphony Orchestra and at Georgia State University, as well as directing, arranging and choreographing for the Caribbean folk group Boonoonoonoos. Additionally, Dawn-Marie has performed in various special events throughout the Western hemisphere, including Jamaica, the United States and Canada. A high honors graduate in music from the University of Windsor (Ontario, Canada), Dawn-Marie boasts many awards, including Jamaica's 2002 Edna Manley Award for Excellence in Classical Performance, a JAMI (Jamaican Music Industry Award) for Best Vocal Performer in Classical Music, prize winner in the prestigious Johann Sebastian Bach competition in Leipzig, Germany, a scholarship in Spanish music to Santiago de Compostela in Spain and was a finalist in the International Song Competition in Brazil. When not performing, Dawn-Marie shares her craft and passion by teaching at Agnes Scott College, the DeKalb School of the Arts and in private instruction. Dawn-Marie has released her first professional recording, *Simply Dawn-Marie*, a diverse and enthralling collection of arias, art songs and traditional Jamaican melodies.

**Mac Frampton, Pianist & Arranger**, has been called him "an immensely talented pianist, at home in a wide variety of musical settings" (BILLBOARD MAGAZINE) The Atlanta Constitution exclaimed: "How one man can bring the rafters down in Symphony Hall as if a full orchestra were playing is a feat in itself. It's consummate musicianship. Electrifying!"

He's been guest soloist with such orchestras as the Boston Pops, Mantovani, Cincinnati, Atlanta, and St. Louis. Merv Griffin called him "Dynamite!" He's shared the stage with the likes of Bill Cosby, Glen Campbell, The Fifth Dimension, and Victor Borge. Yet, in thirty years as an entertainer, performing nearly 3000 concerts worldwide, Mac Frampton has remained committed to a fundamental belief: music is a powerful form of communication, often able to speak more deeply than words. "I can't recall a time in my life when I didn't know exactly what I wanted to do," says Mac. A look at his early years confirms that fact. Born the son of a Presbyterian minister, he had lots of chances to test the piano playing waters: entertaining for church suppers, subbing for Sunday services, improvising "Here Comes The Bride" for a home wedding, playing the Sunday School hymns on creaky old uprights. Quite an exciting life-style for a boy of eight! Today, Mac Frampton carries his musical electricity to audiences around the world. But through it all the memories of childhood linger as some of the sweetest. "I remember my first combo. Two clarinets, trombone, and piano! I wrote the arrangements and we played at a church men's supper. My six-year-old sister came on stage to sing the finale, and when we finished the audience started throwing things at us. It made us nervous until we realized they were throwing money!" The piano lessons he had been taking since the age of five were invested with a renewed dedication. After high school Mac continued his musical education at Erskine College in his home state of South Carolina and at the Cincinnati Conservatory, where he received his master's and doctoral degrees. Recognition with a special medal in the Van Cliburn Competition followed, establishing him as a classical pianist with legitimate credentials.

It was at the Cliburn Competition that Mac began to seriously consider an alternative to a classical career. "I was at a farewell reception and some of the contestants who knew I improvised pop and jazz asked me to play a few tunes. I had just started when Van Cliburn himself walked in. He told me he was impressed with my arrangements and that I should consider doing them professionally. With that kind of endorsement, I had to think seriously about going into the pop arena. I went home and started booking myself with a backup group and found I really loved it."

The style Mac developed during the early years of pop concerts has proved durable. Based on classical technique but drawing liberally from jazz and rock idioms, the Mac Frampton sound continues to build a wider audience with each of the concerts he and his group have performed for community, college, and convention audiences. His success has spawned over twenty record albums, a motion picture soundtrack, and unprecedented numbers of return engagements. In the past several years, Mac has also turned his attention to the creation of musical revues. His efforts have brought to the stage original productions of the music of George Gershwin, Cole Porter, and Henry Mancini, and a holiday offering entitled 'Tis The Season. In October of 2000, he produced a solo album, *An American Portrait*, to honor the victims of the September 11 attacks. Proceeds from this project were donated to the relief efforts. Mac is the founder and conductor of The Hollywood Hills Orchestra, an ensemble that brings great cinematic music to the stage.

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