

Tom Oliver BA MUS, ORMTA, NATS, CAEA, is in high demand as a voice teacher and adjudicator. His studio, Voice Concepts, (Hamilton On.) has prepared and trained young singers for Universities and Colleges throughout North America. In 2020, Ontario Registered Music Teachers Assoc. Awarded Tom with the "Outstanding Contribution to Teaching Award". In 2016, Tom co-founded The Hamilton Music Festival with colleague, Diane Manojlovich.

From 2004 to 2019, Tom collaborated as a member of the Voice Faculty at Sheridan College Music Theatre Division. Tom is a graduate of The San Francisco Conservatory of Music (BA.MUS). He performed as principal artist with Sacramento Opera, Vancouver Symphony and Opera Company, Canadian Opera Company, Rainbow Stage, Theatre Plus, Canada Opera Piccola..

Tom began his teaching career in his final year of university. He retired from performance in 1993 to continue voice research, neuroscience and its application to vocal arts. He is thrilled to return to Edmonton and join the team for the Alberta Provincial Festival.

Early Years

- Tom is the youngest of seven children, and raised on a market gardening farm near Embro, On. (Oliver's Gardens). It was **"a way of life"** his father would say. A phrase Tom still uses today to describe the **"Art of Teaching Voice"**.
- In the first year of high-school (Woodstock Collegiate Institute) Tom was recommended to take lessons with voice teacher, Gordon Scott, of Stratford, who introduced Tom to classical music. Handel, Scarlatti, Cesti, Mozart, Schubert and Dietrich Fischer Dieskau. He became fascinated with his core vocal quality.

Post Secondary School

- In 1975, Tom moved to Toronto to continue studies at the RCMT. His professors were Kathleen Sinclair, William Andrews, Barbara Wharram, Dr. Vinci and Elizabeth Benson Guy.
- He travelled on scholarship, to Banff School of Fine Arts. Lieder and Melodie and then the remainder of the ten weeks singing "Schaunard" in "La Boheme".
- Met Leopold Simoneau and Pierrette Alarie who brought him to San Francisco Conservatory.
- Master classes with Pavarotti, Hotter and lectures from Sills, Price, Sutherland and others confirm Tom's approach to core voice work.

Post Graduation, Performance and onto Voice Research

- Returned to Canada. Pursued film and commercial work to pay off \$80,000.00 in student loans.
- Found Mr. Jaap Teer, vocal pedagogue from Amsterdaam Conservatory of Music who taught "Core" voice. Worked with him for six years.
- Founded Voice Concepts. "Any voice can sing".
- Completed "The Mastery" workshop introducing Neuro-science as a tool to teach.
- Introduced "cross-sensory" work in vocal production.
- Debuted with several national companies and returned to Ontario to participate in Toronto Symphony programme. Debut with Canadian Opera Company.
- 1993 left performance to commit fully to teaching voice.
- 2003 moved to Hamilton to collaborate with mentors, Pauline and Lou Zamprogna
- Private studio exceeds 100 students.
- 2004 became a faculty member of Sheridan Music Theatre programme.
- 2019 retired from Sheridan to continue research and focus on private studio.