

## DR. GERALD THOMAS GRAY

After his initial conducting studies with Donald Neuen at the Eastman School of Music, Gerald toured France with the Robert Shaw Festival Singers and was also a member of the Atlanta Symphony Chamber Chorus under the direction of Robert Shaw, where he participated in numerous landmark recordings on the Telarc label. Further studies at University of Iowa were followed with years as a professional chorister with Boston Baroque, Emmanuel Music of Boston, the Carmel Bach Festival and the Handel and Haydn Society of Boston where he sang under the direction of Seiji Ozawa, Christopher Hogwood, Andrew Parrott, Martin Pearlman, Craig Smith, Harry Bicket, Paul McCreech, Rinaldo Alessandrini, Bruno Weill, Robert Spano, John Harbison and Grant Llewellyn. Now, as the Director of Choral Activities and Associate Professor of Voice at the State University of New York at Fredonia and as guest conductor of the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus he shares these experiences that afford him an intimate understanding of the art of choral singing and style. Gerald has established the Fredonia Chamber Choir, a highly select 24 voice ensemble comprised of the top singers from Fredonia's large undergraduate and graduate vocal program. He teaches and supervises graduate students in choral conducting and literature, prepares choruses for numerous major works and has established an annual holiday concert performing Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, *Advent and Christmas Cantatas* and Handel's *Messiah* with international players and soloists. He considers his involvement in numerous workshops, performances and recordings with the late Robert Shaw as the fundamental influence upon his approach to choral technique.

As a tenor soloist, Gerald has performed throughout the United States primarily in the music of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Highlights include the role of "Tempo" in Handel's *Il Trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno* with Musica Angelica Baroque Orchestra of Los Angeles and a European tour of Handel's *Acis and Galatea* with the Wiener Akademie both under the direction of Martin Hasselböck. In a staged production of Monteverdi's *1610 Vespers* with the Handel and Haydn Society of Boston, the Wall Street Journal hailed the "sensuousness of his vocal line." This was followed with critically acclaimed performances in Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*, a one-per-part *Bach Sacred Cantatas* program, and a solo program of sacred Italian music all with the American Bach Soloists of San Francisco under the direction of Jeffrey Thomas. Gerald is an alumnus of Emmanuel Music where he participated in weekly performances of Bach's Sacred Cantatas under the direction of Craig Smith. With Emmanuel Music he performed over forty of Bach's Sacred Cantatas as a soloist, over one hundred as a chorister and has performed much of the music of Heinrich Schütz. He appeared in Emmanuel Music's evening concerts in Handel's *Saul* and *Brockes Passion*, Schubert's *Mass in E flat*, and Bach's *St. John Passion (1725 version)* which was subsequently recorded on the Koch International label. He has been a soloist for Seiji Ozawa, Christopher Hogwood, Harry Bickett, Christoph Wolff, John Harbison, Bruno Weil, David Hoose, Grant Llewellyn and others. You can view Gerald on YouTube in a video of *Carmina Burana (2007, UC Davis)* which has achieved over eight million views as of August 2012).