

**Genevieve "Jenny" McDowell** has both a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Voice from the U.S.C. School of the Performing Arts. At the time of entry into the music program she was able to test out of the requisite piano requirements for singers due to her level of pianistic accomplishment.

After winning numerous awards and receiving her degrees, she spent two years in New York City working with Frank Corsaro, Stage Director at the New York City Opera in his workshop for singers and directors. She then won a Rotary International Graduate Fellowship with all expenses paid for a year of advanced study at the Academy of Music in Vienna, Austria. (She is now an active Rotarian.)

Upon her return to the States, she was immediately hired as a full time faculty member at the California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, California where she taught for several years. While there she taught Opera Workshop, Lyric Theater, Song Literature, Music Fundamentals, Beginning Piano, Vocal Pedagogy, and numerous individual voice lessons every week. In addition, she conducted the Women's Chorus and directed the first full length operas the university had ever staged.

During her time at the university she also directed several other opera productions in the greater Los Angeles area. Later on she surprised *everyone* and left the coveted university position. She reflects that the problem with teaching all the classes and private lessons from morning until the end of the opera workshop at 10:00 PM was that at the "end of the day" you have used up all the voice you ever had talking and demonstrating for students and that makes it very difficult to keep your own professional singing in shape. After all, the voice is the body.....not a set of drums! She made the unusual decision to go into another business and additionally opened her own commercial voice studio in Claremont which she ran successfully for a number of years.

"Jenny" has been fortunate enough to have master classes with some of the great singers in the world. While she has sung, directed, and conducted, her main love for many years was the teaching of singing....."The Bringing of the Dream into the Flesh" as she is fond of saying.

One of her former students is now a performer and professor of voice at the Claremont Colleges. Another became the youngest singer ever to win the Los Angeles Music Center Spotlight Awards at the Los Angeles Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in front of 3000 people and roving cameras! That same student went on to win the MTA Voce competition for the entire state of California. Still another credits the realization of her dream to successfully audition for and be accepted into the Los Angeles Master Chorale to her time spent with Jenny.

Since fully retiring in St. George, Utah Jenny is often asked if she still teaches singing. While she does not solicit for any students she is fond of saying that she is *always interested in a wonderful voice living inside a student who wants to work seriously*. "Most of my musical time now is devoted to actively pursuing my dream of seriously improving my piano playing. Somehow I could never figure out how to *do it all* in my working years" she says with a rueful laugh. Now she studies with Chris Giles and is thrilled to have the *time* and *energy* to absorb his teaching and practice the piano two to three hours a day. "Chris is a wonderful teacher and a very fine pianist indeed. I am so fortunate to have the opportunity to work with him in this stage of my life and I so enjoy exploring the piano repertoire. I also want to continue to help bring more piano performances to our wonderful region. It has been my great pleasure to introduce my friend MIMI BLAIS to St. George through numerous appearances including her sold-out Celebrity Concert performance in January of 2014. For me, all of this is yet another dream come true!"