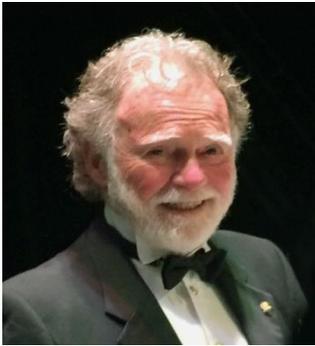


# John Kemp

## Tenor



Tenor **JOHN KEMP** has a wide range of repertoire. He has sung both the St John and St Matthew Evangelists of Bach, the title role of St Nicholas in the Britten oratorio of the same name, and the role of King Kaspar in *Amahl* in 11 different productions.

He presented several recitals of songs from Ellington to Bernstein with jazz musicians Jim and Kathy Ridl, and has sung song cycles of composers Daron Hagen and George Jones, both accompanied by the composers.

John conducted the choirs in the historic Emanuel Baptist Church in Brooklyn, NY, and the high school choirs in Trinity Episcopal and Nassau Presbyterian Churches in Princeton. He was the manager of the Trinity Concerts by Candlelight series for 3 years and produced 41 concerts and recitals during his tenure.

On stage, he has sung Nanki-Poo in *Mikado*, Camille in *Merry Widow*, the Padre in *Man of LaMancha*, Senex in *A Funny Thing*, the French Ambassador in Gershwin's *Girl Crazy*, O. B. Abbott in *Radio Gals*, and the Prince and the Third Hermit in Warren Martin's *Cinderella*. In the legitimate theater, he has performed leading roles in plays by Neil Simon, Stephen Metcalf, Agatha Christie and character parts in Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew* and *Much Ado*, and he has provided voices for several cartoon sound tracks. John was a member of the chorus for the first five years of the June Opera Festival under Michael Pratt and Peter Westergaard.

He also played the on-stage solo cello parts in *Lies and Legends of Harry Chapin* and *Spitfire Grill* at the Off Broadway Theater in Hopewell.

John grew up as part of a very musical family in Oklahoma City where his father was a choir director and his mother taught voice and children's choirs. The family sang often in the city under the name of "The Kemp Family Carolers", and during his father's sabbatical in Europe, when John was 17, the family gave nearly a hundred concerts in Holland, Germany, Switzerland and England. They recorded three studio LPs, taped two concerts for Swiss TV and sang several broadcast concerts for Radio Holland, one from the legendary Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. During that year, John studied cello at the Royal Conservatory in the Hague.

John pursued Architecture, Music and Stage Design in college, finally earning a degree in Architecture from Princeton University, and established his own firm, Small Potatoes Construction Company, Designing and Building. The company did a wide variety of projects from urban and historical renovation to high design New York City apartments. He has also designed stage sets for Indiana University Opera, the Open-air Theater in Washington's Crossing, NJ, Off Broadway Theater, Hopewell, NJ, and the G. and S. Players at McCarter Theater in Princeton. He now designs and builds custom furniture and cabinetry.