

Nolan Marshall

Bio



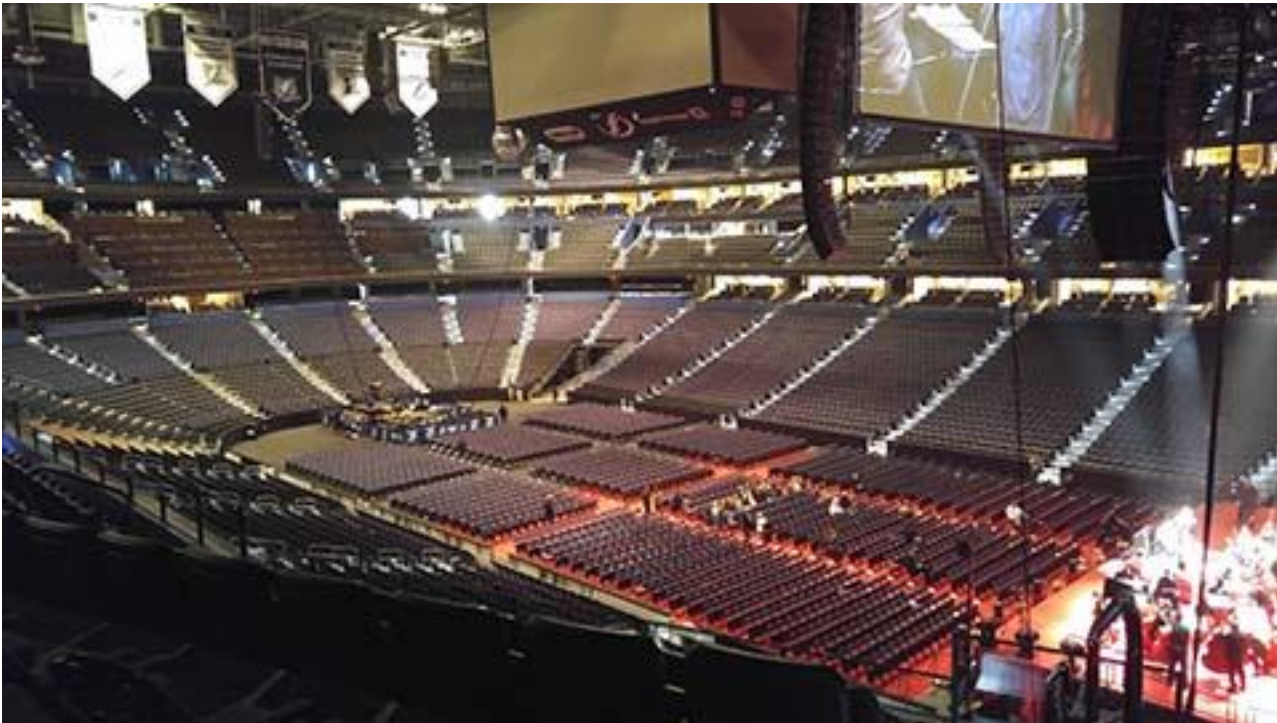
Nolan Marshall was born with music in his soul. From his first Kindergarten stage performance, through years of college, music has been Nolan's passion. Nolan credits his Christian upbringing for giving him the heart and desire to live a life of service to others.

In 1980, Nolan moved to Seminole, FL from his birthplace of Fond du Lac, WI. Soon after moving, Nolan got married and began to raise a family. Shortly thereafter, he started up his own piano rebuilding service. Then, in 1995, Nolan was hired by Largo Fire Rescue, where he continued to work for 25 years. Between work and the responsibilities of the family, it became a necessity to put his musical dreams on hold, indefinitely.

In 2003, Nolan had the very good fortune of meeting world class opera tenor, *Giorgio Aristo*, while moving his piano. From that moment on, Nolan's life would never be the same again. You see, Nolan is not one for holding back his feelings. He expressed a sincere admiration for Giorgio's talent and achievements. To Nolan's surprise, *Giorgio*, asked him to step over to the piano. He asked to hear some scales. Nolan obliged, and with his rusty voice attempted to do what Giorgio asked of him. This was Nolan's very first real voice lesson. As it turned out, Nolan became Giorgio's very first vocal student. What's more, the vocal lessons continued for years.... free of charge. Giorgio and Nolan became lifetime friends.

Giorgio's only response for his generosity was this: He would say, "Call it a 'pay it forward'".

With *Giorgio's* lessons and influence, Nolan went on to sing arias in seven languages, and lead roles in small opera houses. Included in his accomplishments, Nolan had the privilege of singing backup vocals, a couple seasons, for Andrea Bocelli, at the Tampa Forum.



Nolan also became the featured singer for many area patriotic events, i.e. Veteran's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, etc... Nolan also kept an ongoing busy schedule as a Sunday soloist in many different area churches.

Then, Nolan stepped out on his own, and began to sing self-produced Christmas shows. The shows offered a reward all of their own. At Christmas time Nolan could share his love for Jesus to the public. After all, many still accepted the fact that Christmas, along with being the time of year for Santa and gift sharing, was also the birthday of the Christ Child. And so, Nolan would consider it a personal privilege and mission, that he could share the "good news", and could in his own way to bring joy to the world around him. The shows had very humble beginnings.

Nolan would volunteer to perform in the beautifully decorated Botanical Gardens in Largo. The early shows were simply entitled “Nolan and Friends”. Nolan refused to accept donations. He preferred this to be his gift to the public.

In an effort to find the best singers available for the shows, Nolan began to post ads on, of all places, Craigslist. There, he found singers like him, who enjoyed singing for the love of music. There, Nolan found singers who also had had to put their dreams on hold, because of life getting in the way. He also would find singers with a dream. A dream to be able to unleash the gift inside, and share it with the world. And so, it has been very rewarding to give encouragement to others, as Giorgio had so graciously given it to him. It also gives him much pleasure to watch singers sing from the heart, enjoying the excitement and laughter of the audiences.

In the years that followed, the show grew in size and in popularity. Thousands of dollars were being poured into audio equipment, costumes, lights and special effects machines. Nolan felt the need to compensate his fellow performers as best he could. *“I could not expect my singers to work for nothing, just because I was willing to”*. He broke down, and put out a jar out for donations. The shows would bring in maybe \$100 or \$200 per night. The shows were by this time, costing nearly 10 times more than what was brought in. Nolan would pay the singers a small stipend, and the donations from all the shows was put into the offering plate at his struggling church. Nolan will always appreciate the gift that was given to him. The purposeful Christmas “niche” that he had fallen into, has always been satisfying in itself. The rewards of the many friendships made, and the whole magical experience of each performance, outweigh the grueling work and hours invested. They far outweigh whatever amount of money could be earned. *“We have made memories for life that cannot be bought with money.”*

Nolan decided to hire videographers to record the shows. This way, there would be something to remember the shows by and were also useful tools for promotional purposes. Nolan, continued to invest more in special effects and beautiful costumes, and the shows came alive, clearly, stepping up to a higher level! He sent copies to all the nearby communities, and asked for the privilege of performing in any of their upcoming public Christmas events. Amazingly, EVERY city responded with a “Yes”.

We found ourselves performing for every sizable Santa Parade and Christmas tree lightings, with all the most awesome city light displays. We now were singing before audiences of thousands and tens of thousands!

Our videographer entitled the track “Nolan’s Christmas Spectacular”. And, the name sort of fit. So, we continued to use the name, building our webpage and online networking around the name, until this year, when we were contacted by Madison Square Garden and Radio City Music Hall, who informed us that the name “*Christmas Spectacular*” was trademarked and owned by the Rockettes. This was a total surprise, and caused a bit of a setback. But we are now moving ahead with “*Nolan’s Christmas Extravaganza*”, with the website listed under “nolansspectacularproductions.com”.

The “*Extravaganza*” has been invited back to perform at all of the past year’s venues, with more venues added daily. Now, our biggest challenge will be to live up to our new name, and to meet the expectations of our audiences!

We continue to reach out to new talent. We don’t hesitate to turn down singers with the attitude of “What’s in it for me?”, no matter how good they sound. That attitude flies in the face of our purpose for doing what we do. This show has been built on loving and sharing. The very message that we wish to convey through our audiences is one of selfless giving, rather than one of pure, self-centeredness. We pray that we will be able to continue to share the love, joy, laughter and magic of our Christmas productions for years to come. Come out and see and enjoy for yourselves, “Nolan’s Christmas Extravaganza!”.



