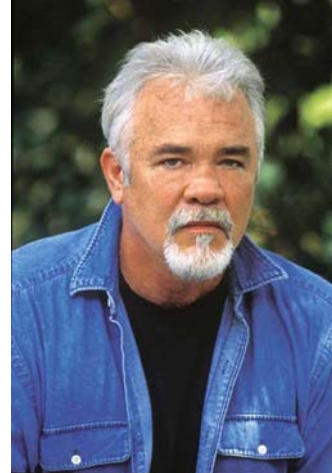


# GRAY MORRIS

## A Biography



Listing the accolades and audiences who have raved about Gary Morris is a daunting task. He is at home on the Opry Stage or the back of a truck. His voice the only instrument he needs to move your heart and soul. His voice was a familiar sound to soap opera fans of *Another World* whose theme song he had sung for over a decade, the Queen of England asked to shake his hand and Olympian gold medallists admire his skill. Every living U.S. President has requested a performance.

During the past decade Gary has concentrated on various projects for others; producing for Olympian Scott Hamilton for his skating projects; as well as producing a critically acclaimed album for country artist, Matt King. Morris has produced bands at home and abroad, but perhaps his most exciting production credit is that of his own son, Matthew, alumni of Disney's *New Mickey Mouse Club* and a true talent quickly building his own successful career. The pair frequently perform together and their duets have been called, ". . . almost an embarrassment of riches, and open treasure chest of sound."

The award winning singer and songwriter has recently released his sixteenth album entitled, "One Voice, One Guitar, One Night", which was recorded live at the Ellen Eccles Theatre in Logan, Utah.

Beginning in the early 1980's, Morris recorded for Warner Brothers, MCA/Universal and Liberty records, producing twelve albums which spawned sixteen Top 10 singles and five No.1 hits, including *Baby Bye Bye*, *100% Chance Of Rain*, and *Leave Me Lonely*. Morris then broke new ground with his enormously successful self-produced acoustic album "*Plain Brown Wrapper*"; far preceding the "unplugged" genre that is so popular today.

In 1984, Gary Morris' original rendition of *Wind Beneath My Wings* won both the Country Music Association and Academy of Country Music Song of the Year Awards. Never one to rest on his laurels and at the height of his Nashville recording career, Morris boldly opted to play opposite Linda Ronstadt in a New York production of Puccini's Opera "*La Boheme*." Many thought this transition foolhardy since a country singer of his stature had never before attempted the rigors of a live opera. His detractors were quickly silenced as his inspired and fearless performance took the Opera world by storm. With seemingly no ceiling on the talent he possessed, his appearance in "*La Boheme*" led to offers from Broadway where he accepted the daunting task of becoming the first

American to play the heroic and challenging role of Jean Val Jean in *"Les Miserables,"* one of the longest running plays in Broadway history.

Receiving resounding critical praise, including a "Best Actor" nomination from the highly respected drama desk, for a performance that would set the standard for this uniquely challenging role, Morris' famous rendition of *Bring Him Home* can be found on the platinum-selling, Grammy Award winning cast album creating a new fan base outside the country music world including the Queen of England, who, upon meeting him, mentioned how happy she was to finally put a face to the music. In the Spring of 2006, Gary will once again be returning to Broadway portraying Doctor Manette in the Dickens classic, *"A Tale of Two Cities"*.

Gary Morris is equally comfortable in front of the camera with acting credits including a recurring-role on *The Colby's*, *Designing Women*, and *Mike Hammer* as well as hosting and producing The Nashville Network's top rated *North American Sportsman*, which ran for five years with diverse celebrity guests ranging from Bryant Gumble to Troy Aikman. As a music producer, Gary quickly established himself by exploring the same types of diversity he enjoys as a performer. In 1998, he produced and performed a moving live version of *"One More Look At You"* at the special request of Olympic Champion figure skater Scott Hamilton as part of his heralded comeback to figure skating after his bout with cancer.

Morris could be seen in the powerful and moving *Gary Morris and the Art of the Tretyakov*, which aired on PBS affiliates around the country. Unlike any other concert special, *Gary Morris and the Art of the Tretyakov* allowed audiences intimate access to a world of paintings housed in the famed Tretyakov museum in Moscow that have rarely, if ever, been seen in the West. As the first musician to ever perform live in this venerable museum that houses over 100,000 Russian masterpieces, Morris seamlessly weaves hauntingly beautiful music (both original and "signature" pieces) with images of classic Russian paintings to create a unique, exciting documentary that is a historical homage to the struggles and conquests of a proud and passionate society.

Gary recently produced an animated children's cartoon, *Nine Dog Christmas* which was released on both DVD and VHS and aired on the Cartoon Network. *Nine Dog Christmas*, features songs written and sung, by both Gary and his son, Matt, along with additional performances by James Earl Jones and Olympic Skater, Scott Hamilton.

In 2005, Gary established the Conservation Buck Society, which he is founder and CEO of. This organization was created from his passion of hunting, to engage people to increase support and funding for wildlife conservation efforts and to generate expanded interest among youth to participate as outdoor sportsmen and women. The Conservation Buck Fund will make available scholarships and grants to deserving students who have chosen a course of study that serves the outdoor/wildlife community and deserving projects that enhance the total wildlife environment.

Still keeping an active touring and producing schedule, Morris presently divides his time between Nashville, Tennessee and his hooting, fishing, executive retreat, Mountain Spirit Lodge in Southern Colorado.

For more information on Gary Morris, his Mountain Spirit Lodge, and the Conservation Buck Society, please visit his web sites, [www.garymorris.com](http://www.garymorris.com), [www.mountainspirit.com](http://www.mountainspirit.com) and [www.conservationbucksociety.com](http://www.conservationbucksociety.com) .