

(Press release for the Donald Braswell June 27th Schreiner University scholarship fund raising concert at the Cailloux Theater with the Symphony of the Hills.)

When Donald Braswell takes the stage with The Symphony of the Hills this summer, he will be coming full circle. The June 27 concert to be held in the Kathleen C. Cailloux City Center for the Performing Arts will kick off the 2009-2010 season.

Braswell, a Juilliard graduate and protégé of Franco Corelli, the "Prince of Tenors," was widely acclaimed for his performances in the United States and Europe, but in 1995 he saw his career shattered in the disastrous few seconds of an automobile accident that destroyed his voice. The journey back to his rightful place in the spotlight accompanied by a full orchestra in Kerrville took almost 14 years, but once again, Braswell has arrived, this time exuding the depth and passion of an artist matured and tempered by the pain and suffering of his long passage.

For two years Braswell could not speak at all. It was during this time that he composed "Look At Me," a song he has performed at several concerts. The song reminds us that underneath the sorrow of the silence that he was forced to bear, music was thriving and anxiously seeking a way to come out. When against all odds, his voice started to come back, he took performance opportunities with local groups and churches. In 2007, when the third season of "America's Got Talent" was looking for a new star, his wife Julie sent a demo tape on her husband's behalf. The rest is history. Donald wowed the judges and the viewers alike with his powerful voice and he went on to become a finalist. Thirteen years after being told that he might never speak again, he sang to standing ovation and later won fourth place.

It has been an amazing journey for Donald Braswell. According to Donald, "It is God's job to know when the end is, and He will surely let us know when that time comes. Until then, we are not serving Him or others if we give up. Keep going no matter what the odds"

Braswell, a Boerne native, is excited to help kick off the Symphony's new concert season.

Ticket sales have been strong, however, they have until now, been limited to season ticket patrons. That ended on May 4 and tickets are now available to the general public and may be purchased by calling the box office at 830-896-9393. Single ticket price is \$35.

Braswell's fan club will be represented by 30 members who are flying in from all over the United States, from California to New Jersey. They have reserved the first two rows of the theater and will be recognizable by the yellow rose each fan member will be wearing.

Braswell recently finished a PBS special in Detroit and plans are underway for a concert with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. The audience at the April 30 Symphony of the Hills concert was treated to a special surprise as Braswell was introduced and led the singing of our national anthem. Tickets are limited and the concert is expected to sell out quickly. Please make plans now to join Braswell, his fans and a full house of Hill Country supporters on June 27 at 7:30pm at the Cailloux Center for the Performing Arts. For more information please visit, www.symphonyofthehills.org and a brief demo of Braswell's amazing voice.