

# Gary Morris

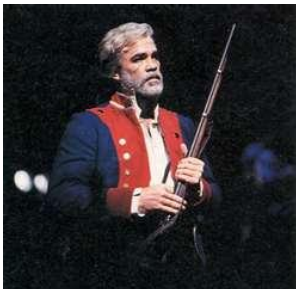
## A MASTER CLASS

Gary Morris, gained international attention and critical acclaim when at the top of his country music career he took on the daunting task of playing Jean Valjean, the lead role in Broadway's "Les Misérables," during the original run. He won a Drama Desk nomination, as well as, a Grammy for the cast album on which he was the only American cast member invited to perform.

"Les Misérables" is the third longest-running show in Broadway history opening on March 12, 1987. Gary was the first American to star as Jean Valjean when he opened on Broadway in November 1987 for a six month run. "Gary Morris was selected from over fifty actors who auditioned for the role, a part which requires a singer of considerable vocal and stylistic range," according to Frank Nathan, the spokesperson for the original production. Morris later reprised the role at the Pantages Theatre in LA in 1991 for a special limited run.

The full symphonic recording of "Les Misérables" is a platinum selling, Grammy Award-winning album and features Gary's now famous version of *Bring Him Home*. Morris has also appeared in a production of Joseph Papp's contemporary production of Puccini's opera "La Bohème" in the New York Shakespeare Festival with fellow Country/Pop singer Linda Ronstadt.

**As time permits, Gary enjoys scheduling MASTER CLASSES at various universities, colleges, and high schools across the country. It's his way of giving back; mentoring the next generation of musicians and music-theatre actors. The sessions are "hands-on;" typically include an acoustic performance of a song; and conclude with the ever-popular question and answer phase. Gary shares with the students his path to the leading role in the #1 play on Broadway at the time, "Les Misérables." Auditions, preparation, performances, and his own experiences in the show (such as keeping his voice strong during the run of such a daunting production) are all part of the MASTER CLASS. In addition, he discusses his own career – entertainer, songwriter, music publisher, TV host and producer, actor, and most importantly father.**



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4L00YZsrIM>

[http://nashville.broadwayworld.com/article/Photo\\_Coverage\\_Gary\\_Morris\\_mentors\\_HumeFogg\\_Highs\\_LES\\_MISERABLES\\_cast\\_20101015#ixzz1URklqyps](http://nashville.broadwayworld.com/article/Photo_Coverage_Gary_Morris_mentors_HumeFogg_Highs_LES_MISERABLES_cast_20101015#ixzz1URklqyps)