

NATS San Diego NEWS

MARCH 2009

Newsletter Editor
Enrique Toral

Young Artists Competition gears up for another exciting year on Sunday, April 19 at PLNU.

It's that time of year again! Our annual **Young Artists Competition** is scheduled for **Sunday, April 19, 2009** on the beautiful campus of Point Loma Nazarene University.

Last year was a great event, with a record number of contestants. This year promises to be even better! There are a few changes this year, so please keep reading.

Again this year, the presentation of awards will take place after the Winners' Recital. This year, the top three places in each category will be announced, but only the highest ranking singer present at the presentation will be asked to sing for the recital. Students who are unable to attend the Winners' Recital and Awards Presentation due to prior commitments are still eligible to receive first, second or third place. However, please **strongly encourage** your students to attend the Winners' Recital and Awards Presentation.

Please discourage your students from performing material that is not appropriate for their stage of development, or their age. One of the reasons that the youngest category is not permitted opera arias is because in the past, many of the youngest students were singing arias inappropriate for singers of their age and experience. If you have questions about this, contact us. Also, please be aware that teachers may not accompany their own students under any circumstances.

Remember – all applications must be postmarked no later than Saturday, March 21, 2009 to be considered for this year's competition.

We look forward to seeing you on April 19!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Kimmerly
Jim Tompkins-MacLaine
2009 Young Artists Competition Co-Chairs

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MAY'S ISSUE

Results of Young Artists Competition

HELP WANTED:

We are kindly soliciting help from all NATS San Diego members for help at the competition. If you would like to volunteer some of your afternoon as a time keeper, room monitor, registration assistant, or in some other capacity, please e-mail Jim Tompkins-MacLaine at <JimJazz@aol.com> or call him at (619) 795-6577. We are not requiring that participating teachers volunteer, but any helping hands are welcomed and appreciated!

Applications for our Young Artists Competition can be found by visiting
<www.natssandiego.org>

Once there, click on the "Young Artists Competition" link.

Winter Workshop Review

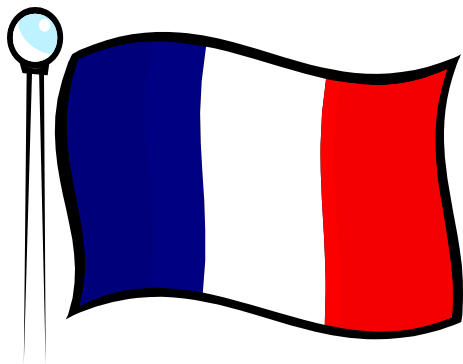
Freedom from French Fright: Fabulous!

Our chapter's Winter 2009 workshop "Freedom from French Fright" took place on Sunday afternoon, February 22 in the French Parlor on the beautiful campus of the University of San Diego. The clinician, **MARCIE STAPP**, who is on faculty at the San Francisco Conservatory, informed and entertained the gathering with her knowledgeable guidance through the perils of French diction. First she challenged everyone to discuss what they thought were the pitfalls of French diction, and then proceeded to debunk the fears one by one. By the end of the workshop, Ms. Stapp had convinced everyone of the ease and simplicity of singing in French.

The total in attendance ran to around 20, including about ten NATS chapter members. Chris Allen and Michiko Lohorn served ably as accompanists. The participating singers were:

- Monet Payne, soprano and student of Laurinda Nikkel, who sang "Colombine" by Poldowski;
- Hiroko Yoshinaga, mezzo-soprano and NATS member, who sang the Habanera by Bizet;
- Kyo-hee Lee, tenor and student of Enrique Toral, who sang "C" by Poulenc; and
- Julia Teal Kermott, soprano and student of Laurinda Nikkel, who sang "Ah! Je veux vivre" from Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*.

Many thanks to the students who sent in applications to sing, to Chris and Michiko for accompanying, to Ron Shaheen for making the arrangements with USD, and to Ron and Laurinda Nikkel for providing the refreshments.



Monet Payne and Marcie Stapp look over an unusual song by Poldowski.



Hiroko Yoshinaga gets pointers from Ms. Stapp as she sings Bizet's Habanera.

Estill Voice Training Class at PLNU

January 3-7, 2009, marked the first time that Estill Voice Training® was offered in San Diego, at Point Loma Nazarene University. Dr. Kimberly Steinhauer, one of Jo Estill's students and a developer of the system was on hand loaded with videos, models, and acoustic spectral analysis software, to help participants learn about all the structures involved with singing. In attendance were about 15 people, a mixed group of voice students, professional singers, teachers of singing, and speech language professionals from places as distant as Korea and as near as San Diego. The content is based on about 20 years of research performed by Jo Estill and her associates during which time they used modern technology to observe and codify exactly what happens as you attempt different types of phonation. The model is totally unbiased as to style of singing and simply explores the structures involved, invites you to discover what each can do, and then to combine possibilities to achieve different styles of singing healthfully. Yet, with its emphasis on clear scientific research and practical physical prompts to discover those possibilities, it has much to offer. In fact, the content is so "cutting edge" and clear that it is offered for continuing education credit for speech language professionals and public school teachers.

The most interesting group in attendance was a kind of "family" of teachers and students from Carthage College in Illinois. The most senior teacher, in her 50s, had already had a career in classical and musical theatre singing in New York before she started teaching. She could always sing both, but was looking for new tools to use with her students. Her student, now also a teacher at Carthage also came as did a couple of their students from the college. It was great to hear them all work on songs in a variety of styles in the application sessions and apply their new-found Estill knowledge together. Another great revelation occurred in the case of a local public school music teacher who demonstrated a neck muscle pulsation that had made her self-conscious about her singing. Though she had endeavored to resolve it with her teacher many years ago, it still persisted. Dr. Steinhauer gave her some practical Estill based tips in the application session that the teacher was able to apply immediately with her new found knowledge and the problem was almost totally resolved!

Below are some of the comments that students have offered about the workshop.

"I have attended many workshops and seminars and graduate level courses over the past 30 years and I can honestly say that this one is the most useful. I can't wait to shake up my students' worlds!" Lorian Stein Schwaber, Professor of Voice and Musical Theatre, Carthage College and Shanghai Conservatory of Music

"Your Estill course is the first and most extensive scientifically based vocal course I've ever seen. It has been an unforgettable, lifetime and paradigm changing experience. Can't wait to do more." Thomas Clark, Opera Singer and Teacher, S.F., CA

"The Estill model provided me with a physiological awareness that was lacking in my own training – the process of production is demystified, which allows me to be a better artist." Corinne Ness, Director, Music Theatre Studies, Carthage College, Antioch, IL

"Oh how I wish I had discovered Estill twenty five years ago! The information and ramifications for performing and teaching are so exciting. Estill has provided me with a stable and reliable framework for the most creative approaches to singing and speaking. And I'm continually amazed at the immediate value my students see in it, whether they're experienced performing artists or young students." Gail Springer, Professor, College of Santa Fe, S.F., N.M.

Feedback from the workshop was so enthusiastic that PLNU is planning to host the two level course again in the last two weekends of September, to allow for more student and local teacher involvement. Contact Juliette Singler if you'd like more information about it at jsingler@pointloma.edu, 619-849-7278.

GET WELL...Keep MARTHA JANE LOWNIE in your thoughts and prayers

Martha Jane Lownie has recently undergone major back surgery. Now in the recovery process, she has had to severely curtail her activities, including teaching and singing. She has been mostly sleeping and trying to walk a bit every day. Please feel free to visit Martha Jane, call her, or even just send her an e-mail. She would greatly appreciate it.

VOCAL HEALTH WORKSHOP

Last August the Scripps Voice and Swallowing Center presented a very informative one-day workshop about vocal health that was attended by several of our NATS members. Presenters included speech therapists and a laryngologist who actually "scoped" three people as we watched on a large screen. They are planning to do another presentation in the Fall and would like input from voice teachers as to what general and/or specific topics of voice health we are interested in knowing more about. Please send your comments and suggestions to me at rchagnon@sdccd.edu. - Richard Chagnon

GIVE A LITTLE, GAIN A LOT

My time on the board is coming to an end. I will have served on the Board of the San Diego NATS Chapter for four years: two years as President and two years as Current Past President. I have worked with chapter members who were on the board when I started and will continue after I am done, for example our current President, Ron Shaheen. Others have served before I became president, and have rejoined the board, for example, our current Secretary Jo Clemens. None of us could ever say, "Oh I have plenty of extra time, so now I'll volunteer to help the chapter." We made the time and are glad we did.

Why join the board of your local NATS Chapter? Why volunteer to give time? Everyone has their own reasons. Mine was to meet other colleagues in this complex field of teaching and in this challenging business environment; and to create circumstances where I could learn from the collective experience and wisdom of many smart, experienced teachers. I have received back in learning many times that amount I gave in volunteer time.

I urge all members to consider giving some time and energy to the endeavors of our San Diego NATS chapter. Maybe one could join the board, which has several openings for the coming year. Maybe one could offer some time to help at a specific event. Or perhaps one could simply participate in a chapter-sponsored event.

This chapter is an association. To make the most of it, we need to associate with each other. I continue to benefit from my association. Do you? 🎵

Scott Whitaker
Current Past President



Would you like to submit an article for publication in the NATS SD Newsletter? Opinions, book reviews, reviews of recordings or live performances are welcome. Share your views! Contact Enrique Toral, our newsletter editor at etoral@natssandiego.org

COMPETITIONS

VIRGINIA HAWK SCHOLARSHIP VOCAL AUDITIONS

First Place: \$3,000, Second Place: \$2,000

Entry Deadline: Friday, March 13, 2009

Auditions: Saturday, March 28, 2009 at La Mesa First United Methodist Church, 4690 Palm Avenue, La Mesa

Repertoire must include Two operatic arias and a selection from an oratorio or cantata, each sung in the original key and the original language; One song in each of the following languages: French, German, Italian, and English. Another language may be substituted for one of the four languages. At least one of these selections must be from the contemporary period (1920 to the present).

For more complete information and for applications:
Genevieve Grant at (619) 466-6606 g.grant@cox.net or
Ragnhild Amble (619) 465-7425 rfonhus@aol.com

THE MUSICAL MERIT FOUNDATION OF GREATER SAN DIEGO

An applicant who is participating in the Preliminary auditions must be a resident of San Diego County, Imperial County, or Baja California del Norte for one year prior to the time of the Preliminary auditions - OR- have been a full-time registered student (12 semester units) in a college or university in the above geographic area since this past September. Proof of full-time registration should accompany the application. Residency requirements do not apply to participants in the FINAL auditions. Age: A vocalist must have reached age 18 or be a graduating high school senior, and not have reached age 32, on the date of the final auditions.

Application Deadline: April 28, 2009.

To apply for an application, write:

Dr. Conrad Bruderer
4504 Resmar Rd
La Mesa, CA 91941.

Tel: 619-442-8201
E-mail: cbrudere@mail.sdsu.edu

More info can be found at: www.musicalmerit.org



Musical Events



TUESDAY, MARCH 10
AT 7:00 P.M.

MICHELLE LATOUR IN RECITAL

Michelle Latour, NATS member and former officer of our chapter and former member of the SDSU faculty, will give a recital at San Diego State University's Smith Recital Hall with SDSU faculty member Felix Olschofka. It will be an evening for music for voice and violin. Michelle is currently a professor in Bluffton, Ohio and an officer in the Ohio chapter.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13
AT 4:00 P.M.

"MAKING A CAREER IN OPERA: WHAT DO I DO AFTER COLLEGE??"



SDSU Opera Theater is pleased to announce a special Guest Artist Forum with Tom Corbeil, bass-baritone held in SDSU's Rhapsody Hall.

Tom will give a short performance of opera & classical selections and will

talk about how he has been building his career - with all the hurdles and triumphs! This is the chance to get some real insights into what it takes to make a performing career...from a young local artist on the cusp of a major career!

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, MARCH 14 , 15
AT 8:00 P.M.

LA JOLLA SYMPHONY PRESENTS OEDIPUS REX

La Jolla Symphony Concert "Perspective," March 14-15 at Mandeville Auditorium. Music by Debussy and Stravinsky, with NATS member Martha Howe singing Jocasta in *Oedipus Rex*. Laurent Najbauer, former student of Mary MacKenzie, will be returning from Hungary to sing the bass solo in the Stravinsky work.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1
AT 7:30 P.M.

CHRISTINA SAYERS IN RECITAL

Christina Sayers will be doing a cabaret recital entitled, "Grateful" at the Cooper Music Center on the Point Loma Nazarene University campus.

SUNDAY, APRIL 5
AT 7:00 P.M.

ELEGANCE UNLIMITED!

PLNU will host a fundraising concert to support special programs. An elegant dessert reception will follow. PLNU faculty, alumni (including Renee Calvo), and students will be performing a variety of vocal and instrumental works, including the Act I quintet from the Magic Flute. Tickets are \$10 and your presence at the concert gives you the opportunity to win a day trip to L.A. on April 25th to see violinist Joshua Bell at Disney Hall in the afternoon and Wagner's *Die Walkyre* in the evening. Call 619-849-2325 for tickets.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10
AT 7:00 P.M.

JOHN STAINER'S THE CRUCIFIXION

First United Methodist Church presents Sir John Stainer's The Crucifixion, a meditation on the sacred Passion of the Holy Redeemer for tenor and bass soloists, choir and organ. Featuring NATS member Enrique Toral and Kingsley McLaren.

1200 East H Street
 Chula Vista, CA

PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

Scott Gregory's faculty recital, scheduled for April 17 at the University of San Diego, and advertised in recent newsletters, has been canceled.

These listings are intended to promote local vocal events and support NATS members and their students.

NATS San Diego Chapter

Enrique Toral, Newsletter Editor
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NATS San Diego Chapter Website
<www.natssandiego.org>



“It's really a goal, to prove that opera singers are real actors. I think for me, the music is not the goal. The goal is theater.”

Natalie Dessay
(b. 1965)

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Submissions for the next issue are due April 15th. Submit to Enrique Toral via e-mail at etoral@natssandiego.org or regular mail at the address above.