

Chicago NATS newsletter

February 2010



CCNATS Board

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president, editor of CCNATS
newsletter, chair Musical Theatre
Competition

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Anne Marie Ouverson, New
members chair, Co-chair HS
competition

Angela Presutti, Area Rep
Co-chair



Dear CCNATS members!

We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming competitions. Many great things are happening with Chicago NATS this year! A special thanks to Mark Crayton for preparing and compiling the newsletter for me for the last two months while I was out of town.

New Member Meeting



On Jan. 23rd, CCNATS held a New Member Dessert Potluck at the home of member Elsa Charlston. In attendance were new member; Matthew Ellenwood, Emily Gomez, Chelsey McNeil, and Patricia Toledo. It was a fruitful evening of stories, teaching and singing advice, and discussion of the CCNATS year's events with ideas for the future. Thank you to all who came. A special thank you to Elsa Charlston for her fantastic hospitality. We look forward to our next event, TBA Summer 2010.

A special thanks to Anne Marie Ouverson who organized this event to welcome in our new members. Congratulations to her for such a fine event.

New Vice President

A special thanks to Amy Conn who has been serving as our VP for the past eighteen months. She is retiring from this position and we appreciate all her efforts. A special welcome to Mark Crayton, who will serve as the VP over competitions and David Hoffman who will serve as the VP over membership. They both have strong leadership qualities and are great to work with as well. Double talent!



We are on the web!

Visit us at

www.chicagonats.org



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www.classicalsinger.com

www.opera.co.uk

[www.metoperafamily.org/
operanews/](http://www.metoperafamily.org/operanews/)

www.recmusic.org/lieder/



Area Reps Meet

In July 2009, the CCNATS board decided to strengthen each region of our teaching community and so the idea of having an area rep was born. Each rep/chair was asked to serve in this position this year and will be contacting you about an activity for your area. We encourage you to attend! Our first meeting was held in January.

Julia Graddy:	Northshore
Barbara Staley:	Northwest Suburbs
Sonja Mihelcic:	Western Suburbs
Jan Bickel:	Southern Suburbs
Daivd Hoffman:	North Chicago
Liz Gottlieb:	Nearwest Suburbs



Liz Gottlieb, David Hoffman, Elizbath Hale Knox, Kathleen Van De Graaff
Front: Angela Prescutti and Julia Graddy meet to organize area projects

Copyright rules

"The National Association of Teachers of Singing endorses a strict policy regarding copyright laws. The use of photocopied music is prohibited at all NATS sponsored events

Exceptions:

1. Music that is out of print, still under copyright law, with permission from a publisher.
1. Sheet music or books for which the copyright has expired, but available in CD format. (e.g., CD Sheet Music).
3. Sheet music purchased legally from an online



It's about YOU!

Do you have information or news that you want to share? Do you need to advertise your event? Do you need an audience? Please send all news of auditions, upcoming performances or news that you want to share with your fellow teachers via email to Kathleen Van De Graaff at president@chicagonats.org by the 20th of each month!

Please note, we can only include information in the newsletter about CCNATS and teacher's events, we are not able to send out flyers or PDFs. Thank you.

Thanks

We would like to give a special thanks to:

Loyola University
Northwestern University
Music Institute of Chicago

For donating their facilities a staff for these 3 competitions. All 3 facilities have done so without cost to Chicago NATS. It is expensive to host a competition and we would not be able to sponsor these competitions without their help. Thanks!!!

Competitions

Online registration is available for the musical theater and classical college competition. Please remind your students that they need to register AND pay online before the deadlines. We are hoping this new system will make the registration easier for YOU!

- Teachers need to be current members of CCNATS. Dues for 2010-2011 are now be accepted and again, may be paid online.
- **Payment** can be made at: googlecheckout.com or paypal.com
The email for payment would be president@chicagonats.org
- Checks from teachers may also be sent to:
Victoria Holland 1143 Forest Avenue, Evanston, IL 60202

The High School registration is now closed. Schedules will be sent out by Mark Crayton in the near future. If you have any questions concerning this day, please feel free to contact him at: markcrayton@gmail.com

Music Theatre Competition

- Music Institute of Chicago, Evanston
- March 13, 2010 10:00-4:00
- Online Deadline: February 13, 2010

Classical Voice Competition for College Singers

- Northwestern University
- April 10, 2010 10:00-4:00
- Online Deadline: March 10, 2010

Donations

A special thanks to those who have already sent in financial contributions. We would encourage any of you to send in a contribution which will sponsor the winners of this year's competitions. You may send a check to Victoria Holland, 1143 Forest Avenue, Evanston, IL 60202 or pay online at paypal.com using the email: president@chicagonats.org Thank you!!

Dr. Bastien
Lisa Griffith
Anne Marie Ouverson,
Karen Brunssen in honor of Elizabeth Fischer Monastero



Technology in the Studio

Suggestions from Sonja Mihelcic

Print Music:

- Musicnotes.com \$4.95 per song
- Sheetmusicdirect.com \$3.99 song
- Printable from computer
- Can be transposed

Web Resources:

- tunes .99 per song
- U-Tube

Software:

- The amazing slow downer: changes pitch and/or tempo of accompaniment song.

What are CCNATS teachers doing?

Congrats to Krissie Odegard Geye who had a little girl, Aria recently. She is loving it.

Victoria Holland will be singing at The Space in Evanston, 1245 Chicago Ave. on Sunday, February 7th, 3 p.m.

Lisa Rogers Lee in Recital **HILDEGARD MEETS BARBER**

Music of Hildegard von Bingen and Samuel Barber
St. James Cathedral, Chicago February 21, 2010 3:00

Soprano Lisa Rogers Lee will present a reflective multi-media program featuring the music, art and texts of Hildegard von Bingen and Samuel Barber's Hermit Songs.

<http://www.saintjamescathedral.org/musicschedule0910.asp>

Summer Programs

Music in the Marche June 14-July 10, 2010 in Piobbico, Italy
Dr. Victoria Holland & Pamela Hinchman will be helping at the program there.
Please see www.musicinthemarche.info for more information.

Judith Haddon and **Mark Crayton** will be on the faculty of the Italian Operatic Experience in Montecatini-Terre Italy this summer. This summer's performances include staged productions of Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* with full orchestra and Puccini's *Suor Angelica* as well as extended scenes and an aria concert. For more information regarding the program, please see www.italianoperaticexperience.com

CCNATS member, Christine Flash, is holding auditions for La Traviata for the Music in the Lake Festival. Chicago auditions have already passed by, but there is still a change to audition:

Tuesday, February 9, 2010
6:00-9:00 p.m.
First Congregational Church
1511 Church Street
Wauwatosa, WI (in Milwaukee)



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www.recmusic.org/lieder/

China adventure

My husband, Peter, and I were asked to sing 7 concerts in China between Christmas and New Years which was a very unique cultural experience. Since our upcoming book review is about a singer from China, I was asked to give a few notes about our experiences. So I ask your forgiveness as I indulge a bit. It was an amazing experience and one we will never forget. Here are some of the wonderful cultural opportunities we had:

The printed programs---I thought the programs were interesting. They listed all the numbers that we could possibly perform and then the MC (who was also the tenor soloist) would announce the songs and the order for the evening. Even the conductor didn't always know the order of the program until it started---and then it would even change.

How did we know when to come out: the MC told us (in his limited English): "I will say: "xkaerdfa **Catleen**" or "cleimva;sdi **Peter**" and you'll know when to come on. It was pretty fun. We just listened for our name.

The audience: Very interesting audience. We would get about a 3-4 second applause after the numbers. They would give the same to the Chinese singers, but we found out on TV, that even the super famous in China would get the short applause. They were pretty casual, but seemed appreciative.

Program: Peter and I had been asked to sing Viennese Songs and American Songs since the theme was New Year's. Peter decided to sing Copland's Old American Songs. After the first concert, the person in charge asked to see the words to "Simple Gifts." They decided to cut it due to the words. We thought that was interesting. Oh, we did get to sing a song in Chinese. The audience smiled and applauded and said they understood us (they were very kind.)

Flowers: When soloists perform, they are given flowers. This is a tradition throughout the world. In China it's a bit different. When we arrived to the Ningbo Grand Theater where we were to perform, there were 4 bouquets of flowers that looked like they were a few days old---and then we found out why. They recycle them! The presenters of the flowers would walk on stage and present us with the flowers and everyone would clap, but as we walked off the stage, they took the flowers away for future use! It was all part of "the presentation" and spectacle of the evening we found out from the other soprano soloist. They did allow us to keep the flowers on the last night because we had finished the concert tour. After one concert, the cute Chinese girl collecting flowers said: "Gimmie." (instead of the traditional "Please") I guess I can't say much about her English since my Chinese consisted of "one, two, three, and sing."

Heat: The concert halls were never heated. It was amazing that all of the heat ducts were at the very top of the huge concert hall. The capacity of each hall was usually around 1500 people and so IF they turned on the heat (which they sometimes did), we never felt it because the heat then rose. We wore our coats off stage and then threw them off to sing, and then back on when we were off stage again. The poor instrumentalists had to stay on stage and freeze while performing. Fortunately, the dressing rooms were heated so we could thaw out a bit.

Concert Hall: In one of the concert halls, there was a huge banner on the back on the stage which said "Dating with long Card." I think they meant "Data Processing with Long Card" instead of advertising a dating service☺ We loved that sign!

Finale: there is always a "finale" when all of the soloists: 4 singers and the other soloists would come out for a final number. They didn't tell us there would be a final number. It was a song in Chinese and they audience would sing as well. We asked for the words or the music and never got them, so we copied the mouth shapes of the audience and lip synced each night to that song. Then we would also wave to the audience and they would wave back.

Fun adventure and one to really cherish. I wish you all a very nice month and sincerely hope to see you soon.

Kathleen Van De Graaff