

Past Events for the Chicago Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing

2009-2010

October 3rd- 1-4 pm, Musical Theater Audition workshop

Music Institute of Chicago, Lake Forest Campus

The Workshop team is comprised of seasoned teaching artists from some of the areas most prominent Musical Theater programs. Join them as they share secrets of selecting good audition material, polishing your repertoire, honing your etiquette, choosing your attire, as well as the performance techniques needed to really sell yourself as just what your dream college needs!

Oct 24 *Overcoming performance anxiety* with Dr. Noa Kageyama

De Paul University, Concert Hall 10:00-4:00

Fees \$20 students and CCNATS members, \$30 general public

In this workshop you will learn what it takes to become a more confident and dynamic performer, through the use of established strategies gleaned from the field of performance psychology. We will cover a variety of key topics such as building confidence, quieting the mind, and focusing past distractions, and ultimately work on developing specific skills that are essential for managing nerves, increasing focus, and turning performance anxiety into an asset rather than a liability.

While completing his Masters degree at The Juilliard School, Kageyama was a student in sport psychologist Dr. Don Greene's performance enhancement class. Observing first-hand how critical a role the mind plays in auditions and performances, Kageyama left music to pursue his doctorate in psychology and a career devoted to helping others discover the keys to performance success. Now a decade later, Kageyama has a Ph.D. in psychology from Indiana University with a specialization in performance psychology. Dr. Kageyama is currently the New World Symphony's performance psychology coach,

November 6-7, 2009 Regional Student Auditions at Augustana College.

Nov 15, 2009 Book Group 5:00

Elizabeth Hale Knox's home, 633 William Street, River Forest

Please RSVP to ehknox@sbcglobal.net

We will be reading The Naked Voice: A Wholistic Approach to Singing by W. Stephen Smith. The book is divided into three sections. Part I deals with Stephen Smith's philosophy of singing, which incorporates the idea that singing is a search for authenticity, both in the voice and in the person. Singing, he feels, is intricately connected to the rest of our lives and that finding freedom and balance in our voice will likely lead to it in our personal and professional lives as well. In Part II he presents six simple vocal exercises which he calls "Inventions" that form the core of his method. A CD is included with the book with Smith's students demonstrating these exercises. Part III, titled "Where the Rubber Meets the Road," discusses applying the six exercises to vocal repertoire and also broader topics including "Finding Your Own Path" and "How to Be Successful," etc.

The book can be found on www.amazon.com with prices ranging from nineteen to twenty-three dollars. You can also visit www.wstephensmith.com to learn more about the author.

January 23' 2010 New Member Retreat 7:00 Welcome new members to the Chicago Chapter of NATS. We invite all new members to join us in a casual evening to help us get to know you better.

February 20, 2010 HS Classical Voice Competition

Loyola University 10:00-4:00

Online registration application deadline January 20, 2010

For all high school singers ages 14-18.

March 13, 2010 NATS first Annual Music Theatre Competition

Music Institute of Chicago, Evanston 10:00-4:00

Online registration application deadline Feb 13, 2010

For singers ages 14-25

April 10, 2010 Classical College Competition

Northwestern University 10:00-4:00 Online registration deadline March 10, 2010

For college age singers ages 18-28

April 14 WFMT 4:00 Live broadcast on WFMT for division 6 winners!

April 17 Bel Canto Breath Technique for the Operatic Voice

With Deb Birnbaum Northwestern University co sponsored with Northwestern and Chicago Singing Teacher's Guild

Deborah Birnbaum is an internationally established teacher and performer. Her expertise in breath technique originates from her own private vocal studies with renowned soprano, **Montserrat Caballé**. Widely sought after as a teacher/clinician, Ms. Birnbaum has a unique ability to help singers assimilate the mechanics of bel canto breath support while working within the context of their vocal technique.

Ms. Birnbaum is a committed teacher whose private studio includes singers from the **Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, Covent Garden, Chicago Lyric Opera** and other regional American and European opera companies and apprentice programs. Recent master classes include the **San Francisco Opera Center** (Adler Fellowship and Merola Program), **The Juilliard School (prep division), Mannes College of Music, University of Miami, The Hartt School of Music, Portland Opera, NATS Regional Convention, and Florida Grand Opera.**

2008-2009

Oct 5, 2008 Book Review

Book: The Inner Voice: The Making of a Singer by Renee Fleming.
Discussion Leader: Elizabeth Hale Knox

At the October 5th, 2008 meeting of the NATS Chicago Chapter book group, members met at Elizabeth Hale Knox's house and engaged in an enjoyable discussion of *The Inner Voice: The Making of a Singer*, by Renee Fleming. Members commented with surprise on how openly she writes about sensitive topics. Whether analyzing the talents of a great teacher, recalling her struggle to develop secure high notes, recounting an audition horror story, discussing the marketing challenges of classical music, or revealing her battle with almost debilitating stage fright, Fleming -- despite her rarified status in the singing world -- addresses issues that all singing students will face to one degree or another.

Nov 1, 2008 "Successful Auditions for College Bound Students: A Panel Presentation & Mock Auditions"

Chair person: Karen Bauer kbauer@Northpark.edu
Location: North Park University **Panel of expert teachers:**

Karen Bauer (North Park)
Teresa Brancaccio (Northwestern)
Sarah Holman (Wheaton)
Chris Lorimer (De Paul)
Arnold Rawls (Moody)

On November 1, 2008 Chicago NATS members and students participated in a workshop at North Park College. A panel made up of Terry Brancaccio, Mark Crayton, Sarah

Holman, Arnold Rawls, Christopher Lorimer and Karen Bauer instructed the audience on singer's health, preparation of music, review of theory/sightsinging, correct repertoire, how to dress and the audition process itself. Six talented singers were chosen to sing for the panel of experts who then gave the singers tips for their upcoming college auditions.

November 22, 2008 Physiology and Acoustics of Singing Joint meeting with Northwestern University and CSTG

Chicago NATS, CSTG & Northwestern University joined together and sponsored an event at Northwestern University. Lynn Holding, Associate Professor of Voice at Dickinson College was asked to speak about "Connecting Voice Science to Vocal Art." Twenty friends, teachers and singers came to learn from Ms. Holding who shared her thoughts about the learning process memory, the right and the left brain and how teachers can best teach. Her lecture and power point presentation was concluded with a question and answer session. A special thanks to CSTG and Bob Heitzinger for organizing this event.

January 15, 2009 New Member's Meeting

Location: Uncommon Ground 1401 W Devon Ave, Chicago

On January 20th, several CCNATS board members met and welcomed some of our new members over coffee and dessert at Uncommon Ground on the North side. We have 6 new members, 4 of which were able to attend. We welcome these teachers into our Chicago community!

January 31, 2009 Chicago NATS College competition: Loyola University

****Announcing**** Winners of the senior age and graduate divisions were featured on a live radio broadcast on WFMT's program "Impromptu." This live broadcast will be February 4, 2009 at 4:00.

February 4, 2009 Live winner's concert at WFMT:

Nicholas LaGesse and Elda Peralta , who were the winners of the college divisions 6 and 7 were featured on a live broadcast at WFMT. Louise Frank, coordinator of this program was were happy with their performances. Thanks to Karen Brunssen and Teresa Brancaccio who are the teachers of these two fine singers.

Feb 14, 2009 High School competition at Northeastern University

Winners of the high school division sang on the WFMT's program "Introductions."

**Feb 18, 2009 6:30 p.m. Winners Concert at Preston Bradley Hall,
Chicago Cultural Center**

March 7, 2009 TECHNOLOGY IN THE STUDIO

A joint meeting with the Chicago Singing Teacher's Guild was held at Loyola University for a workshop. A special thanks to Victoria Holland, Sonja Mihelcic and David Hoffman for leading the discussion on recording devices, blackboard, internet resources, and music software programs. Ann Marie Ouverson chaired the event.

April 4: 2009 - 12:00-2:00 De Paul Recital Hall

Roger Pines, dramaturg of the Lyric Opera of Chicago, lectured on auditioning techniques and historic singers at De Paul University. Mr. Pines also worked with three singers and helped them with interpretation.

April 26th book review: "Power Performance"

Discussion Leader: Elizabeth Hale Knox

The second meeting of the CCNATS book group was held Sunday, April 26th at 5:00 pm. The book discussed was Power Performance for Singers co-authored by Shirlee Emmons, a voice teacher and Alma Thomas, a sports psychologist.

May 29-31 Joint event with Classical Singer Magazine

Classical Singer Magazine and Chicago NATS collaborated at the Classical Singer Magazine Convention which was held at the Westin Hotel in Chicago May 29-31.

There were many NATS members in attendance and teachers and singers enjoyed a weekend of music together. A special thanks to Mary Jean Allen, Dr. Robert Bastien, Cynthia Vaughn, Kathleen and Peter Van De Graaff, who taught classes in the NATS portion of the convention. The Van De Graaffs also performed in the opening workshop a duet from an intermezzo they had found in Europe.

Chicago NATS Events from 2007

Master Class with Jennifer Larmore

Monday, January 28, 2007

Recital Hall at DePaul University

This event sponsored in part by a

National Association of Teachers of Singing Discretionary Funds Grant

Healthy Musical Theater Performing

Speaker: Dr. Pam Philips

October 20, 2007 | 10:00-1:00

Lake Forest College, Reid Chapel

550 Sheridan Road, Lake Forest, Illinois

Dr. Pam Phillips will discuss how resonance changes in a music theatre voice, what the position of the larynx is while singing, healthy beginning and advanced belt exercises and songs. She will demonstrate these methods working with the speaking voice and the singing voice. A question and answer session will conclude this workshop.

Joint Meeting/Workshop

Chicago Singing Teachers Guild and Chicago Chapter NATS

Date: Saturday, March 3, 2007, 5:00 pm

Location: Northwestern University, Evanston

Room 109, Music Administration Building, 711 Elgin Road.

“Technology in the Voice Studio”

Presentations and workshops on audio and video recording, acoustic voice analysis, music notation software, computer accompaniment software, and more!

This workshop is free and open to members of CCNATS and CSTG

Chicago NATS Events from 2006

Singer/Actor Workshop with Dan Dressen

Date: October 7, 2006, Time: 10am-2:30 pm

Location: [Vail Chapel](#)

This event made possible in part by a grant from the Discretionary Funds of the [National Association of Teachers of Singing](#).

Annual Joint Meeting

CCNATS and Chicago Singing Teachers Guild (CSTG)

Date: Saturday, February 4, 2006

Location: [Elmhurst College](#)

4:15 Lecture by Aaron Johnson: "What is Vocology?"

Chapter Open House
Spanish Diction Workshop with Suzanne Draayer

Date: Saturday, October 22, 2005

Location: North Park University