

January 2007 Newsletter
Southeastern Region of the National Association of Teachers of Singing



Notes from the Regional Governor

The National Conference in Minneapolis last July was impressive. I saw a number of our colleagues from the Southeastern Region there. The attendance was the best in recent history and the program lived up to expectations. Adam Kirkpatrick was selected to receive the Young Leaders Award from our Region and his report of the convention is included in this newsletter. The 2008 Conference will be in “Music City,” Tennessee and it already is looking like it will live up to its billing of a “Vocal Arts Celebration: Music City Jubilee.” Begin thinking now about going to Nashville in the summer of 2008 for the 50th NATS National Conference.

The Summer Newsletter (June 2007) was only published on the web. If you didn't see it, please go to the website and download it. There was a great deal of information included from last year's Regional Auditions and the Business meeting. It includes (1) Minutes of the Tuscaloosa Business Meeting, (2) Proposals from Ad hoc Committees for future balloting, (3) Treasurer's Report from the Tuscaloosa Business Meeting, and (4) Results from 2006 Regional Auditions. Please print the material, peruse it, and come prepared to discuss these items at the March business meeting in Tallahassee.

Speaking of our web site—it is easy to confuse the national site with our regional site. The National site links to the regional site by going to “Events” and then clicking on the link to the SE Website). If you need information about the region, the easiest way is to go directly to “SERNATS [Southeastern Region NATS)” www.sernats.org. There you will find the dates and information about regional auditions through the year 2009.

The Regional auditions in Tallahassee this spring promise to be exciting. “Mr. NATS,” Roy Delp, has pulled out all the stops to make it a wonderful weekend. A fully-staged production of *Don Giovanni* will get us started on Thursday evening; reserve your tickets early! (See audition details)

The National Office has moved and you will find the new address on the national website and elsewhere in this newsletter. By a stroke of good fortune and the keen business sense of our new Executive Director, NATS now owns its own home. If you are in the Jacksonville area, stop by and visit. We are poised for great growth!

The new Code of Ethics presented for member approval with Dues Renewal notices is another important step in reminding the world who we are as an organization. NATS is not about competition between students or teachers; NATS is about becoming better singers and teachers of singing for personal development. I love Harold Best's definition of competition: “Competition is me trying to be better than I was yesterday and you trying to be better than you were yesterday, and the doing of that side by side gives us more synergy than if we were doing it separately.” The upcoming chapter, state, and regional auditions prompt me to remind you anew that you need to instill that attitude in your students and in your own goals of teaching. We all have enough tough competition to deal with in our lives; let's make sure we spend time teaching “healthy competition” as well.

Lloyd Mims, Regional Governor
561 803-2400 lloyd_mims@pba.edu

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2007 DUES YET?

Please remember that the Regional Governor is required by Bylaws to notify all chapter presidents and state governors of those people who have not re-instated their dues by January 31st of the Calendar Year. If your dues are not current you cannot participate or have your students participate in Chapter, State, or Regional events. Please contact the National Office if you have not received your dues renewal notice.

Welcome our newest Southeastern Region Members

Joyce Guyer Tallahassee FL

Robert McTyre Cochran GA

Suzanne Hatcher Temple Terrace FL

Arlene Sparks Palm Beach Gardens FL

Don Lerner Jacksonville FL

Janet Rube-Meyer Port Orange FL

Jennifer Bassett Tampa FL

Karen Parks Atlanta GA

Eileen Larracuenta Bayamon PR

Dean Walters Sugarloaf Key FL

Felicia Kurtz Miami FL

John Bingham Atlanta GA

Dawn Nealy Brownsboro AL

Gary McKenzie Decatur, AL

Julie Lowry Carrollton GA

Stephanie Fort Vidalia GA

Mary Hunter Winter Park FL

Roger Geronimo St. Augustine FL

Nicholas Pallesen Tallahassee FL

Theresa Moreau Port Orange FL

Lisa Sunday Brandon FL

Maria Clark Covington GA

Kenneth Webber Mobile AL

Patricia Fleitas Boca Raton FL

Susan Dorchin Boca Raton FL

Jennifer McGuire Milledgeville GA

Mollye Otis Miami FL

Anne Duraski LaGrange GA

Regina Zona Rome GA

New Office for NATS National Headquarters

The Address for the New Office is:

9957 Moorings Drive, Suite 401

Jacksonville, FL 32257

Phone: 904 992-9101 Fax: 904 262-2587

Regional Audition Guidelines and Applications

Go to www.sernats.org to download the information and applications for the 2007 Regional Auditions to be held at Florida State University in Tallahassee. Click on "Guidelines" to get the updated guidelines as amended at last year's auditions; click on "Registration Forms" to get the actual forms, hotel information, and directions.

Because the Florida Legislature is in session at the same time as the auditions, accommodations will be limited and difficult to reserve after March 1st. PLAN NOW! It is better to reserve a room and cancel it later than not have a room available. The web site provides information on the few motels willing to give NATS good rates. I cannot encourage you strongly enough to make your reservations soon! You will want to come on Thursday and take advantage of \$12 tickets to a full production of *Don Giovanni* presented by FSU's Opera Theatre.

If you do not have access to a computer in order to download the information and forms, please call 561 803-2400; if you leave a message, begin by saying "NATS Forms." After you say those words, please leave your name, address, and phone number. Please speak slowly and clearly. I will mail the material to you as quickly as possible.

NATSAA Winner

We offer our congratulations to the Southeastern Region's semi-finalist, Michelle DeBruyn, who received the William Vennard Award in Minneapolis.

Young Leaders Award Winner Report

Past President Jane Dillard conceived and began the Young Leaders Awards as a means to encourage early involvement of younger NATS members into the national organization; the NATS Foundation assisted in funding the program. Half of the regions were afforded an award for the 2006 convention and the other half will be given the same opportunity for the 2008 convention. Adam Kirkpatrick was selected as the recipient of the 2006 Southeastern Region's Young Leaders Award. As part of his responsibility in receiving the award, he has written a brief summary of his reflections of the 2006 National Conference in Minneapolis. The SE Region's next award will be available for the 2010 conference.

As the recipient of the 2006 Young Leaders Award for the South-Eastern region of NATS, I had the opportunity to attend the 2006 NATS National Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Young Leaders Award was created by the NATS Foundation in an effort to mentor and prepare young voice teachers for future leadership within the NATS organization. In addition to receiving a sizable grant for travel expenses to and from the conference, as a recipient of the award, I was honored at board meetings, presidential addresses and banquets. It was a great opportunity for networking and for fostering important relationships with other NATS members.

Banquets and honors aside, attending the conference was invaluable and a reward in itself. There were five days of events and presentations at the conference covering every conceivable aspect of vocal study: social/musicological issues, repertoire, voice science, voice-related technology, vocal pedagogy, multimedia recital presentation, staging and acting etc. . . . In addition to lectures and presentations, there were master classes, expert panel discussions on important topics in academia, recitals, and the NATSAA voice competition finals. It was an amazing conference that had something for everyone.

While all of the many presentations at the convention were informative, I found Paul Kiesgen's session entitled *Teaching Men to Sing: Resonance Strategies for the Male Singer* to be especially enlightening and practical. In this session I learned a great deal about: the nature of singing resonance, the software available for analysis of resonance, and the differences between male and female resonance strategies. I learned how to interpret audio power spectrum and spectrogram graphic displays found in software applications such as VoceVista. Using this technology, Paul Kiesgen illustrated in clear and objective ways how male and female resonance strategies are inherently different. I intend to apply this newly acquired knowledge in my personal teaching, especially when teaching about resonance and vowel modification to my vocal pedagogy class at GSU. Furthermore, this experience has inspired me to explore other possible pedagogical applications for technology and biofeedback devices in the voice studio and classroom.

Adam Kirkpatrick
Assistant Professor of Music
Georgia State University

NATS Intern Participant

We offer our congratulations to the Southeastern Region's participant in the NATS Intern program last summer, Matthew Ryan Hoch, who teaches at Shorter College. Have you considered applying? The deadline is February 1st. Applications are available on the National website or in the Fall *Inter nos*.

Upcoming State and Chapter Events around the Southeastern Region of NATS

January

- 27 8:00-5:00 University of Florida; North Florida Chapter Spring Auditions; Contact Dr. Carole Clifford; 904 264-0711; ccopc@bellsouth.net
- 27 2:00-5:00 Florida Atlantic University; Intracoastal Chapter (FL) sponsoring "Alexander Technique Master Class; Contact Marie Ashley; 561 596-2417; mashley36@hotmail.com

February

- 3 12:00-5:30 Barry University; South Florida Chapter Student Auditions; Contact: Oscar Diaz; 305 757-7725; pmimusic@bellsouth.net
- 16-17 Beginning 12:00 on Friday; Reinhardt College; Georgia State Student Auditions; Contact David Thomas; 678 717-3676; dathomas@gsc.edu
- 23-24 1:00 Friday, 9:00 Saturday; Birmingham Southern College; Alabama State Student Auditions; Contact Melanie Williams; 205 665-6665; williamsm@montevallo.edu

February (cont.)

- 24 8:30 University of Tampa, Tampa Bay Chapter Student Auditions; Contact Yvonne DeChance; 813 253-3333 x3690; ydechance@ut.edu

March

- 24 9:00-3:00 Palm Beach Atlantic University, Intracoastal Chapter Student Auditions; Contact Dot Yanes; 561 596-7076; yanesd@hotmail.com
- 29-31 7:30 Thursday Night; 8:00 Friday and Saturday; Florida State University; Southeastern Regional Student Auditions; Contact Lloyd Mims; 561 803-2424; Lloyd_mims@pba.edu; visit website www.sernats.org

April

- 14 3:00 and 4:45 Palm Beach Atlantic University, Intracoastal Chapter Spring Musicales; Contact Dot Yanes; 561 596-7076; yanesd@hotmail.com
- 15 2:00 Tampa Bay Chapter Business Mtg.; Contact Yvonne DeChance; 813 253-3333 x3690; ydechance@ut.edu

*NATS Southeastern Region
Lloyd Mims, Regional Governor
P. O. Box 24708
West Palm Beach, FL 33416*