

# Southeastern Region of NATS

December Newsletter from Toni Anderson, Regional Governor

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## REGIONAL AUDITIONS – MARCH 25-26, 2011

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Special thanks are due to Georgia Chapter President Kyle Hancock and his colleagues at Georgia Southern in Statesboro for hosting the regional auditions next March. There will be a lot that's new this year.

- Because of the motion passed at the 2009 Business Meeting, fees for both students and teachers will be slightly higher this year:

*To offset the costs of awards for newly-added musical theater categories, and to create a building fund for workshops for NATS teachers, we propose the following increase in the fee structure:*

*Teacher fees \$15 / Student fees \$15 for each category entered.*

- We will use the new online registration procedure from National NATS.
- Dr. Sherri Weiler has agreed to serve as interim registrar for this year to oversee the new process.
- Dr. Thomas Rowell of the University of South Alabama will take over as Registrar next year to be ready to work with the new Regional Governor from Alabama.
- Our new Regional Treasurer, Dr. Pat Callaway will experience the auditions from a new perspective.
- The Regional Cabinet will meet in Statesboro on Thursday, March 24.

## MELANIE WILLIAMS NOMINATED AS REGIONAL GOVERNOR-ELECT

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Lloyd Mims of Florida, David Smith of Alabama, and Carole Mikkelsen of Georgia resumed service as the Nominating Committee this fall to name **Melanie Williams** as the prospective Regional Governor-Elect. The national office will be in handling the electronic election for us; look for their Email instructions in January.

Melanie Williams earned the MM and the DMA in vocal performance at Louisiana State University, where she studied with Sandra Kungle, Martino Arroyo, Robert Grayson, and Patricia O'Neill. Opera roles include Papagena in Opera Birmingham's *Die Zauberflöte*, Berta in the company's production of *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, and Olympia in Baton Rouge Opera's production of *Le Contes d'Hoffman*. She has sung several roles with Alabama OperaWorks, including Monica in *The Medium*, Laetitia in *The Old Maid and the Thief*, "The Girl" in *Hello, Out There*, Valerie in *The Cabildo*, and the title roles in *Savitri* and *Iolanthe*.

Williams has twice traveled to England as soprano soloist for the International Cathedral Music Festival, performing in London, Canterbury, and Salisbury. Concert appearances in the Southeast include engagements with the Mississippi, Arkansas, Alabama, and Kingsport Symphonies, as well as the Red Mountain Chamber Orchestra, *Colla Voce* choral ensemble, and most recently as soprano soloist in *Carmina Burana* with the Jacksonville State University combined choirs and orchestra. As a frequent collaborator with guitarist Alan Goldspiel and a founding member of the LeBaron Trio with clarinetist Lori Ardivino and pianist Laurie Middaugh, Williams enjoys giving recitals throughout the region. Dr. Williams is Associate Professor of Music at the University of Montevallo, where she teaches applied voice, vocal pedagogy, and diction courses. Governor of the Alabama District of the National Association of Teachers of Singing from 2005-2008, she presently serves on the Southeastern Regional Cabinet. She and husband, Mark, reside in Birmingham with their children, Anna Katherine and John Mark, and two dachshunds, Scout and Sophie.

### **SPECIAL INVITATION FROM THE SOUTHERN REGION'S DR. KIMBERLY DAVIS**

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Greetings to you all. You are invited to join us here at The University of Southern Mississippi for a wonderful weekend of collaborative fun in singing, acting, pedagogical refreshers, and scientific insight from Drs. Karen Peeler, Thomas Cleveland, and our local otolaryngologists and Speech and Hearing specialists.

We call upon you to share this invitation with NATS members and colleagues in Speech and Hearing, Theatre, and Forensics, as well as your students and those who may be avocational voice users. Please see the USM website at

<http://www.usm.edu/music/index.php/vocalsymposium/home/>

for full details on hotel information and other specifics.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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**March 25-26, 2011**

**Regional Student Auditions**

Georgia Southern University

Statesboro, GA

**Contact:** Toni Anderson

[tanderson@lagrange.edu](mailto:tanderson@lagrange.edu)

**2012 Regional Student Auditions**

Alabama

**2012 NATS 52<sup>nd</sup> National Conference**

Orlando, FL

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Toni Anderson is Professor and Chair of the Department of Music at LaGrange College in LaGrange Georgia. She is serving her second term as Southeastern Regional Governor.

Dr. Toni Anderson  
Department of Music  
LaGrange College  
601 Broad Street  
LaGrange, Georgia 30240  
Phone: 706.880.8264  
Fax: 706.880.8028  
[tanderson@lagrange.edu](mailto:tanderson@lagrange.edu)



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*The Southeastern Region of NATS is Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.*

