



December 2004

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

-Lynn Blaser

It's almost Christmas season. Studios of are full of young singers practicing for their first "O Holy Night" and other traditional solos. Chanukah is just around the corner and school terms are quickly closing in on the exams and essays that mark the end. All of us are busy with our teaching and performing and preparing for festivals and the projects that the spring will bring. (And RCM Examinations are just 5 weeks away.)

Plans are well under way for the **Chapter Auditions** in London, ON. on Saturday, March 12. I want to thank all the members who have responded so magnificently to the recent phone campaign for volunteers to work on these Auditions. Thanks to **Barbara Dunn-Prosser** who came up with the idea and **Jennifer Higgin** who did half of the phoning. It's great to know that people will step up when the needs are known, and we do understand that not everyone is available this year for the jobs required. The Chapter is grateful.

The forms this year will be posted on the website (www.nats.org/ontario) in pdf format which will make downloading much easier than other years. And your students can also visit the site and download their forms directly. Full information will be available in late December and will be sent to teachers before Jan. 1, 2005. The entry deadline will be Feb. 1, 2005 to allow a greater amount of time for the Scheduler to deal with the anticipated flood of entries. We're glad that many schools have moved their March break later to include the Easter holiday, so it does not conflict with our Auditions.

Please note that there are changes to the fees this year. It is many years since we changed the fees Entry or for Official Accompanists and these are overdue as expenses have risen in recent years. Because the Auditions have suddenly grown so much in the last year, the fees for Non-Participating Teachers must also increase. (This was discussed in the Summer NATScape.)

To date, I have been informed that these members make up the **Auditions Committee 2005:**

Judith LeBane Kane - Registrar- receive entries &

fees, enter into computer, prepare Category & Judge lists for the Scheduler.

Jennifer Higgin and Irene Ilic - Scheduling

Lynn Blaser - prepare forms & send out first mailing and prepare Final Round Program & Ballot templates

Kimberley Briggs - Ex officio as **Treasurer** prepares cheques for winners and expenses

Torin Chiles - Local Contact - has booked space at University of Western Ontario, will make signs for the day, arrange for student(s) to cover Registration desk during General meeting.

Darryl Edwards - coordinate fund raising for **scholarships donations**, arrange website update with forms and info.

Carol Hasek - check repertoire for compliance, help prepare Judges' packages

Monica Zerbe and Penny Dale -- prepare judges packages

Alvin Reimer - arrange **Official Accompanists** in London, coordinate with Scheduler & Registrar as entries warrant

Michelyn Wright - Registration Desk after General Meeting

Gwenlynn Little (Lobby & Registration Desk)

Peter Barnes and Stephanie Bogle—tabulating

Of course, you will all be called upon to judge the Categories where you have no students, and you are encouraged to come and judge even if you have no students entered. It's a great way to get to know the rest of the Chapter and participate in the progress of talented young singers. There will also be people needed for the Registration Desk and tabulation when you are free from judging.

The **2004 Convention in New Orleans "Singing and all that Jazz"** was a wonderful experience. The days

were packed with marvelous sessions and opportunities to learn and exchange ideas with members from all over North America. There was a sizable Canadian contingent and we made the most of a chance to meet people from other provinces. Talk to Catherine Robbin, Tannis Fast Vetter and Joan Heels for their perspectives on the Convention. Several spouses & families treated the trip as a vacation, meeting the tired NATS members for meals a few evenings out.

The outstanding sessions for me were with Barbara Conable about "Body Mapping" and how to use that for effective, unforced breathing and support. Presentations by Ingo Titze and John Nix demonstrated how science is showing why techniques work and how to use them in teaching. Scott McCoy's new computer software "Your Voice: An Inside View" opens new vistas of physiology and function to the singer and voice teacher. There were very good master classes and demonstrations of singing by professionals and students. It is always interesting to hear how other teachers talk about the basic ideas of good singing. I felt that our singers in Ontario are certainly the equal of the US students who performed in master classes and concerts. A fantastic six days of intense concentration on singing and how to help our students rise to their best level. I'm already looking forward to the next convention in 2006.

I'd like to encourage you to consider attending the **International Congress of Voice Teachers Conference** next **August 11-15 in Vancouver**. The details are in your Nov.-Dec. 2004 *Journal of Singing*. The conference will showcase many Canadian performers and the presentations look fascinating. You'll see that Barbara Conable will again be presenting and there are many other most interesting topics on the list. The Committee made a huge impression at the New Orleans Convention and the Governments of BC & City of Vancouver are strongly behind them. They are looking for papers to be presented at the conference on Pedagogy, Science, Performance Practice & much more so please submit abstracts by email by Jan. 1 to drs@iastate.edu Be sure to visit the website www.icvt2005.com for full information.

Darryl Edwards will speak at length about the **Rozsa Voice Competition** & CFMTA later in this newsletter. Students of NATS teachers will pay a lower entry fee for this competition, which has over \$10,000 in prizes for the Finalists in Calgary in July 2005. ORMTA has undertaken to pay the travel expenses to Calgary for the Ontario winner. And all expenses in Calgary are covered by the Rozsa Foundation.

This competition is for your senior students and the programs should be '*at a senior concert level*'. Please

visit our website www.nats.org/ontario for full information and entry forms. The Provincial round will take place in Toronto on Apr. 1 & 2. Entry deadline is Feb. 15, 2005. Darryl & I will be running this competition and will welcome anyone who wishes to be involved with it. Please get in touch with us soon.

And congratulations to VP Projects **Michelyn Wright** who gave birth to a 7 pound 15 ounce son Jeffrey Warren on Sat. Nov. 20 at 4:15 AM. Mother and baby are both doing very well. Father is extremely happy!

I wish you all a very happy holiday season and may all our high notes be wonderful!

VICE PRESIDENTS - SPECIAL PROJECTS- **Michelyn Wright & Chris Foley**

On Oct 17th the **VOX POP Professional Voice Care** team of **Jennifer Anderson, MD, Mary Enid Haines, MusBach, MMus, ARCT, Cert. Voc. and Gwen Merrick, MHS, SLP Rea, CASLPO**, gave a fantastic workshop to a very modest audience. Although the Chapter expressed great interest in this workshop last spring, fewer than 30 people actually attended the event. And that was a shame as a number of the teachers, who've been to similar talks on vocal health, said they had learned something new and that the information was fresh and accessible.

The Chapter spent a goodly amount of money to rent a space large enough to accommodate the numbers who had originally expressed interest in attending but, because of the low attendance, money was lost on this venture. It will be necessary that future workshops be run on a different basis to insure fiscal responsibility. We will not attempt workshops with large venues. Student interests and attendance will be secondary. All workshops will be "first come first served" and Members first. Interest will be calculated by how many members can attend and how many reserve in advance.

This is lamentable but necessary, as it takes too much time and effort by a number of people to organize these functions and have the attendance be so low.

Now on to the next workshop!

The "**Making the Cut**" workshop in the fall of 2003 was a great success, and it was then suggested that it become a by-annual event. So we are now gearing up for next fall's delegation of university professors exposing the best aspects of their schools. What we need is **a university to offer their school** to host the meeting and, we hope, a performance workshop geared to those high

school students auditioning for university. Please contact **Chris** or **Michelyn** ASAP if you think **your university** would be willing to hold this meeting. The sooner we can confirm a date, university, and the panelists, the sooner the information can be sent to high school music departments across Ontario. We'd like to make this event more and more popular each year. I hope you'll all join in to help to ensure its success.

TREASURER'S REPORT- Kimberley Briggs

The bank balances at October 31, 2004 are:

General Account - \$5,575.14
Scholarship Account - \$769.47

VP MEMBERSHIP – Barbara Dunn Prosser

As of December 2004, NATS Ontario chapter has 71 members in good standing. We welcome this year's new members: **Teri Dunn, Katy Hedalen, Diane Nelson, Tom Oliver,** and **Elizabeth Parsons** and returning member **Alvin Reimer**.

Mary Lou Fallis will be performing on Dec. 11 with her daughter at Roy Thompson Hall. **Donna Garner** has a Christmas show that is for hire in the Toronto area.

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S REPORT- Darryl Edwards

Teachers Within Borders?

It is a fascinating frustration many of us share: though our NATS connections keep us magnetized to and rewarded by our involvement with voice teachers, singers, and institutions with the United States, and though we gather within our local Chapters, and within our Canadian-American Regions, we do not gather within our own country! Yes, we have the local, provincial and national systems of festivals, but as competitions, they are pyramidal. Their primary and laudable mandate is to seek out and elevate elite vocalism in performance, but it is without an accompanying structure to offer apprenticeship and examples to singers and voice teachers.

The Ontario Chapter has taken the first step to participate in a partnership with the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Association (CFMTA)/Fédération Canadienne des Associations des Professeurs de Musique (FCAPM) for its first **Rozsa Foundation Voice Competition**, which will take place in **Calgary on July 7th, 2005**, as part of the CFMTA Convention 2005. You will also recognize the CFMTA through the name of its Ontario body, the Ontario Registered Music Teachers'

Association (**ORMTA**). The great majority of the ORMTA/CFMTA membership is comprised of piano teachers, although there are many voice teachers who hold memberships as well.

NATS Ontario's hosting of the **Ontario Round** of the Rozsa Foundation Voice Competition is a not just a decision; it is a gesture. It is a small though conspicuous beginning of making lateral, national connections between two esteemed music-teaching bodies, to bring them together in a positive sharing of excellences.

There is much to be gained by everyone in this partnership of studio teachers of piano and voice. The Rozsa Foundation Voice Competition will bring NATS and CFMTA together in this project that will serve and elevate fine young singers and their teachers across Canada. In the future, we may choose to combine our energies by holding co-operative events, and even, dare I say it, coinciding conventions! If you'd like a taste of the kinds of riches that can be shared by studio teachers of various instruments, check out Philip Johnston's book, *The Practice Revolution: Getting great results from the six days between music lessons*. (available at: www.practicespot.com).

For information on the Rozsa Foundation Voice Competition, see: www.nats.org/ontario. The application deadline for the Ontario Round is February 15th, 2005.

Four More Years?

I have been privileged to serve as your NATS Ontario Chapter President (1998-2002) and for the past four years, I have as well served as your Ontario District Governor. That adds up to two, two-year terms in each position. And now..., it's time to go! I have learned a lot, and am certainly grateful for the tremendous support I've received along the way, especially from Leslie Jost, Jennifer Higgin, and your incoming Ontario District Governor, Lynn Blaser. I wish Lynn every success as she brings her own innovations and directions to our enriching organization. Thank you to all my Ontario NATS colleagues!

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