
NATScope

The Newsletter of
NATS Ontario Chapter

www.natsontario.org

August 2007

Editor: Sharon Poelstra

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**Notes from Ontario Chapter President,
Torin W. Chiles**

Well, I haven't quite taken to drink as joyfully as this picture here might suggest but the whirlwind of the "new year" is about to start for us all – so "brrrrace y'rself"! I am sure that you are all drafting contact lists and working out schedules and repertoire for your studios. It is a most wonderful time of the year – full of good intentions and anticipation on the part of both teachers and students. I notice the quietude of the halls today at the University of Western Ontario and I look forward to hearing these halls soon filled with the sound of singing.



Your Ontario NATS Chapter is also preparing for the coming year. VP Special Projects, Penelope Dale has been particularly busy. In her spare time as she prepared for her

wedding (in August!) she has been industriously preparing for our fall workshop "Making the Cut" on September 30th, our Chapter Auditions on November 24th and our Spring Meeting and workshop for May of 2008. The panel discussion on September 30th was very popular two years ago when we last presented it. This year we will have

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representatives from most of the Music Faculties in Ontario ready to answer questions from students who are planning to audition for these institutions.

I personally appreciate Penelope Dale's work at such a busy time and I am sure that I voice the sentiments of the entire Chapter as I congratulate her and wish her great happiness in her marriage.

Both of the fall events (Sept. 30th "Making the Cut" workshop and the Nov. 24th General Meeting and Chapter Auditions) will take place at York University. (Specific information follows in this newsletter.) I want to express our Chapter's appreciation to Catherine Robbin who has worked diligently to make this exciting new venue available to us this year.

Your Chapter Audition Coordinator, Michelyn Wright has also been busily planning and clarifying both the process and the rules for our Auditions. You will be receiving applications and instructions regarding the Auditions via e-mail. The chapter bylaws indicate that the application deadline must be six weeks before the auditions (**Oct. 5th!**). That doesn't give us much time this fall to get our students working on repertoire and to assemble packages for these auditions.

Your VP Membership, Sharon Poelstra has also been working industriously amid a move from Alliston to Stratford! The obvious fruits of her labours are this Newsletter but her position also entails constant tending to our membership lists and preparation for our general meetings as well as brainstorming to help plan our programming.

The major business that needs to be dealt with at the fall meeting this year is a notice of motion brought forward by the executive to amend our bylaws. The motion will propose an addition to the bylaws which will specifically state that the term of office for the executive commences one month after their election at the spring meeting (rather than March 1st). This change reflects the

move to a later date for our spring meeting and yet accommodates the flexibility needed in scheduling the spring meeting. We will need to pass this amendment formally this fall so if you cannot attend the meeting, please take a moment and return your proxy to chapter secretary, Gloria Gassi when it comes in the mail this fall.

Our bylaws stipulate that at the Spring General meeting we must have an election of officers for the two year term commencing this next spring. At this point it looks as though each of the current executive has offered to stand for another term. However, if you would like to stand for election to one of the executive positions or if you would like to nominate someone, please send your nominations to District Governor, Lynn Blaser. We are eager to have your ideas and energy working through NATS at the chapter level for professional development and for the encouragement of the art of singing of the highest caliber in Ontario.

As always, please feel free to contact me by phone or e-mail if you have ideas, comments or concerns or if I can be of service in any way. I wish you all a year of productive teaching and artistic fulfillment as you work with all of those eager students who are about to descend upon us. I make a point of rereading the NATS code of ethics each year at this time to help inspire me to bring professionalism and a passion for my art and pedagogy to the studio every day.

Torin W. Chiles
(519) 661-2111 x84323
tchiles@uwo.ca



editor's note: The Ontario NATS chapter is searching for a new WEBMASTER to manage our web-site. Please don't be shy – if you have a suggestion or would like to learn about this position, *contact us!*

Personal Events Notes...

Torin W. Chiles presents a public master class for **Conservatory Canada** at the *Wolf Performance Hall* in London Ontario – Nov. 9th -11th. This is a master class for teachers and their students. There will be multi-media seminars for voice teachers dealing with voice technique and pedagogy and there will also be public master classes where Mr. Chiles works with the students. A public recital caps the event on Nov. 11th in the *Wolf Performance Hall*. Further information is available from Conservatory Canada: 1-800-461-5367 and mail@conservatorycanada.ca

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S REPORT:

Lynn Blaser

This is going to be a BIG year or two for NATS in both local and national areas!



First the National events:

NATSAA - NATS Artist Awards

This is a competition for you, or your advanced, professional or almost professional students who are “singers prepared to launch a professional career”. **Entry deadline for NATSAA is November 16, 2007.** Competitors must prepare an 18 song program which includes 1 opera aria, 1 oratorio aria and 16 recital

songs in various languages. Detailed information from the web site for this year: <http://www.registration123.com/nats/08NATSAA/information.cfm> As of August 3rd, all information and forms are available online and you can apply and even pay the entry fee online at that site. **Entrants are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to use the on-line application method.**

Prizes include nearly \$30,000 US in scholarships and the First Prize winner will be sponsored in a recital in New York City.

The winners of the Ontario District Round (Date: **Friday February 15, 2008** Venue: Northlea United Church, 125 Brentcliffe Rd. Toronto) will sing in the Great Lakes Regional Round (**Friday February 29th, 2008** at **Ball State University in Muncie, IN** <http://www.bsu.edu/uc/visitor/>) The top winner of the Regional Round will proceed to the Semifinals at the NATS Conference next June 27 – July 1 in Nashville, TN. The more entries that sing in Toronto on February 15th, the more singers will go on to the GL Regionals 2 weeks later in Muncie.

If you or your student enters this competition, please email or telephone directly to me to let me know. Last time, a few applications were not forwarded to me from the Chairman and the singers didn't get the District information in a timely manner. **Applications should be mailed to the NATSAA Chairman** at the address on the forms OR completed online. Modifications and additions can be made online up to the deadline Nov. 16, 2007.

Art Song Composition Award

Please post on your school's Composition Department bulletin board. The flyer can be downloaded at <http://nats.org/competitions.php> at the bottom. Open to students or established composers.

NATS offers a cash award plus a performance of the winning composition at a NATS Conference to the composer of the winning **song cycle, group of songs, or extended single song**. Competition is open to any composer whose submitted work meets the prescribed requirements, and who pays the competition entry fee.

"The purpose of the Art Song Composition Award [formerly the Vocal Composition Award] program... is to stimulate the creation of quality vocal literature through the cooperation of singer and composer."

--Carol Mikkelsen,
NATS Art Song Composition Award
Coordinator

REQUIREMENTS: The work must be: (1) a song cycle, group of songs, or extended single song of approximately fifteen minutes in length (13-17 minutes acceptable); (2) for single voice and piano; (3) to a text written in English, for which the composer has secured copyright clearance (only text setting permission necessary); (4) composed within the last two years (after Jan. 1, 2006).

AWARDS:

1st place - \$1,000 plus the composer's expenses to the 50th NATS National Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, June 27-July 1, 2008, where the premiere performance of the winning composition will be given.

2nd place - \$500

For more information contact: Dr. Carol Mikkelsen at: cmikkels@valdosta.edu
OR FAX: 229-259-5578 Flyer at:
<http://www.nats.org/competitions.php>

ENTRY FEE: \$30 for each entry (payable in U.S. funds to NATS).

DEADLINE: ENTRIES for the Composition Award MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 1, 2007.

The NATS Winter Workshop **From Studio to Stage:** **Integrating Dramatic** **Tools Into Singer** **Training**

Partnering with the National Opera Association's (NOA) National Convention.

While NATS Chapters and Regions hold a variety of local workshops, NATS Workshops are larger-scale events open to all NATS members and interested non-members. There are usually two Association Workshops offered each year, a Summer and a Winter Workshop, or just the Winter Workshop when a summer NATS Conference is also scheduled. NATS Workshops offer a chance to travel, meet other teachers and clinicians, and develop or extend your knowledge about a specified topic. Please join us at our next upcoming Association Workshop!

DATE: January 4 - January 6, 2008

**LOCATION: Millennium Biltmore Hotel,
506 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA**

COST: NATS/NOA Member Early Full
Registration \$255/ Non-NATS/NOA
Member Early Full Registration \$285

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Millennium
Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles,
506 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA
90071-2607

Tel: 213-624-1011 Fax: 213-612-1545

Reservation: 800-245-8673

www.millenniumhotels.com

Email: biltmore@mhrmail.com

Flyers can be downloaded at:

http://nats.org/events.php#NATS_Winter_Workshop_Around_the_World_-_Art_Song_from_the_Four_Corners

50th NATS Conference ***Music City Jubilee : A Vocal Arts Celebration***

DATE: June 27 - July 1, 2008

**LOCATION: Gaylord Opryland Resort,
Nashville, Tennessee**

NATS Conferences (formerly called "Conventions") are a special gathering of voice teachers from around the world. Workshops, speakers, demonstrations, presentations, and of course recitals are part of the week's many events. NATS Conferences occur every other year.

The 50th national conference of the National Association of Teachers of Singing will be held in **Nashville, Tennessee**. World-renowned soprano **DAWN UPSHAW** will be featured in concert and master class, and the keynote speaker and guest clinician will be famed baritone **SHERRILL MILNES**. Make plans now to be there!

We will soon have Conference Information, Online Registration Information & Exhibitor and Advertising Information

COST: NATS Member Early Full
Registration \$275 (\$315 including banquet)
Non-NATS Member Early Full Registration
\$310 (\$350 including banquet)
<http://nats.org/events.php>

Young Leaders Award

DESCRIPTION: YOUNG LEADERS AWARD, Sponsored by the National Association of Teachers of Singing, Inc. and the NATS Foundation

A grant program for young teachers of singing, The Young Leaders Award will offer winners from specific regions up to \$1,000 each to cover expenses for travel, housing, registration, food, and other related costs to use for attendance at NATS National Conferences.

In 2008, seven winners will be drawn; one each from the Central, Eastern, Great Lakes, Intermountain, North Central, Northwestern, and West Central Regions. They will attend the 50th National Conference in Nashville, TN, June 27-July 1, 2008.

Send all required materials in one envelope to:

Joan Adams, NATS, Inc.
9957 Moorings Drive, Suite 401
Jacksonville, FL 32257

DEADLINE: Submission Deadline for Young Leaders is January 11, 2008.

Completed applications with all required materials must be received in the NATS Executive Office by the deadline date. Late entries will not be considered for the award. For information and application form:

<http://www.nats.org/programs.php>

Great Lakes Regional Student Auditions (GLRSA) March 1st, 2008

Exciting Changes!!!

I have just returned from a meeting in Indianapolis with the Great Lakes Regional Governor, Caroline Smith, and the other three District Governors (Michigan, Ohio and Indiana) and many things were discussed and decided. One of the decisions affects the **GL Regional Student Auditions**. The Regional Governor sent out postcards earlier this year in her last mailing which asked for feedback about the "feeder system" for Regionals that was tried last year. Of those cards returned, the majority favoured NOT using the feeder system again and one Chapter had strong objections to it, so we will return to the previous system. **Our Chapter Auditions on November 24th will NOT be used as a round to qualify to sing at GL Regionals in March.** The two will be completely separate events. Teachers and students will enter the GLRSA directly when the Regional Governor sends out the applications and information. They will be held at **Ball State University in Muncie, IN** <http://www.bsu.edu/uc/visitor/>

The Regional Governor also plans to have a **program** at the GLRSA which resembles our "Making the Cut" but they hope to include **auditioning for Graduate Schools in the US and for professional engagements** as well as auditioning for undergraduate programs – great information for both teachers and students.

The GLRSA will be combined with the **Great Lakes NATSAA** competition which will take place the preceding day, **Friday February 29th, 2008** If entry numbers are large, it may be necessary to put some categories on the Friday evening so be prepared.

And the excitement doesn't stop there: **in March 2009, the GL REGIONAL Auditions are coming back to Ontario!** Imagine not having to drive six or eight hours to enter your students! I will be starting to plan this event

immediately and will need lots of help. If your school is interested in hosting this, please contact me.

In the next section of this newsletter, you will read about the **Making The Cut workshop** for your high school students and their parents to learn about the post-secondary music programs available in Ontario. There is NO OTHER event that brings together so many music schools and universities to answer your questions. The Chapter Auditions will be held November 24th. So it's going to be a busy year. Get involved !!!!!

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Workshop News from the VP of Special Projects

Penelope Dale

The NATS Executive has been very busy planning and Organizing three workshops for the upcoming academic year.



1) The first event will be the ever-popular **"Making the Cut"** University Information Session, to be held on Sunday, September 30th,

from 2-5 p.m. at York University. "Making the Cut" provides voice students, as well as their teachers and parents, with an opportunity to meet representatives from universities, colleges, and conservatories from across Ontario. This is a free event for members, and refreshments will be available. (Students: \$10.00 Parents and non-members: \$15.00) For driving directions, please go to: www.yorku.ca/web/futurestudents/map/index.html

2) A full day of workshops is being planned for Saturday, May 10th, 2008, so be sure to come out! The day will begin with a forum on "**Performance without Fear**," led by voice teacher Elisabeth Pomes

3) In the afternoon of the same day, a panel of experts will guide a group of advanced students in "**Audition preparation.**" Look for more information in future NATScape editions!

VP MEMBERSHIP/NATScape Editor

Sharon Poelstra



Hello everyone!
Thank-you to everyone who sent me articles for NATScape! What creative and interesting things the members of our Chapter do! Please keep sending me your professional

plans, reviews and opinions! This will result in a livelier NATScape that reflects the vast diversity of our professional lives.

It is my pleasure to welcome two new members to our Chapter: **Carolyn Lykkemark and Arlene Gray.** Please look for them and welcome them at our workshops and meetings.

Personal Events Notes. . .

I am pleased to announce the release of a CD which I produced this year with The New Tecumseth Singers: "*Look to This Day*" has been a voyage of learning for me. On other recordings I have participated only as a performer and for this one I was both the artistic director AND producer. I have gained a whole new respect for music publishers, sound engineers and the licensing bureaucracy as I met the licensing challenges and legal hurdles of taking this project to its completion. CD release concert is September 28th.

<http://new.tecumseth.singers.googlepages.com>

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Special Articles : NATS Chat

The Newmarket Voice Festival:

Irene Ilic

The Newmarket Voice Festival will be held Nov. 5 -10 with Ginette Duplessis (classical) and Gail Hakala (musical theatre) adjudicating. A senior scholarship of \$1000 is available to be won and there are two scholarships of \$1500 for Best Female and Best Male Vocalists (ages 14 - 21) - there are many other scholarships as well! Deadline for entries is September 28. Visit the web site at www.newmarketvoicefestival.com for further details. *The Concert of the Stars will be Nov. 16 - the night before the NATS Fall Auditions at York!*

News from Daniel Lichti:

I'm at WLU as Assoc. Prof. of Voice. In September I'm also beginning an association as Artist in Residence with the Grand Philharmonic Youth Choir in Kitchener-Waterloo. This choir, conducted by Nancy Tanguay, took last season's honours in their category SATB Youth Choir in the CBC Choral Competition. I worked with them for about 5 months last year in a pilot project....enjoyed it very much, it was a fruitful collaboration.

Highlights of the fall concert season: Get my first crack at Mahler's Rueckert Lieder with the WLU Student Orchestra in their main Fall concert, conducted by Paul Pulford, then singing with Opera in Concert on Dec. 2 in Toronto, J. S. Bach's Christmas Oratorio with the Winnipeg Symphony, Dec/ 7 & 8, and then a return visit to Malta to give 4 days of Master classes coordinated by the University and supported by the Arts Foundation of the Lions Club of Sliema. The master classes will conclude with a Gala concert at which I will also perform, and then on Dec. 18, I will be performing a variety of bass/baritone solos at the Christmas Concert at the main cathedral in Valetta, the capital of Malta, St. John's Co-Cathedral.

The Vancouver International Song Institute:

Diane Loeb

I would like to call your attention to the Vancouver International Song Institute, whose first event was held in June on the UBC campus. I was fortunate enough to attend six of the ten amazing days, and urge those of you with a personal interest in the song literature and/or with students of university (3rd, 4th year or Master's level) age to consider attending next year's session.

Every day began with a one-hour exercise session, followed by a lecture/discussion about

that evening's concert. A 45 minute noon-hour concert showcased performers or composers devoted to a theme (sometimes a poet such as Thomas Hardy or Emily Dickinson, sometimes an historic period, sometimes contemporary women composers, for example). A 1.5 hour study session followed by a 2 hour master class was held every afternoon featuring outstanding international teachers, coaches and performers (Graham Johnson, Margot Garrett, Tracy Dahl, Stephen Varcoe, Benjamin Butterfield), and in the evening many of these master teachers gave recitals (Dahl, Butterfield, Varcoe, Garrett, Johnson). This year the English language song was featured, and there was an enormous range of both English and American song performed and studied-- everyone from Stanford and Parry to Libby Larsen.

I cannot say enough about the tremendous quality and variety of programming at this institute. Every day brought exposure to new repertoire and new ways of dealing with performance challenges. Performance opportunities, not only in master classes but also concerts for the young singers in attendance, were numerous. Piano faculty included Rena Sharon (artistic director), Alison d'Amato, as well as Margot Garrett and Graham Johnson.

I understand another festival is being planned for 2008. The person to contact for more information is Ingrid Suderman of Vancouver NATS. I urge you to seriously consider attending next year.

Singing Teachers Graduate

Lorna MacDonald

Three new voice teachers hit Toronto in June when the first graduating class in Master of Music (Voice Pedagogy) accepts their diplomas. The three, soprano Charlene Santoni, mezzo-soprano Pamela MacDonald and baritone Mark Daboll, have explored voice research, both current and past, as well as teaching and learning styles. They took classes with laryngologists and speech language pathologists at St. Michael's Hospital, Mount Sinai, Sick Kids, and U of T, enjoyed a survey of historical singing styles through the generosity of Stephen Clarke and the Stratton Recording Collection, and had numerous teaching opportunities, all of which culminated in their teaching a public master class in April. "This program is a dream come true for those who aspire to combine performance and teaching - students perform extensively within the program while honing their skills as teachers based on factual information about how the voice works." says Professor Lorna MacDonald, Lois Marshall Chair in Voice, and the designer of the program. "Passion for music and voice science is combined in these new *singing teachers*, and I wish them well." For information on the program, contact Prof. MacDonald at lorna.macdonald@utoronto.ca.

Prof. Lorna MacDonald, Lois Marshall Chair in Voice and former Head of Voice Studies, will be presented as a Master Teacher of Singing at the 30th Master Teachers of Singing Week at Westminster Choir College, Princeton, NJ in July. The invitation coincides with her presentation Eyes, Ears and Body of Information for the International Voice Foundation Symposium in Philadelphia in June and performances in Princeton, San Antonio, Los Angeles, Toronto and Portland in the summer and fall.

*We search the world for truth,
we cull the good, the true, the beautiful,
From graven stone and written scroll,
And all old flower-fields of the soul:*

*And, weary seekers of the best,
We come back laden from our quest
To find that all the sages said
Is in the book our mothers read.*

BEACH SUMMER VOICE PROGRAM for Adult Singers: Toronto, July 5 - 15, 2007.



NATS member Marjorie Sparks is the artistic director of the Beach Summer Voice Program. She has created an informative and inspiring program for adult singers of various levels. The inaugural two week sessions proved to be a great success in spite of the fact that the singers came from widely different musical backgrounds.

The days were jam-packed with exciting moments for all the singers and staff. For example: an ensemble of five aspiring young sopranos performed opera and choral ensemble selections as if they had been singing together for weeks and a beginner choral singer sang a beautiful solo in public for the first time. The value of intensive music- making and instruction was made obvious from their success.

There were also many informal concerts. Guest teachers Mary Lou Fallis and Don Tarnawski presented excellent master classes. Each week ended with a concert for family and friends. This



all took place in a beautiful church in the Toronto Beaches. The realization of this new program was aided greatly by Marjorie's business manager, Karen Watson, a fine singer herself. She ran an extremely well organized program that even included

daily nutritious snacks and aroma therapy sessions for the singers.

Marjorie was assisted by the following staff: Mervin Fick, Barry Peters, Lorelyn Morgan, Howard Bochner, Elaine Kopman. They all were wonderfully giving of their talents and personalities. This program will be presented again next summer.

Marjorie Sparks

A final “BiT” of Technology Advice

Sharon Poelstra



Well, after spending several hundred dollars on the *wrong* equipment, I have finally “lucked out” with a studio system that includes *only three things* (ok there are also a few plugs involved that might run you to as much as \$50.00 and you’ll need to

stockpile a few DVD’s for those students who are unable to remember to bring them – in my experience that’s most of the teen-aged ones and some of the adults too.)

- 1) **A second-hand Sony digital video camera recorder** (handy cam video Hi8) – you won’t need cassettes to record onto but you *will* need one in the machine before the machine will record properly. It’s a safety feature so that no one records their wedding without a disc in the machine!
\$125

- 2) **A brand-new “LiteOn” DVD recorder (LVW-5005XS)** that will record on both DVD+ and DVD- (which means that students with a MACINTOSH computer can still watch their recorded lesson as long as they use a DVD-) and erases the RW’s quite quickly so that they are a less expensive option for students. The only drawback is that the DVD R’s need to be finalized and this does take a couple of minutes at the end of a lesson, unlike the RW’s which only take a few minutes once a month to erase before using again. I have discovered that most of my students, computer savvy though they are, can’t figure out how to erase DVD’s successfully on their own computers so we generally do it on my recorder.
\$89.00

- 3) a small television to use as a monitor
\$69.00

It has all worked out rather well and additionally, I have placed a mirror behind where my students stand so that while facing the camera they have a profile view, on the recording, from the mirror, that gives them a good visual of their backs. During the lesson I also gain the benefit of seeing their backs in the full-length mirror and a close up of their face in the monitor right beside me. Previously, I had them facing the mirror where the piano blocked my full view of their backs. I’m sure you can appreciate the teaching advantage and student “empowerment” that this change has made. Besides, you’ll never have to get up from the piano again!

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**NATScope is published twice a year for
Members of NATS Ontario Chapter. Deadlines
for submissions are July 1st & January. 1st.**

Members are invited to submit up-coming events or
concerts and news of student achievements -
submissions may be edited

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