



Eastern Region

Newsletter

Spring, 2012

Regional Conference Report

Our 2012 **Eastern Region NATS Conference and Student Auditions** was held March 2–4 at West Chester University. 33 teachers and 149 students participated in a full weekend of student achievement and master classes – thanks to the excellent planning and generous teamwork of the West Chester Voice Faculty: **Emily Bullock**, **In Young Lee**, **Randall Scarlata**, **Jane Wyss**, and Conference Chair **Stephen Ng**.

Friday, March 2 began with the preliminary round of student auditions. (This also marked the first time we used the scheduling software at natsauditions.com, which seems like something for us to consider continuing...) In the evening **Sharon Sweet** gave an inspiring master class – an ideal way to cap the first day of our conference.

Saturday, March 3 was a full day with the student auditions semi-finals, morning and afternoon classes with **Jodi Barth** and **Gincy Stezar** (*Toe to Head: A Physical Therapy Approach to Postural Alignment and Performance Improvement*), a musical theatre master class with **Mary Saunders-Barton**, and the NATSAA District and Regional auditions. The District prelims took place in the afternoon (with thanks to the preliminary judges Rochelle Ellis, Elaine Henderson, Daniel Ihasz, Mary Ellen Schaubert, Linda Cowan, and Debra Field). The winners from each of the District events went on to sing in the evening Regional NATSAA Auditions (with judges Sharon Sweet, Marvin Keenze, and Melanie DeMent). This was the first time we combined NATSAA events with a Regional Conference, and from all accounts it was a success. (Information about the NATSAA results is included later in the newsletter.) A reception followed as a festive note to end the day.

Sunday, March 4 started with a business meeting. Information for the 2013 Regional Conference and Student Auditions was announced, and a committee was established to look at our Student Auditions Rules and Regulations (more information about this follows in the newsletter). Marvin Keenze spoke about the upcoming International Congress of Voice Teachers (www.icvt2013.com), and Sarah Hoover shared how the NYC NATS Chapter is partnering with the Carnegie Hall Achievement Program (details about their upcoming event are below). The final round of student auditions (adjudicated by Sharon Sweet, Mary Saunders-Barton, and Margaret Cusack) and award presentations concluded the day. Complete results of the auditions can be found on the regional website – www.easternregionnats.com.

It is not always easy to make time to attend these conferences, but I encourage you to set aside time for the 2013 conference – these events are inspiring...hearing new repertoire, gleaned ideas from clinicians, meeting student singers and new colleagues, rekindling friendships, etc. Hope to see you there!

2013 Regional Conference – March 15-17, Ithaca College

Chapter Activities

Central New York Finger Lakes Chapter held a Spring Workshop on March 20, 2012 at Nazareth College, with Robert McIver and Carol Webber as clinicians.

The **Allegheny Mountain Chapter** (PA) launched its new website: www.amcnats.org. The chapter will host a workshop with Peggy Baroody from 10-1 on May 14, 2012. Co-sponsored by Popovsky Studios, it will be held at Highland Presbyterian Church in Lancaster, PA. Upcoming activities include the annual fall meeting on September 22, 2012 at Elizabethtown College, and the Student Auditions on October 27, 2012 at Lebanon Valley College.

Lehigh Valley Chapter (PA) held its sixth annual Student Auditions on February 11, 2012. The event also featured a master class by Harold Evans. Their third annual Gala Recital featuring students of LVNATS teachers was March 18, 2012. Both events were held at Moravian College in Bethlehem, PA. Upcoming events include a Fall Workshop and Meeting on November 10, 2012, Student Auditions on February 9, 2013, and the Gala Recital on March 17, 2013.

The **Tri-States Chapter** Fall Auditions will be held at West Virginia University on October 27, 2012.

New Jersey NATS held its 2012 Festival of Singing on February 18 at New Jersey City University. Events included a recital by Sondra Kelly and workshop with Adria Firestone.

The **New York City Chapter** is offering a Celebration of Marni Nixon for World Voice Day, 7 pm April 16, 2012, at Lang Recital Hall at Hunter College. RSVP to ykweiss@gmail.com. They are also planning an Achievement Program Teacher Information Session for Voice Teachers to help acquaint teachers with Carnegie Hall's Achievement Program curriculum, assessments, and repertoire. Visit www.natsnewyorkcity.org for additional information.

2012 Eastern Region Interns / Emerging Leader

Two of our members have been chosen for the 2012 NATS Intern Program: **Alissa Rose** (Wellsboro, PA, Mansfield University, PA), and **Cory Renbarger** (Houghton College, NY). **Bonnie Cutsforth-Huber** (Penn State Altoona) was chosen to receive the 2012 NATS Emerging Leader Award. Congratulations to all of them.

Our New Members

New Jersey

Cheryl Moya, Princeton
Sarah Sensenig, Pennington
Nicholas May, Princeton
Chelsea Varga, Morris Plains
Jeffrey Woodworth, Milford

New York

Kristen Ruiz, New York
Mike Mitchell, New York
Amanda Flynn, Astoria
David Sisco, New York
Betina Hershey, Forest Hills
Michelle Adessa, Brooklyn
Sally Morgan, New York

Pennsylvania

Ronald Muccitelli, Lancaster
Michael Schmidt, Hellertown
Mark Boyle, Millersville
Daniel Teadt, Pittsburgh

Quebec

Meredith Charlebois, Ottawa, ON

NATSAA 2012 District and Regional Auditions Results

Our District and Regional NATS Artist Award auditions took place at the Eastern Region Conference and Student Auditions at West Chester University on Saturday, March 3. In the afternoon, 14 singers from 5 of our Districts competed. That evening, the District winners went on to sing in the Regional auditions. **Kristin Goodkin** was selected as the winner, along with two alternates (Sarah Gilbert and Joshua Stubbs). Kristin will go on to compete in the NATSAA National Semi-Finals at the National Conference in Orlando, FL on June 28.

Chapter Officer Update

There have been several recent changes in chapter officers. New chapter presidents include **James Maroney** (Lehigh Valley Chapter), **Sarah Hoover** (NYC NATS), and **Robert Brant** (in the newly formed Delaware Chapter). Their willingness to be of service to NATS is very much appreciated – as is the accomplishment of the outgoing officers (Debra Diel and Lori McCann). Contact information for each of them is located in the newsletter, and on the website. Please don't hesitate to let them (or any of our officers) know if they might be of service...

Committee to look at Student Auditions Rules and Regulations

A number of questions came up this spring about certain aspects of the rules and regulations our region uses for student auditions. This information has not been updated in some time, so a committee was formed to look at possible updates. Comments you may have about the rules and regulations may be sent to any of the committee members **by June 1, 2012**. (A copy of the current rules and regulations is posted on the regional website.) The committee plans to have an updated version sent out for an electronic vote in time to be in place for our next regional conference.

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Be sure to check the Eastern
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<http://www.easternregionnats.com>

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