

Great Lakes Region News

Volume 1, Issue 1

Fall 2011

Great Lakes intern reports on 2011 program

Greetings NATS Great Lakes Region Members,

In early June, the Great Lakes Region partially subsidized my trip to Eau Claire, Wisconsin to participate as one of twelve interns in the 2011 NATS Intern Program. I was paired with master teacher David Small from the University of Texas who, for ten days, critiqued my teaching and singing in what was one of the best professional experiences of my life. A typical day consisted of teaching and observation in the morning, lectures from the master teachers and other guests in the afternoon, and master classes in the evening. We were even able to find the time to tour the Leinenkugel brewery in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin on our one day off!

The experience was wonderful both professionally and personally. Working with David was a pure delight. He is one of the most giving and sincere people with whom I have had the pleasure of working. His insights and suggestions regarding my teaching and performing have opened up new avenues to explore as I continue defining who I am as a teacher. The interns were an amazing group of talented and kind

young teachers. Watching my colleagues teach was almost as instructive as teaching myself. Though we were together only ten short days, I have no doubt that the relationships established that week will follow us through the rest of our careers. It is remarkable how small the world of singing truly is

I want to thank the Great Lakes Region for your generosity. NATS is extremely supportive of young teachers, such as myself, and I am fortunate to call myself a member. I look forward to joining your ranks as a colleague and working together to further our art.

— Sean McCarther



The twelve interns in the 2011 NATS Intern Program.

2012 NATS Intern Program announced

Applications are now being accepted for the 2012 Intern Program sponsored by the National Association of Teachers of Singing. The Intern Program is a ten-day intensive continuing education program which pairs master teachers of voice with talented young teachers of NATS. The goal is to improve the studio teaching skills of the promising young teachers. The 2012 NATS Intern Program will be held in June at Colorado State University – Fort Collins. The program will include special lectures and demonstrations by master teachers, special guests, and NATS' vocal literature liaison, Cynthia Vaughn. All interested Great Lakes region NATS members are encouraged to apply on line at nats.org. Applications will be accepted until December 15, 2011.

Buckeye fall meeting presents *How to Work in Musical Theater*

The Buckeye Chapter of NATS will present, *How to Work in Musical Theatre, While Maintaining Vocal Health*, for its annual fall meeting. Dr. David Schubert and Dr. Jessica McCormack will host the October 1st event at the Springfield Center for the Arts at Wittenberg University. Featured presenters will be New York musical theatre producer and casting director, Michael Cassara, and Dr. Wendy LeBorgne, director of the Blaine Block Institute for Voice Analysis and Rehabilitation in Dayton, OH. Musical Theatre students who have won or placed in recent NATS Auditions will be featured in master classes conducted by the presenters. For further information, contact Buckeye NATS President, Stephanie Henkle: bnats@woway.com.

Cedarville University will be the site of the 2012 Buckeye NATS State Auditions on March 30 – 31 in Cedarville, OH. Dr. Beth Cram Porter and Dr. Mark Spencer will host the event, which is expected to draw 300 singers from throughout the state. On Friday evening, Red Campion, a vocal quartet centered in northeastern Ohio, and comprised primarily of BNATS members, will present a concert of music throughout the centuries. Saturday, during the auditions, SNATS students from various colleges throughout the state will staff information booths in the Dixon Ministry Center lobby, advertising activities of interest to singers, including summer programs abroad, choral festivals, internships, young artist programs, etc. We anticipate a grand weekend for all!

42nd NATS Artist Award Competition Registration Opened Online

Registration for the National Association of Teachers of Singing Artist Award (NATSAA) Competition is now opened online at www.natsaa.org. This nationally known competition for classical singers offers over \$50,000 in cash and prizes. To be eligible, the applicant must be at least 21 but not more than 35 years of age on November 10, 2011. In addition, the applicant

must be a member of NATS (in good standing), or coached for at least one year by a current NATS member (in good standing). The Great Lakes Region's chapter/district NATSAA audition dates and locations are listed on page 3 of this newsletter. The preliminary NATSAA auditions for the Great Lakes Region will be held on the first weekend in March in Michigan during the Great Lakes Regional Student Auditions.

Thomas Florio to perform Winner's Recital at Carnegie Hall

The Carnegie Hall performance by Thomas Florio, the 2010 NATSAA winner, is set for October 30, 2011. In addition to this New York solo debut sponsored by DCINY, Florio's winnings included a full tuition scholarship to attend AIMS, a gift certificate from Hal Leonard, and a \$5000 cash prize. Florio will appear at Weill Recital Hall with pianist Jasmin Arakawa.

In June 2012, Florio will be heard in recital at the 52nd NATS National Conference in Orlando, Florida.

Thomas Florio was the Great Lakes Regional NATSAA

winner and holds the Master of Music degree from Indiana University where he studied with Dr. Brian Horne.

2011 has been an exciting year for Florio. In addition to his upcoming Carnegie Hall performance, he was awarded Second Place in the Houston Grand Opera Eleanor McCallum Competition, First Place in the Shreveport Opera Singer of the Year Competition, Second Place in the Opera Columbus Irma M. Cooper Competition, and was a District Finalist of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

Memphis Mix: Opera, Art and Song theme of NATS Workshops

An exciting workshop experience is being offered by NATS in collaboration with the National Opera Association Convention on January 5-8, 2012 at the Marriott Downtown in Memphis, TN. The performances, panels, and workshops will feature composer Ricky Ian Gordon, mezzo-soprano Karen Brunssen and author Robert Thomson. Check the featured topics below and contact the nats.org for more information.

Composing, the Voice, and Lyric Italian for the Op-

era: Panel Discussion with Ricky Ian Gordon, Karen Brunssen and Robert Thomson (Moderated by Allen Henderson)

Voice Master Classes: Tag-Team Style with Ricky Ian Gordon and Karen Brunssen.

Italian for the Opera with author Robert Thomson.

The Ages of the Voice with Karen Brunssen.

The Triple Threat Composer: Ricky Ian Gordon's Operas, Art Songs, and Music Theater Works — His



Sean McCartber, Great Lakes Regional Intern in the 2011 NATS Intern Program is pictured at the event with his Intern Group and their master teacher. Pictured, left to right, are Sean, David Small, Angela Winter and Tana Field. Sean is a doctoral student in vocal performance and pedagogy at Indiana University. He also serves on the faculty at Vincennes University as an adjunct professor of voice where he teaches studio voice and music theory. Sean is a native of Texas and he and his wife, Alicia, live in Bloomington, IN.

GREAT LAKES REGION NATSAA DATES

Indiana District NATSAA Auditions

Saturday, February 26, 2012
Ball State University
Choral Hall
Muncie, IN
Time: 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Governor: Kathleen Maurer
kmmaurer@bsu.edu

Michigan District NATSAA Auditions

Saturday, February 25, 2011
Time: 2 - 6 PM
Recital Hall
Performing Arts Center
Grand Valley State University
Allendale, MI
District Governor: Dr. Kathryn Stieler
kstieler@gvsu.edu

Ohio District NATSAA Auditions

Saturday, January 28, 2012
Mees Concert Hall
Capital University
Columbus, Ohio
Time: 9 AM - 7 PM
District Governor: Jacqueline Barlow Ware
jackie@the-wares.com

Ontario District NATSAA Auditions

Saturday, January 21, 2012
Time TBA
University of Western Ontario
London, Ontario Canada
Contact: Torin W. Chiles
torinchiles@rogers.com

Send information for Great Lakes News to:
Dr. Laurie E. Lashbrook, NATS Great Lakes
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Deadline for next issue is Oct. 25th



Regional Governor

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**Michigan will host the
2012 Great Lakes Regional Student
Auditions
March 3, 2012
Location TBA**

Indiana Chapter of NATS

The 2011 Indiana NATS Fall Student Auditions will be held November 5, 2011 at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, IN. More information on the Indiana student auditions is available at nats-in.org.

Michigan Chapter of NATS

The 2011 Michigan NATS Student Auditions will be held November 5, 2011 at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, MI. More information on the Michigan student auditions is available at natismichigan.org.

Ontario Chapter of NATS

The Ontario NATS Chapter Meeting and Banquet will be at the Monte Carlo Inns Vaughan Suites on November 18, 2011 beginning at 5:00 P.M. The guest speaker will be director Tom Diamond. Is topic will be "Acting the Song".

The NATS Ontario Chapter Auditions will be on Saturday, November 19, 2011 at York University in Toronto, Ontario Canada. For more information on these Ontario NATS events please see natsontario.org.

A message from the Regional Governor...

Greetings Great Lakes Region NATS Members!

It is an honor to serve as your Regional NATS Governor and so far, the year has been very full. In March 2011 the Great Lakes Regional Student Auditions were held at Bowling Green State University in Ohio with over 230 students and members in attendance. You will find the list of winners from these auditions attached to this newsletter. The Great Lakes Executive Board has met twice and conduct other business via Asynchronous meetings. In June I had the honor of representing our region at the National Board Meeting in Jacksonville, FL. The meeting was exhilarating!

The NATS organization has a number of exciting new ventures, which include the National Music Theatre Competition in 2012. The semifinal and final rounds will be held at the NATS 52nd National Conference in Orlando, FL. The summer workshop in Charlotte was very successful and I hope you will make plans to attend the upcoming workshop, *Memphis Mix* in January 2012. In addition, plans are underway to roll out " National Progressive Student Audi-

tions" at the NATS 2014 National Conference in Boston, MA.

Our region is eligible for an Emerging Leadership Award which recognizes and supports teachers with no more than 10 years of experience. This grant will help the selected winners to attend the NATS National Conference in 2012 and allows them to enjoy all benefits available at the National Conference. In addition, I encourage Great Lakes independent voice teachers to apply for an Independent Teacher's Fellowship. This fellowship recognizes and supports independent teachers (non university or college full or part -time positions) with a free conference registration.

Communication is a very important part of our organization's success. This newsletter is one way in which Great Lakes Region members can be in communication. I encourage you to send me news of interest to our region. I look forward to working together to make the Great Lakes Region strong. ~Laurie