

NC-NATS News

Volume 1, No. 2

Summer, 2005

We hope you are enjoying a summer of well-deserved fun and relaxation. Your dedicated NC-NATS Officers have been busy this summer working on plans for the coming year. We share this summer update with you to report on some of the Spring 2005 events, and to announce those coming up in 2005/06. We hope that you will include the NC-NATS dates in your calendar and make plans well in advance to participate with your students.

2005 Mid-Atlantic Regional Auditions

Many thanks to Mid-Atlantic Regional Governor Tim Sparks for providing an outstanding weekend at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, April 1 & 2nd. The weekend kicked off early Friday morning with a very productive meeting for District officers with Governor Tim presiding. North Carolina was well represented with four of our five officers in attendance. Among the many important topics discussed were:

- non-attendance policy at Regional auditions and student eligibility
- mentoring program for new and transferring NATS members
- scheduling of 2006 District and Regional meetings
- viability of District websites, and possibility of Regional website
- roles and responsibilities of Regional and District Governors
- copyright policy for student audition repertoire
- adoption of Musical Theater adjudication guidelines
- revisit of audition category breakdown and descriptions

Weekend participants enjoyed two very informative and entertaining master classes on Friday with guest clinician Dr. Arlene Shrut and the *New Triad for Collaborative Arts* from New York City. The evening recital "The Measure of Our Years," performed by Jennifer Beattie, soprano, and Mee-Kyung Chang, piano, provided a wonderful demonstration of the New Triad concepts of artist collaboration, and, indeed, an exciting conclusion to the day.

The Saturday auditions drew nearly 200 singers, and were followed by an Honors Recital and presentation of awards. Congratulations to the following singers and their teachers:

Category 1

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Rachel Bahler | Stephanie Dillard de Jong |
| 2. Victoria Shirey | Thomas Brunson |
| 3. Laurel Barrett | Sharyn Mapes |

Category 2

- | | | |
|----|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Delvin Choice | Michael Rice |
| 2. | Thomas Allen | Robert Heritage |
| 3. | Jason Fileds | Janine Hawley |

Category 3

- | | | |
|----|---------------|------------------|
| 1. | Annie Simon | Rosa Lamoreaux |
| 2. | Jessa Garrett | Michael Rice |
| 3. | Erica Nasim | Valerie MacPhail |

Category 4

- | | | |
|----|---------------|----------------|
| 1. | Wesley Brax | Thomas Brunson |
| 2. | Kevin O'Grady | Teresa Walker |

Category 5

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. | Laura Denney | Thomas Brunson |
| 2. | Natasha Witherspoon | Thomas Dickinson |
| 3. | Mallory Porter | Thomas Brunson |

Category 6

- | | | |
|----|----------------|------------------|
| 1. | Vanceto Blyden | Thomas Dickinson |
| 1. | Tim Springs | Thomas Dickinson |
| 2. | Townsend Pass | Thomas Dickinson |

Category 7A

- | | | |
|----|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Sarah Massengale | Thomas Dickinson |
| 2. | Andrea Horath | Thomas Dickinson |
| 3. | Ashley Gwinn | Valerie MacPhail |
| 3. | Eleanor Hanna | Catherine Charlton |

Category 7B

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. | Becky Krynski | Jane Dillard |
| 2. | Allison Chickering | Marion Pratnicki |
| 3. | Samina Aslam | Marion Pratnicki |
| 3. | Courtney Atkins | Carolyn McKenna |

Category 8

- | | | |
|----|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Ian McEuen | Myra Tate |
| 2. | Anthony Bucci | Michael Rice |
| 2. | Roy San Filipo | Catherine Alderman |
| 3. | Antwuan Brown | Thomas Brunson |

Category 9A

- | | | |
|----|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Melanie Frye | Ruth Foley |
| 2. | Beth Allen | Barbara Ann Peters |
| 3. | Sarah Piscitelli | Marilyn Taylor |

Category 9B

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. | Lindsey McConville | Carla LeFevre |
| 2. | Meghan Dunham | Carla LeFevre |
| 2. | Adair Mallory | Glenn Siebert |
| 2. | Xela Pinkerton | Beverly Hay |
| 3. | Katherine Woodward | Beverly Hay |

Category 10

- | | | |
|----|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Jonathan Hoffman | Debby Wenner |
| 2. | Nicholas Nguyen | Stafford Wing |
| 3. | Hayden Dawes | Levone Tobin-Scott |

Category 11A

- | | | |
|----|----------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | Jessica Crim | Beverly Hay |
| 1 | Lauren Maxwell | Beverly Hay |
| 2. | Amy Wiles | Paula Chipman |
| 3. | Karen Owens | Patricia Saunders Nixon |

Category 11B

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. | Kristen Leigh Williams | Beverly Hay |
| 2. | Taylor Johnson | Beverly Hay |
| 3. | Julianne Brown | Jean Greer |
| 3. | Joy Mwiruki | Lorraine Gorrell |
| 3. | Jennifer Pratt | Lanny Palmer |

Category 12

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | John Chest | Chris Gilliam |
| 2. | Jon Timmons | Gena Poovey |
| 3. | Steven Pierce Lumpkin | Barbara Ann Peters |

Category 13

- | | | |
|----|------------------|---------------|
| 1. | Kathryn Snyder | Grant Lewis |
| 2. | Farzanna Stewart | Jane McKinney |
| 3. | Jessica Cates | Carla LeFevre |
| 3. | Danielle Moss | Beverly Hay |

Category 14

- | | | |
|----|----------------|---------------|
| 1. | Allan Chan | Debby Wenner |
| 2. | Eric Rea | Jean Greer |
| 3. | Marques Garret | Lorraine Bell |
| 3. | Richard Hodges | Richard Banks |

Category 15

- | | | |
|----|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Elizabeth Beal | Barbara Ann Peters |
| 2. | Elizabeth Harvey | Levone Tobin-Scott |

3. Heather Hanna Sandra Filed

Category 16

1. Brian McQueen Jacob Will
2. Michael Dzbenski Patricia Miller

Category 17

1. Keesum Kwon Mira Yang
2. Jennifer Mazell Beverly Hay
2. Summer Karagiozov Carla LeFevre

Category 18

Hrs: Khary Wilson Sandra Field

Category 19A

1. Katherine Meckel Flora Martin
2. Camille Baliker Tina T. Broussard
3. Laura Denney Thomas Brunson

Category 19B

1. Anna Stephenson Elizabeth LaBelle
2. Jessi Chapman Michael Rice
3. Janelle Tavernit Elizabeth LaBelle

Category 20

1. Anthony Bucci Michael Rice
2. Eric Dempsey Loretta Haskell
3. Roy San Filipo Catherine Alderman

Category 21A

1. Sarah Stevens Polly Butler Cornelius
2. Jessica Brill William Carswell
3. Leah Williams Deirdre Francis

Category 21B

1. Amelia Rollings Ann Benson
1. Angela Walker Jill Terhaar Lewis
2. Abigail Dunwoody Jennifer Luiken
2. Nikki Jenkins Louise Toppin
3. Brittany Williams Elizabeth LaBelle

Category 22

1. Patrick Massey Timothy W. Sparks
2. Jay Dolan Terry Rhodes
3. Michael Dzbenski Patricia Miller

Category 23

Hrs: Catherine Cheng

Barbara Ann Peters

Category 24

1. John Gorman
2. Rich Stanley
3. Billy Jones

Karen Hoy
Jeffrey Price
Jennifer Luiken

Category 25

1. Leigha Pace
1. Ann Scott
2. Matalya Dickerson
3. Katherine Amerikaner

Susan Lyle
Anna Gabrieli &
Karen Hoy
James Longmire
Rebecca S. Putland

Category 26

Hrs: Wade Henderson

Elizabeth Linnartz

HONORS RECITAL SPECIAL AWARDS**John Stoudenmire Outstanding High School Award:**

Becky Krynski Jane Dillard
Ian McEuen Myra Tate

John and Kate Neeley Outstanding High School Musical Theatre Award:

Katherine Meckel Flora Martin
Anthony Bucci Michael Rice

Reid Brown Outstanding Undergraduate Woman Award:

Kathryn Snyder Grant Lewis

Jane Dillard Outstanding Undergraduate Man Award:

John Chest Chris Gilliam

Next year's Mid-Atlantic Regional Auditions are scheduled for April 7-8, 2006 on the campus of Meredith College in Raleigh.

Plan now! to attend the NC-NATS Fall Weekend

Our annual Fall Weekend will be held September 9-10 at Appalachian State University in Boone—let's all pray for good weather this year! We extend our appreciation to NC Governor Priscilla Porterfield and her ASU colleagues for hosting us.

Registration will begin early afternoon on Friday. Our guest clinician this year will be Jane Comfort Brown, a certified teacher of the Alexander Technique. At this writing, the Friday evening program will feature several NC-NATS members in recital. More details and finalized agenda will be available soon from NC President John Blizzard; deadline for registration will be September 1st.

Annual Dues Will Soon Be Due

Watch for an October mailing from our treasurer, Sharon Szymanski, reminding members that NC-NATS dues are “due” by November 30th. A \$10 late fee is added for dues received after the due date. Please be reminded that **members who are delinquent with either state or 2005 national dues by January 1st are ineligible to participate in the February student auditions** – sorry, but this is a National NATS policy, and therefore no exceptions can be made.

The National NATS office will be mailing out notices soon for the 2006 dues. National due payments are due by January 1st and must be postmarked no later than February 1st. Membership privileges and benefits—including access to the members section on the website, *Journal of Singing*, and participation in district and regional auditions—are withdrawn after February 1st for lack of payment. Membership can be reactivated after February 1st with full payment of dues and a \$10 late payment.

Please refer any questions you may have about your membership status to our treasurer, Sharon Szymanski at szy@nc.rr.com.

2006 Spring Meeting and Auditions Save the Date! February 16–18th

We are pleased to announce the 2006 NC-NATS Student Auditions and NATSAA weekend will be held at UNC-Greensboro, February 16, 17 and 18th. Our thanks in advance go to Bill Carroll, Chair of the Voice Department at UNC-G, and our own Vice-President Barbara Ann Peters for coordinating the weekend. The NATSAA Auditions will be held on Thursday evening, February 16, in the Recital Hall.

We anticipate a weekend schedule similar to last year: Friday morning business and judges' meetings, college level auditions followed by Friday evening Honors Recital, and Saturday morning judges' meeting followed by high school and continuing education

auditions with an Honors Recital later in the afternoon. Look for important details and weekend agenda from Vice-President Barbara Peters in early fall. We hope you will begin making plans now to avoid the rush before the January 13, 2006 deadline for entries.

Minutes of last February's meeting are posted below for your review. Questions or comments may be forwarded to Secretary Liz LaBelle at singingbiz@aol.com.

NC-NATS Spring Business Meeting
North Carolina School of the Arts
Winston-Salem, NC
February 18, 2005

Members Present: Timothy Sparks (Regional Governor), John Blizzard (President), Barbara Peters (Vice-President), Sharon Szymanski (Treasurer), Liz LaBelle (Secretary), Marilyn Taylor, Carolyn McKenna, Ayumi Nakamae, Tacy Fleury, Jane McCoy, Joan Metelli, Jane Dillard, Karen Hall, Isobel Bartz, Grace Johnson, Polly B. Cornelius, Alexa Schlimmer, Janine Hawley, Sandy Beam, Ariel Reed, Levone Tobin Scott, Catherine Charlton, Barbara Taylor, Kristen King, Charles Lynam, Bill Martin, Marion Pratkanicki, Judith Burbank, Teresa Winner Blume, Richard Banks, Louise Toppin, Elizabeth Winstead, Sally Thomas, Patsy Gilliland, Lucy Owen Hoyt, Sue Anne Phillips, Nikita Shah Pace, Kimberly Joy Wood, Barbara DeMaio Caprilli, Robert Bracey, Julia Broxholm, Robert Overman, Jeff Price, Mike Kirby, Beth Carter.

Meeting was called to order by Chapter President Dr. John Blizzard at 8:45 a.m. in the recital hall of the North Carolina School of the Arts. Appreciation was expressed to Marilyn Taylor and Glenn Seibert for their assistance in hosting this year's Spring Meeting.

New Members: The following new members were introduced: Joan Metelli, Charlotte; Ariel Reed, Chapel Hill; Karen Hall, East Carolina University; Barbara Caprilli, Salem College; Lucy Hoyt, Charlotte; and Sue Ann Phillips, Charlotte.

Minutes of the February 18th 2004 business meeting were read by Secretary Liz LaBelle and approved by members present.

Current officers were introduced: Dr. John Blizzard, President; Barbara Ann Peters, Vice-President; Liz LaBelle, Secretary; Sharon Szymanski, Treasurer.

Treasurer's Report: Sharon Szymanski, NC-NATS Treasurer, gave the following report:

Balance in Checking Account: \$20,231.96 (includes \$10,000 registration fees for Spring Auditions)

<u>Janus Account #202386314</u>	<u>Beginning /Ending</u>	<u>Change</u>
42 – Janus Fund	\$4,300.38 / \$4,502.03	+ 201.55
40 – Janus Growth & Income	\$3,242.31 / \$3,610.17	+384.72
51 – Janus Balanced Account	\$3,123.84 / \$3,329.07	+269.17
Total:	\$10, 666.63 / \$11,441.27	+774.64

<u>Janus Account #463525245</u>	<u>Beginning/Ending</u>	<u>Change</u>
40 – Janus Growth & Income (Geraldine Cate Award Fund)	\$3,345.21 / \$3,742.83	+397.62
Total:	\$3,345.21 / \$3,742.83	+397.62

Total Funds at Hand \$31,673.24

Dr. Julia Pedigo and Sharon are still exploring other investment options, and will be making a decision accordingly.

The Treasurer’s Report was approved as read by membership present.

Old Business:

Centralizing Audition Location: Discussion was held concerning last year’s decision to hold the annual student auditions in a centralized location in the state. It was noted that the record high number of applicants this year seemed to indicate this location was very favorable. Tim Sparks inquired if the “centrally located schools” would be willing to host the spring meetings. It was moved and seconded that we pass this on to the Executive Committee for further investigation and discussion.

Fall, 2005 Meeting: Dr. Julia Pedigo, on behalf of the membership at Appalachian State University, offered to host this year’s fall meeting since it was rained out there last year. John noted that changing the location of the fall meeting each year provides us an opportunity to visit the various campuses across the state. He further indicated that the Executive Committee will distribute a survey to solicit membership feedback about dates, agenda, location etc. Details of the meeting will be forthcoming, posted on the website

New Business:

Election of Officers: Mid-Atlantic Regional Governor Tim Sparks noted that NATS is currently electing new officers across the nation. He proposed that the current slate of NC-NATS officers continue for another year. He explained that we are a bit out of sync because an officer in prior years dropped out of the rotation. The membership voted to retain the current slate of officers for another year. Tim also mentioned that as Regional Governor he has the responsibility to appoint the state governor, and that Dr. Priscilla Porterfield had agreed to continue to serve in that office for another term.

NATS Accompanist Fees: Dr. John Blizzard raised the suggestion that the fee for NC-NATS accompanists be increased from \$25 to \$30. Several points for the suggestion were made including the fact that since the number of auditions each accompanist was allowed per day was raised this year to ten, each accompanist could net more income; \$30 seems to be reasonable for most college students, and that since not all students require the full 30 minute rehearsal time, the fee should not be increased. Tim Sparks commented that he cannot find accompanists at the Regional level for less than \$50.

Decision: *It was moved, seconded and passed by membership present to increase the NC-NATS accompanist fee to \$30 for the audition and a rehearsal not to exceed 30 minutes. It was clarified that this new fee applies only to the NATS accompanists.*

Musical Theatre Guidelines: Liz LaBelle spoke about the new Musical Theater guidelines distributed to the membership prior to the meeting. She noted that the Executive Board consulted on the need for guidelines at its fall 2004 meeting, and presented them this year for the judges' consideration in adjudicating Musical Theater auditions. She indicated that while these guidelines had not been officially adopted by the Region at this time, it was expected that approved guidelines would be available following the Regional Board Meeting in April. She noted that feedback from the judges this weekend would be welcomed.

Online Registration: Vice President Barbara Peters congratulated members who were able to successfully navigate the new online registration system. She indicated that a few glitches still needed to be worked out, but that all in all, the inauguration of the online registration was a great step forward for our organization. She encouraged those teachers who submitted 181 paper applications to investigate the online registration for next year. She reported receiving 577 applications in all. 555 singers will be participating this year—the largest ever in NC-NATS history. She noted that "Singing is alive and well in North Carolina." Because of time constraints in this meeting, Barbara indicated that a survey will be circulated for feedback about the process, and informed the members that she is working with our webmaster, Dr. Grant Lewis, to work out some problems with the system. Barbara noted that the deadline was intentionally made earlier than usual this year to allow additional time for processing the first time online registrations, but that if more teachers access the online registration, that a later deadline could be considered for next year. Several comments from the membership were made concerning the difficulty in complying with the early January deadline, since college semesters do not commence until later in the month. She encouraged members to adhere to the deadlines, and noted that the online registration greatly facilitated her task of processing the applications. Barbara rejected last-minute requests for repertoire changes at this meeting.

Announcements:

NATS Winter Workshop: Liz LaBelle encouraged members to consider attending the upcoming Spring NATS Workshop entitled "Music Theater III" in Seattle, WA, April 2-6, held jointly with the MTNA National Conference.

Mid-Atlantic Regionals: Tim Sparks reminded us to read thoroughly the letter announcing the Mid-Atlantic Regional NATS Spring Conference, scheduled for April 1-2 at the University of South Carolina at Columbia. He encouraged everyone to review the teacher procedures, and emphasized that teachers must sponsor their students who take part. He noted that a \$50 non-attendance fee will be charged to teachers who do not attend but send students to the auditions. He reminded teachers to mail in the yellow registrations cards by the March 12th deadline, and acknowledged that e-mail registrations would also be accepted by the deadline date. He announced that Dr. Arlene Shrut, faculty member of the Juilliard School and Manhattan School of Music, will be the guest clinician for the weekend.

NATS National Convention: NATS President Jane Dillard encouraged members to take part in the International Congress of Voice Teachers 6th Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, August 11-15, 2005. She noted that guest clinicians include Elly Ameling and Rudolph Jansen. She also announced the 2006 NATS National Convention will be held in Minneapolis, MN, and will concentrate on developing young teachers. The 2008 National Convention is planned for Nashville, TN, and will focus on all styles of vocal music, from classical to commercial. She noted that "Important, exciting things are happening on the national scene."

The Meeting adjourned at 9:25 am.

A Note of Appreciation

By now you have probably received word that our very capable and dedicated Regional Governor, Tim Sparks, has declined a second term. While disappointing to hear, it is understandable that Tim has found it necessary to shift his focus to other personal, family, and professional priorities. Our NC officers would like to express on behalf of our entire membership, how appreciative we are for his extraordinary efforts in our organization. His outstanding leadership at the state and regional levels, and his boundless enthusiasm for and dedication to the professional objectives and standards of the NATS organization, have been the hallmarks of his years of service. We thank you, Tim, for your genuine service over the past several years, and wish you and your family the very best.

At its June meeting, your NC officers unanimously agreed to submit the name of another of our finest, Dr. John Blizzard, as a candidate to fill this vacancy, and you will note from the recent letter from Tim, that John was selected by the regional nominating committee as the candidate for Tim's successor. Please be sure to fill out the postpaid ballot and mail it by the August 1st deadline. We'll look forward to announcing his confirmation following the National Convention in Vancouver in August.

Suggestions, comments, or contributions for our next *NC-NATS News* should be submitted to NC-NATS Secretary Liz LaBelle via email: singingbiz@aol.com.