



National Association of Teachers of Singing  
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

# NEWSLETTER

September 2009

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## Letter from our President

*Well Hello!*

End of August, end of summer, beginning of school. Welcome back!

I had a busy summer. I spent a lot of time getting ready to teach my first-time-ever graduate history class, on the songs of Samuel Barber. I'm also working on putting together my teacher Donald Stenberg's project—he called it "Interpretive Analysis," but I think it's more like analysis of interpretation—to try to publish it, maybe as an article or something. I'm managing my parents' finances now, and trying to keep up with their medical issues. Also lots of teaching, some singing, and—surprise!—lots of NATS stuff.

The "First Annual SFBAC-NATS Summer Performance Workshop for Singers" was a big success, IMHO. We had ten singers—exactly the right number—at all levels of age (15-60!) and accomplishment and experience, including both classical and musical theater. The master classes and performance sessions were on subjects that were relevant and helpful to everybody, and the focus on performing every day and getting both oral and written feedback resulted in big improvements in everyone's performances. The final concert was a joy to behold. Check out the participants' comments on the website.

Of course there are things that could have been better. I was late in announcing who the teacher/panelists would be, so you couldn't be sure if it would be a good experience for your students. We could be clearer about what kind of singers would benefit from participating—everybody, basically—and I've heard from a couple of people that they didn't think their students were good enough. And I think that we'll need to find a way to pay our NATS panelist-members at least a token fee, so they can afford to leave their studios for a couple of days. Not too much, though, or the program will get too expensive—like all the others!

## NATS NEWSLETTER

Anja Strauss c/o SFCM  
50 Oak Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102

I hope that we can do three workshops next summer, in different parts of the Bay Area—one in San Francisco, one in the South Bay, and one in the East Bay/Tri-Valley area. I think we have a chair (Jefe? Capo? Cheffaine?) for San Francisco—do we have any volunteers for other areas? It's not really an awful lot of work—mainly find a venue, then use the organizational stuff we established this summer. Anybody?

Many many thanks to Sharon Kaye, who not only made it possible to use the wonderful Santa Clara Performing Arts Center, but also had a large part in getting it built! We were really fortunate to get to have the use of such a fine facility—a beautiful theater and stage, and a black box theater that was perfect for coachings. Thanks also to Brian Staufenbiel, Meghan Dibble and Joe Frank (and of course Sharon) for their caring and effective teaching and mentorship, and for the generous donation of their time.

As a young singer I participated in five training programs, and I've taught in a couple and watched many students go through them. Short or long, pay-to-sing or apprentice-level, focused on rehearsing & performing productions or roles or scenes, or providing coaching and master classes with a variety of famous people, there's one thing that I think nearly all of them lack, and that's the opportunity to perform EVERY DAY. Students always come back complaining that they didn't get enough singing assignments. Performing is a thing that takes practice in and of itself, and the more you do it, the more comfortable you are, and the better you become. The chance to perform in front of people day after day really builds confidence, and allows singers to finally relax and be themselves. And that's rare.

I really do think that providing an excellent program for all levels of singers for a reasonable price is a very valid thing for our chapter to do. Let's do more!

Buried in the minutes of the Board meeting on August 2 is a mention of the board's discussion about adding a director of publicity. There are so many things that we could be doing to get the word out about our activities, but we don't seem to have the time to get them together. For example, for the upcoming Inside Admissions symposium, we should be mailing flyers to local high schools and choir directors and other teenage programs for them to post, along with email blasts that can be shared with members and parents. This should be happening right now. If we had a publicity chair who had databases for those things, the organizer of the program could send the materials, then focus on the event. We have some great things going on, but we need help getting the word out.

Volunteers????!!!!

This is getting too long, so it's time for me to stop. But there's lots more exciting stuff to talk about: the NATS convention in Salt Lake City, upcoming events, getting the Singing Festival rolling, lots of cool stuff. Next time.



*Looking forward!  
Wendy*

## 2009-2010 Officers

President, Wendy Hillhouse	whillhouse@aol.com
Vice-President Programs, Aleicia Byrnes	aleiciabyrnes@aol.com
Vice-President Recitals, Victoria Rapanan	vrsing@sbcglobal.net
Vice-President Singing Festival, April McNeely	april_mcNeely@yahoo.com
Membership Secretary, Grace Johnson	johnsongmw@yahoo.com
Corresponding Secretary, Alison Collins	alisonc@ix.netcom.com
Treasurer, Dorothy Barnhouse	dorbarn@sbcglobal.net
Recording Secretary, Tina Baird	tinabaird@earthlink.net
Newsletter Editor, Anja Strauss	nats.newsletter@anjastrauss.com
Webmaster, Meghan Dibble	finalalice@hotmail.com

## 2009-2010 Board Meetings

Sunday, October 4, 2009  
Sunday, January 24, 2010  
Sunday, March 14, 2010  
Sunday, May 2, 2010

## Newsletter

The next newsletter is planned for early October 2009. The **deadline** for your materials is **September 20, 2009**. Please send your articles, notes, announcements etc. as word documents or as regular text within your email to the following email address:

nats.newsletter@anjastrauss.com



**Minutes of SFBAC-NATS Board Meeting for August 2, 2009, cont'd**

Dorothy will look into the costs of **creating a scholarship** for members who have never attended an annual convention to be able to do so.

**Discussion** considered creating a new Board position of Publicity Chair. A person in such a position would ensure that SFBAC events would be properly publicized. Tina, in collaboration with Sharon, will write a blurb about such a position to be published in the September newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 PM, to be followed by a chapter party hosted by Wendy and her husband.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Tina Baird* – Recording Secretary

*WELCOME!*

Please welcome our new members:

**Erin Neff**  
344 Utah Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
Phone: 415-307-1294  
Email: erinneff@sbcglobal.net

&

**Martin Benvenuto**  
2300 Broadway, Apt. 10  
Oakland, CA  
Phone: 510-628-0215  
Email: martinbenvenuto@hotmail.com

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*A Note From Your New Newsletter Editor*

Hello, I am Anja Strauss, and I'd like to introduce myself as your new newsletter editor. I am very excited to be taking on this position and to be serving as one of your board members of our San Francisco Bay Area chapter!

First of all, I'd like to thank Joshua Elder for doing such a fantastic job with the newsletter over the past years. I will try my best to follow his lead. Although I'm expecting everything to continue pretty much the same way as before, please forgive me, if the release of the first newsletters won't be completely flawless.

As before, the deadline for each upcoming newsletter will be the 20th of each month. Please send your articles, notes, announcements etc. as word documents or as simple text within your email to the following email address:

nats.newsletter@anjastrauss.com

I look forward to receiving your features.

Best wishes to you all-

Anja



## **NATS Student Recitals**

Sunday, October 11, 2009 at  
3:00 PM  
Rossmoor - Fireside Room,  
Gateway Clubhouse, Walnut Creek

Contact Victoria Rapanan:  
victoriarapanan@healthyvocaltechnique.com  
Phone: (925) 216-5913

## **Your VP of Recitals Needs Your Help!!**

We are now beginning a new year for SFBAC NATS Student Recitals and I really need your help! I am concerned because recital activity has dried up in that we have no recitals booked yet for the Fall. I have not been able to inspire any new Recital Coordinators, and existing ones will not be scheduling anything until later on in the year. In addition, one of our main venues has not responded to my requests to set a date, and while I will continue to try to work with them, we really need some new possibilities.

We need Recital Coordinators in all parts of the Bay Area! Are you a church choir director or church member who can help secure a recital space? Do you have contacts in retirement homes for active seniors? Do you have contacts with any other possible venue? It would need to be either free to us or low cost, and even preferably, able to make a donation to NATS. In return, NATS Student Recitals provide an inspiring and entertaining program for all.

If you are interested in being a Recital Coordinator or even want to discuss the possibility, please contact me by email (victoriarapanan@healthyvocaltechnique.com) or phone (925-216-5913). I would be happy to help you set it up. We even have a step-by-step document to guide you through the process. Above all, it is very rewarding to produce these programs, giving our talented, young singers performance opportunities in a supportive and positive environment.

**Future Board meetings** are currently planned for October 4, 2009, January 24, 2010, March 14, 2010, and May 2, 2010. All these meetings to occur from 3-4:30 PM.

**The Singing Festival date is April 24, 2010.** This will take place at San Francisco State University.

**Our fiscal year closes May 31.**

**Annual general meeting will be held Sunday, June 13, 2010,** place and time TBA. The nominating committee needs to begin to prepare the election slate before the Singing Festival.

**Membership report:** We have 2 new members, bringing our total to 148 members. Two are still unpaid.

**Corresponding secretary report:** Emails come in; emails go out.

**Singing Festival report:** April absent from this meeting

**Student Recitals report:** Victoria absent from this meeting

**Webmaster's report:** Given by Wendy in Meghan's absence. Website building is in temporary suspension as Meghan needs to deal with personal affairs.

**Newsletter report:** Read by Wendy in Anja's absence. The shift from Joshua to Anja is going smoothly. The next newsletter will be the September one. The newsletter deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month; deadline for the September newsletter is August 20.

**Treasurer report:** SFBAC is in excellent financial health. Wendy received a check deposit card.

**Recording secretary report:** Nothing to report

**Program report:** Aleicia absent from this meeting

### **New business:**

Dorothy made a motion that board members should receive \$5/month to cover their out-of-pocket expenses because they are Board members; the president should receive \$100/annually. Tina seconded. Only this fiscal year (6/1/09-5/31/10) is covered in this motion. Ratification by email needed from absent Board members.

## Minutes of SFBAC-NATS Board Meeting for August 2, 2009

**Present:** Dorothy Barnhouse, Tina Baird, Alison Collins, Wendy Hillhouse, Grace Johnson; visitor: Sharon Kaye

Meeting called to order at 3:10 PM.

Wendy reported that 2 **new board members** have been officially approved: Anja Strauss, replacing Joshua Elder as Newsletter Editor, and Aleicia Byrnes, replacing Sue Field as Vice President of Programs.

Wendy reported that she doesn't expect a big turnout for the chapter party, which will begin at 4:30.

**The budget for the upcoming Performance Workshop** was submitted by Wendy. This Workshop will be held at the Mission City Center for the Performing Arts August 3 thru August 7, with members of the chapter acting as teachers. We have 9 singers signed up, with one provisional. (Workshop was predicated on an attendance of 10.) We have two excellent coach/pianists for the event. Panelists will receive gas money. We expect to break even. Next time we should pay our panelists for their time, and ideally should offer a workshop in two different locations and time frames. Budget unanimously approved those present. Additional votes will be taken by email. Our Fall Symposium will be Inside Admissions, a repeat of a program we did in 2007 which was a great success. It will present information to graduating high school seniors, transfer students, parents and teachers concerning what to prepare for and what to expect when applying for admission to a collegiate vocal program. This program will be held at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, 50 Oak St., SF on Sunday, September 27, 2008 from 1 – 5 PM. Panelists will include Pam Fry, Debra Lambert and Brian Staufenbiel, representing public and private schools, and conservatories, and musical theater as well as classical music. This program will be open to everybody, with a charge of \$10 for admission. Light refreshments will be available.

**The IRS** is 6 months behind; result for us: our tax number as a 501(c)(3) (non-profit organization) is delayed arriving.

**Progress on preparing our Oren Brown DVD:** Lucy Beck's son has successfully lifted an excellent portrait from the recorded content; Lucy is doing a bio; Wendy has a graphic artist friend to prepare appearance of finished product; Lucy will see the project through. We will plan to market it at the Conference in Salt Lake City next July. We should also get ads into the Conference brochure and our national Journal.

NATS San Francisco Bay Area Chapter  
presents

### **2009 Fall "Inside Admissions"**

How to be accepted to an Undergraduate  
Vocal Performance Program

Sunday, September 27, 2009, 1-5pm  
Recital Hall

San Francisco Conservatory of Music,  
50 Oak Street, San Francisco



Teachers nationwide agree about what they want to hear and see at auditions for admission to undergraduate vocal performance programs. Yet prospective students keep making the same mistakes. Let our panel show you how to apply and audition successfully.

Students, parents and teachers of college-bound singers (all ages) are urged to attend. Information for both classical/opera and musical theater will be included.

#### **PANELISTS:**

Wendy Hillhouse (moderator)  
Pam Fry (San Francisco Conservatory of Music)  
Brian Staufenbiel (U.C. Santa Cruz)  
Debra Lambert (Notre Dame de Namur)

The symposium will be in two parts:

- 1. Panel Discussion:** How the admissions process works from application to acceptance: what is expected of a young singer on the application and at the audition. Lots of time will be devoted to answering questions from the audience.
- 2. Mock Audition:** Up to 8 singers will each present one piece from the art song, aria or musical theatre repertoire, accompanied by Dr. Timothy Bach, Accompanying Program Chair at SFCM. Panelists will point out what makes a successful audition.

#### **\*SFBAC Teachers\***

Please submit your nominations for "Mock Auditioners" (students who are planning to apply to college vocal performance programs within the next two years) by 10:00 a.m. September 11 to Aleiciabyrnes@aol.com, Programs Chair. Include your contact info, student's name, age, gender, and genre and title of song to be sung. Participants and alternates will be selected by lottery by SFBAC.

Contact whillhouse@aol.com or Aleiciabyrnes@aol.com for more info.  
Presented by the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter,  
National Association of Teachers of Singing, in conjunction with the  
San Francisco Conservatory of Music Admissions Department.

## NATS ARTIST AWARDS to Award \$50,000 in Cash & Scholarships



Do you have a young professional student ready for the concert stage? Are you a young professional NATS member age of 35 or younger? If so, look into the NATS Artist Award Competition (NATS-AA). The NATS Artist Award is a national competition designed to assist singers who are prepared to launch a professional career. The competition awards over \$50,000 in cash and prizes. The first place winner receives:

- \$10,000 first place cash award
- A New York City Debut Recital, sponsored by "Distinguished Concerts International New York"
- A full tuition scholarship to attend the American Institute of Musical Studies (AIMS) in Graz, Austria, worth \$2,675.

Finalists and semi-finalists win scholarships and prizes ranging from \$500-\$4000.

Who is eligible to participate? Singers age 21-35 on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 who have been coached for at least one year by a current NATS member, OR who are themselves a member of NATS (in good standing).

Repertoire requirements are detailed, but a brief summary would be: 12 recital selections divided into 4 groups. In addition, contestants must include one opera aria, and one oratorio aria, for a total of 14 selections. Please consult [www.nats.org](http://www.nats.org) under the title "competitions" for specific detailed repertoire requirements.

Please note the NATS Artist Award is a separate competition from our local Singing Festival – they are NOT the same. Our local "Singing Festival" is open to all levels of singers and occurs in April. NATS-AA is a national competition for young professional singers only, and the preliminary level NATS-AA Audition for Northern California will occur sometime between February 1<sup>st</sup> and March 30<sup>th</sup>, with the exact date and place yet to be determined.

The NATS-AA competition takes place every other year, with the final rounds being held at the NATS National Convention – this year in Salt Lake City on July 1 & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010. For policies, procedures, and eligibility guidelines see the current NATS-AA application available at [www.nats.org](http://www.nats.org). All forms are submitted electronically from the national NATS website.

**Application Deadline: November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

Kathleen Ludowise  
Northern California Governor  
NATS-AA Chair for Northern Calif.  
e-mail: [kathyludowise@yahoo.com](mailto:kathyludowise@yahoo.com)

## Workshops for Singers with Anja Strauss San Francisco Conservatory of Music / Adult Extension



### 1. SINGING IN GERMAN

Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m.  
SFCM, 50 Oak Street, San Francisco,  
CA, 94102, Room 207  
Starting September 15  
Class Recital on Saturday, October 24  
at 2.30 PM, Recital Hall  
7 classes, \$295.00

This class - taught by native German singer Anja Strauss- serves as a hands-on approach to the preparation of German songs and arias. The class will meet weekly and each participant will present selections of their choice. Repertoire may be suggested by the instructor upon student's request. Students are expected to prepare assigned song selections on their own, and all songs will be performed and discussed in class. This class will conclude with a public recital on Saturday, October 24 at 2.30 PM in the Conservatory's Recital Hall.

Prerequisites: Open to intermediate/advanced singers

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### 2. PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP FOR SINGERS

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m.  
SFCM, 50 Oak Street, San Francisco, CA, 94102, Room 323  
Starting September 16, Room 323  
Class Recital on Saturday, October 24 at 2.30 PM, Recital Hall  
7 classes, \$295.00

This class will provide a safe environment for singers of all levels to enhance their performance skills. The class will meet weekly and each participant will present selections of their choice. Students are encouraged to critique each other. We will then work on improving stage presence, such as introducing yourself and your repertoire, physical presentation and getting into character. This class will conclude with a public recital on Saturday, October 24 at 2.30 PM in the Conservatory's Recital Hall.

Students may register for classes by completing the registration form and mailing or faxing it to the Conservatory at 50 Oak Street, San Francisco, CA, 94102 or (fax) 415-503-6299. Students may also register over the phone with a credit card by calling 415-503-6229.

More info: [www.sfcm.edu](http://www.sfcm.edu)  
Registration info: [http://www.sfcm.edu/prep\\_adultdivisions/adult\\_registration.aspx](http://www.sfcm.edu/prep_adultdivisions/adult_registration.aspx)  
Registration form: [http://www.sfcm.edu/pdf/AE\\_Fall\\_0910\\_FORM.pdf](http://www.sfcm.edu/pdf/AE_Fall_0910_FORM.pdf)

A Graduate Recital  
*Theresa Cardinale*  
~ mezzo soprano ~  
Monroe Kanouse  
~ piano ~



Sept. 27, 2009  
Sun., 3 p.m.

ADMISSION FREE  
Reception to follow

Regents Theatre  
Holy Names Univ.  
3500 Mountain Blvd.  
Oakland, CA

## **NATS NEWS**

Go to the [www.nats.org](http://www.nats.org) website for more information about these two new member benefits:

### **Free Classical Singer Magazine and YAP Tracker discounts for NATS members!**

The NATS Board of Directors has entered into new partnership agreements that provide increased benefits to EVERY ACTIVE NATS member starting this fall. With these new partnerships alone the value of NATS membership is nearly doubled. Would you like a **FREE** subscription to **Classical Singer Magazine** valued at \$53 per year? How about a 15% discount on a subscription to **YAP Tracker**, the leading Young Artist Program and Competition service? Both of these are now important benefits of NATS membership.

### **Simplified Membership Process Approved by NATS Board**

The NATS Board of Directors approved a streamlined membership process for new members effective immediately for a trial period of one year.

The new process:

- eliminates the letter of recommendation requirement
- allows members to join online immediately as associate members with an automatic upgrade to full membership status upon review by the membership committee
- maintains all other requirements for membership

## 51st National Conference to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah July 2 - 6, 2010

You are invited to join us at our 51st National Conference to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah. With over 700 attendees at our last national conference, we are anticipating another record attendance as voice teachers from around the world and their students gather July 2-6, 2010 at the Little America Hotel and Towers for five days of education, networking, and many cultural experiences. *Our featured guest artist will be Nationally Acclaimed Soprano, Tony, Emmy Winner, Nominee, and SAG Nominee Kristin Chenoweth, who will give a concert in Abravanel Hall on July 3, and a featured master class on July 4.*

**NATS Member Early Registration is \$315.00** (includes a ticket to the Kristin Chenoweth Concert and a ticket to the Gala Banquet).

Help support the important programs that are part of the NATS National Conference and promote your products throughout the event and beyond by becoming a Conference Sponsor, Exhibitor, or Advertiser. We have a package that will meet your marketing goals, and your budget.

**NEW THIS YEAR-** There will be a dedicated Grand Opening of Exhibits on the opening evening of the Conference in conjunction with the opening evening reception for three hours prior to the NATSAA Final Auditions on Friday, July 2, 2010. This will be a dedicated time slot for attendees to visit the Conference Exhibits.

**For Pricing Information and Registration** visit us at [www.nats.org](http://www.nats.org), and click on the programs tab, or you can call us at 904-992-9101.

## SFBAC-NATS will give grants to help members attend the coming national NATS conference in Salt Lake City, July 2 to July 6, 2010

Applications will be considered from members *who have never attended a national conference*. These conferences are held once every two years. Members who have attended have found them invaluable.

- not only for information and experience gained from lectures and workshops on the huge variety of topics that apply to the teaching of singing,
- or from the association and connection with voice teachers from huge renowned institutions or from tiny remote hamlets all over the US and Canada,
- but also from forming closer connections to the other members of our own chapter who are also attending.

Watch upcoming newsletter for application forms, or contact Dorothy G.Barnhouse, [dorbarn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dorbarn@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

## Auditioning Now for “*Just Voices*”

The newly formed professional a cappella vocal ensemble, *Just Voices*, of SingersMarin, is holding auditions for a few new voices to add to its numbers, (currently just 8 members – wanted, up to 16). The repertoire is eclectic, from early medieval/renaissance to 21<sup>st</sup> century compositions, including traditional folk songs and spiritual arrangements, as well as popular standards and today’s contemporary a cappella sound. As the professional ensemble within the nonprofit SingersMarin, a performing arts organization of choruses for youth and adults, *Just Voices* is setting the standard of excellence for the art of choral singing. The goal is to be one of the finest vocal ensembles in the Bay Area.

What we are looking for:

- Extensive choral and a cappella singing experience
- Advanced sight-reading skills
- Excellent musicianship and intonation
- Colorful, soloistic voices (specifically a resonant low bass, and rich low alto)
- Someone with vocal percussion background
- Ability to blend (control vibrato)
- Language experience (Latin, German, French, Spanish)
- Interest in a broad range of music (from classical to jazz)
- Passionate and fun-loving singers
- Commitment

What the audition will include:

- Assessment of vocal instrument and aural skills
- Tonal and atonal sight-reading
- Perform two songs of your choice - contrasting style (classical and popular/jazz)
- Perform prepared selection (sent to you via email)

Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings, from 7:30 – 9:30 in Mill Valley  
A calendar of additional commitments are established at the beginning of each season.

Auditions are being held by appointment. Call: 415-383-3712 or email: [singers@singersmarin.org](mailto:singers@singersmarin.org)

## Volti - Singing without a Net

Volti, a paid professional chamber choir specializing in new music, is auditioning for the 09/10 season.

Advanced reading skills, experience in high level choral singing, and significant vocal abilities are required.

If you would like to be considered for an audition, please send your music resume to [maestrobgeary@gmail.com](mailto:maestrobgeary@gmail.com)

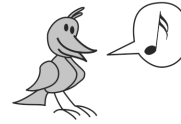


*SingersMarin* is holding auditions for all **youth and adult choruses** on **September 5<sup>th</sup>** and **12<sup>th</sup>**, at our office (1038 Redwood Highway in Mill Valley). Interested singers should call (415)383-3712 to schedule an audition appointment.

Since 1987, *SingersMarin* has been providing the opportunity for singers of all ages to gain valuable musicianship skills, make new friends, and discover the joy of singing. We are currently inviting new members to join our family of youth *and* adult choruses. Please call the office or e-mail us at [singers@singersmarin.org](mailto:singers@singersmarin.org) to learn more about the audition requirements, and visit our website [www.singersmarin.org](http://www.singersmarin.org) to read about all of our different choruses.

On these two dates, we will have 15 minute time slots for singers of all musicianship levels to audition and find out more about our organization. If you are an interested singer but can't audition on this date, another appointment can be made upon request.

Contact: Alison Lieber  
(415)-383-3712



## BANGKOK: My experience teaching and performing By Victoria Rapanan

As some of you know, I was gone for the past 2 months teaching in Manila and Bangkok, culminating in a performance in Bangkok. This was my third trip to Asia as a guest instructor, but the first time that I received major sponsorship and an invitation to perform.

Teaching in Asia always enriches my life as a singer and teacher. I was privileged to work with all levels of singers - beginners with gorgeous voices, university voice majors, voice teachers, and professional opera singers. To experience the dedication and passion of these singers, their thirst for vocal technique, and the deep appreciation given to me, brings my teaching to a new level.

Some of these singers have "natural voices", such as in Manila, where they have sung all of their lives in choruses, but never had any formal training. I am always astounded by the quality of these "natural voices", many of which sound professional and polished! Their lack of formal vocal training does not stop them from learning about singing (mostly through internet downloads and YouTube). They are as serious as any conservatory voice major, except that they have to work much harder to get the information. They are only too happy to rehearse 4 mornings a week from 5:30 AM-7:00 AM (after a 2 hour commute each way), plus spend all day in church on Sunday's (6:00 AM-4:00 PM) – for free and all for the glory of singing!!

The dedication and humility of the singers did not end with the beginners. Most of my students in Bangkok are professionals, yet their quest for knowledge is that of a young singer who is discovering their voice and the joy of singing for the first time. I was in awe at the wonder in their eyes when presented with new technical information, and their smiles when it worked immediately for them. I am astounded by their work ethic. Many of these singers have been my regular students, practicing faithfully, even daily, with their lesson recordings from the previous year. Most even remembered all of the past exercises from a year ago!

Besides teaching, I must also report about the enthusiastic publicity and reception I received as a performer. Unbeknownst to me, my performance was heavily advertised in multiple languages in numerous newspapers, magazines and websites. Posters of the performance and my classes were all over Bangkok. While I was on the plane, I was casually reading the Bangkok Post (an English newspaper, the size of the NY Times), only to find a ½ page article on me with my humongous size headshot! It was almost twice the size of Harry Potter's picture on the previous page! I was utterly shocked by all of this preparation, and it made it that much more exciting.

Both my teaching and concert were a tremendous success. Plans are already being discussed for next year, to include another location in Thailand. I am so grateful for the kindness and generosity of these singers, and the difference it makes in my life. I wish I could help all American singers realize the wealth of knowledge, information, resources and experience available to us that others only dream of.



## West Bay Opera needs Tenors for La Boheme

Do you adore singing? Are you enthusiastic? do you love Italian? music? opera? good company? like to wear cool costumes? Learn something new? are you a tenor? Then West Bay Opera's marvelous chorus is for you!

We are seeking 3 more tenors for our ranks-you don't need to be Pavarotti to sing well! All we ask is a solid voice, good attitude and a willingness to hop aboard and try something new. We are rehearsing Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Palo Alto (see below). Once staging starts, add Sundays.

Inquiries should be directed to the chorus manager Joanne Bogart: [jrbogart@gmail.com](mailto:jrbogart@gmail.com).

Rehearsal schedule can be found at [www.stanford.edu/~jrb/wbo/boheme/schedule.html](http://www.stanford.edu/~jrb/wbo/boheme/schedule.html)

## Chorus singers needed for Mission City Opera

Do you love singing in any language? Are you enthusiastic? Would you like to be a part of a World Premier Cast? Do you love Music and Good Company? Would you like to wear cool costumes? Learn something new? Are you a Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Baritone or Bass? Then Mission City Opera's marvelous chorus is for you!

All we ask is a solid voice, good attitude and a willingness to try something new. We are rehearsing Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Santa Clara. Once staging starts, other times may be added.

Rehearsal schedule will be found at: [www.missioncityopera.org/rehearsalschedule](http://www.missioncityopera.org/rehearsalschedule)  
Contact Sharon Kaye at 408.749.7607 or [info@missioncityopera.org](mailto:info@missioncityopera.org)



## LAMPLIGHTERS AUDITIONS for Gilbert & Sullivan's "PATIENCE"

Director: JANE ERWIN HAMMETT •  
Conductor: BAKER PEEPLES

### AUDITION DATES:

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2009: 2:00 – 5:00 PM  
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2009: 7:30 –9:30 PM  
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2009: 7:30 –9:30 PM

AUDITIONS ARE HELD AT THE LAMPLIGHTERS REHEARSAL HALL, 469 BRYANT STREET (between 2nd and 3rd Streets in the South of Market area of San Francisco).

**AUDITIONS ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.** Please send an EMAIL to [auditions@lamplighters.org](mailto:auditions@lamplighters.org) requesting an audition appointment. Give your first and second choices of times. You will be notified by return email of the date and time of your audition appointment. If you do not have email, you may call 415-227-4797 between the hours of 10 AM and 5 PM, Monday through Friday (or leave a message) – but **email communication is greatly preferred.**

**AUDITION FAQs:** Please come to the preliminary audition with two contrasting songs in English, preferably from opera, operetta or classical music theatre, that you feel will show off your voice well. An accompanist will be provided. Bring your music in the key in which you will sing it. Also bring your headshot and resume, if you have such materials, and your calendar so that you can give us any conflicts that you may have during the rehearsal period. Callbacks are tentatively scheduled as follows: Sunday afternoon/evening September 27 for all callbacks.

**REHEARSALS** will begin in early November. Rehearsals are usually Sunday – Thursday. A tentative schedule will be available at the auditions, and more detail will be provided as soon as available. We will take breaks for the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays, but will probably not be able to cast people with extensive holiday travel plans.

**PERFORMANCES** January 15, 16, 17, 29, 30, 31, 2010

**CAST:** We are looking for strong singer/actors for the following roles. Experience in Gilbert & Sullivan not necessary if you can sing and act the role:

Reginald Bunthorne · Patter baritone, Archibald Grosvenor · Low tenor/high baritone, Colonel Calverly · Bass baritone, Major Murgatroyd · Baritone, The Duke of Dunstable · Tenor, Lady Jane · Contralto or mezzo soprano, Lady Angela · Mezzo soprano, Lady Saphir · Mezzo soprano or soprano, Lady Ella · Soprano, Patience · Soprano

CHORUS OF RAPTUROUS MAIDENS AND DRAGOON GUARDS

**More info:** <http://www.lamplighters.org/auditions.html>