



*National Association
of Teachers of Singing*
San Francisco
Bay Area Chapter
Newsletter

September 2008

Letter from our President

Sometimes I feel so lonely.

I spend my days teaching wonderful students—one day a week my private students, and three days a week my students at school. But at the end of the day, I don't have anyone to talk to about what I've been doing. My husband listens willingly, but there's no way he gets it. I have great colleagues at school—in fact, twelve years ago when I started making the transition from singer to teacher, one of the things I most looked forward to was having colleagues who were doing the same thing as I on a daily basis, who I could talk to about all those things. But we're all so busy—we commute, so we try to use our time most efficiently, which means very little free time for collegial lunches and happy hours.

I've been to several workshops and conventions, and they're great—we have enough time between sessions to really connect and form tight friendships. But then we go home and resume the rat race.

I'd like to get to know colleagues who are teaching the high school students who audition for us at school. I'd like the chance to chat with the people who are casting local concerts, and network with colleagues who specialize in teaching choral singers and people who are amateurs and purely love to sing. I'd like to offer opportunities for my private students to practice their audition and performance skills, and get feedback from professionals beside myself. I'd love to ask for tips and advice, or just have people to share victories and disappointments with.

I know it's not just me. Here in the Bay Area we're all on the run, trying to stitch together a living in this wonderful but very expensive place. We long for contact with colleagues, but don't often have time to go to meetings.

And so I've been asking myself: Why NATS? Are there ways for NATS, and specifically SFBAC, to fill some of those needs?

I think so. And here I find myself, president of our local chapter. So I ask, what can SFBAC do to serve our membership better?

One thing that I think is obvious is that we could be doing a lot more with our website. Giving each member an individual webpage (and help building it!), opening discussion groups and blogs, having local "NATS Chats," providing links

to information and groups and resources, having an up-to-date events and auditions bulletin board—the possibilities are multitudinous and exciting. We have a very savvy and capable webmaster in Meghan Dibble, and I hope we can give her the resources to allow her to really get that website going.

Our new Correspondence Secretary, Alison Collins, has some new ideas about communicating with you, and I'm looking forward to finding ways for you to quickly and easily respond.

Our chapter is geographically large, and we have substantial numbers of members who live far away from San Francisco. I'd like to find ways to offer smaller-scale but worthwhile events in multiple areas—please send ideas about this!

I'm urging all the board members to find ways to delegate parts of their jobs, so more people can participate and no one is stuck doing it all. You might get a call asking if you can help with some specific thing, and I hope you'll be able to answer, "Yes!"

I would like to ask you to do a little thinking about "Why NATS?" and how the local chapter can serve you. Maybe you could write a few paragraphs about your ideas, and put them in the Newsletter, and we could post it on the website. And I very much hope that you'll send me your thoughts and ideas.

Thanks to outgoing president Sharon Kaye, the chapter is running in the black financially, and everything is lined up so we can make great progress. Sharon has been a wonderful president, and we look forward to her continuing participation. Sharon—a thousand thanks! And we owe Diana Rae Ryan, also retiring from the board, similar thanks and kudos. Diana was single-handedly responsible for so much that her job had to be split into three! Many thanks, Diana.

I'm excited. We have such a fabulous membership. Think how great we can be! Looking forward! -Wendy

OUR NEXT SFBAC-NATS Board Meeting--

all members are welcome!

When: Sunday, September 28, 2008, 2:30-4:00 p.m.

Where: Victoria Rapanan's home in Pleasant Hill--

email Victoria for address and directions

2007-2008 Officers

President: Wendy Hillhouse	whillhouse@aol.com
Vice President of Programs: Sue Field	mezzo54@comcast.net
Vice President of Recitals: Victoria Rapanan	vrsing@sbcglobal.net
Vice President of Festival: April McNeely	april_mcneely@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Dorothy Barnhouse	dorbarn@sbcglobal.net
Recording Secretary: Tina Baird	tinabaird@earthlink.net
Membership Secretary: Grace Johnson	johnsongmw@yahoo.com
Correspondence Secretary: Alison Collins	alisonc@ix.netcom.com
Newsletter Editor: Joshua Ian Elder	joshuaianelder@hotmail.com
Webmaster: Meghan Dibble	finalalice@hotmail.com

NATS SFBAC FALL SYMPOSIUM

Sunday, October 12th 2008 1.30pm – 5.30pm

Osher Salon of the San Francisco Conservatory

The Anatomy of Wholeness: Foundation of Freedom for Singers

featuring

Babette Lightner

Stones in Water

Movement Education and Learning Methods

www.babettelightner.com

This workshop presents a new model for understanding human structure and function and the implications of this model for singing and teaching singing.

SFBACNATS is thrilled to bring Babette to San Francisco, to share this exciting research (based on anatomist and master teacher David Gorman) Those of us who attended the Rhode Island NATS 2007 summer workshop where she was a presenter felt exhilarated after her sessions there.

In addition to the Sunday workshop, Babette will be available that weekend for private or semi-private sessions. These will take place in Redwood City.

References

‘ My teaching has been revolutionized by what I learned from you’ (She gave a student, suffering from anxiety and negative thinking some written material) ‘I was teaching a new person’ The student said ‘ I worked a piece tonight using that approach and the difference was unbelievable’

A voice professor left a message, to his effect. ‘ I can safely say I have never felt so fantastic in my teaching, nor have I ever felt so able to facilitate some exciting self-discovery for people. I have never seen so much progress in my students, at such a rate. They are just on top of the world’

Information: Sue Field (Program Chair) 650-796-1829
or mezzo54@comcast.net

Babette Lightner
describes “Anatomy of Wholeness for Singers”

This workshop presents a new model for understanding human structure and function and the implications of this model for singing and teaching singing.

Human Compatible Teaching:

A fundamental principle underlying the Anatomy of Wholeness work is that the closer our pedagogical approach is to the way humans actually function the more effective our teaching will be. This is "Human Compatible Teaching". A key component of Human Compatible teaching is that we, as teachers, remain open to new and more accurate information about human functioning as it is discovered, from neurology to structure and function ideas.

We also continue to question our own teaching methodologies. A great deal of common physical instruction is based on alignment/postural ideas or movement ideas that have little to no relationship to how humans are actually designed to be upright and functioning in the world. There is a vast wealth of updated material about our structure and function that has profound implications on how we sing and teach. The coordinating system model presented in the Anatomy of Wholeness workshops is based on this new scientific information.

The Model: Our Inbuilt-Coordinating-Elastic-Suspension System:

We are one whole, already integrated and coordinated being. We have built into us a coordinating-elastic-suspension system that can be relied upon to organize us as best as possible in any given circumstance. It is always working for us unless we interfere with it by either trying to take over our system or turning it off.

What I mean by taking over is any attempt to impose a structural or postural idea on ourselves. Many common postural and voice pedagogy instructions fall into this pitfall. "Stand tall" or "come into your dignity posture", "open your chest", "free your head", "shoulders back". The turning off interference is expressed in ideas like "relax your jaw", "drop your shoulders".

Human Compatible Pedagogy - Exploratory teaching:

How do we support optimal singing without those impositions and instructions?

Many problems are not a question of what to do to fix the problem, but of discovering why the problem is there in the first place. The student is the one with the information needed to find this out. Thus the teacher needs tools to help students get at that information accurately and fully.

The teacher needs to help students make sense of what they find and help them know what to do with it so the problem does not recur. Students may need to make different choices or see things differently. In the workshop we will look at ways to facilitate this discovery of the cause of interferences with your students. The approach consists of asking clear and direct questions and discerning the implications of what is uncovered.

Another key aspect of the implications on vocal pedagogy of the coordinating system model is having skills to help students become independent learners. This is different than teaching a student what to do.

It is the difference between directive teaching: "Sing it like this" and exploratory teaching: "What did you notice when you sang the first time and the second time? What explains the difference? What did you prefer and why?"

In the latter students learn to make sense of their experiences and access their own criteria for making choices. This kind of approach prevents a huge territory of tension for many students. There is no "trying to get it right" or "trying to please the teacher". Students learn to explore, discover and make choices based on realistic expectations and knowledge of how they learn and change.

I am including two testimonials because hearing from people who have actually experienced the workshop is perhaps the most accurate reflection of the potential benefits of the workshop.

The student wrote this teacher a letter, part of which I include here. "This new approach is AMAZING. I keep repeating to myself: 'Intend, Do, Assess, Clarify'. I worked a piece tonight using that approach and the difference was unbelievable. Instead of just constantly berating myself until I reached a breaking point, I sang it with a certain goal in mind, attempted it, looked back to see if the goal was achieved, and decide whether or not it worked. Although it'll be a long while until I can fully adapt this method, since my vocal pessimism also affects many other aspects of my life, this has really helped a lot."

I look forward to coming to present this material to you in October. I will be available for individual sessions on the Saturday before the workshop. In these sessions I can work with you or your students on anything that feel problematic in singing the way you want to sing. I can work with everything from excess tension to performance anxiety and confidence to freedom in expression.

For more information about my work please see my website at www.stonesinwater.com.

Feel free to contact me directly at babette@stonesinwater.com or 612 729-7127.

Materials for Newsletter Publication
should be sent **electronically** to:
joshuaianelder@hotmail.com
Deadline: September 20

A note from your VP of Recitals

Happy September to you all. Besides being the end of summer, this marks the beginning of another season of NATS Student Recitals. I would like to continue the momentum of getting more teachers and students involved. So far we have 2 recitals scheduled: Sunday, Nov. 9 @ Rossmoor, Walnut Creek and February 15 @ Peace Lutheran, Danville (see calendar for details). This is a call to all Recital Coordinators to please get your recital dates on the calendar well in advance so that teachers and students can plan ahead. Also, we really need recital coordinators for Marin and the Peninsula. We have some excellent venue possibilities on the Peninsula, but we just need a coordinator! It's not that much work and 2 teachers can work together to plan it. We already have recital coordinators for SF, East Bay, and South and North Bay, but if anyone else wants to plan another recital in these areas, you are welcome to join in. Just let me know.

I look forward to another successful year of NATS recitals. Let's get some more dates scheduled. Please prepare your students in advance. Having regular performance opportunities outside of studio recitals is very motivating for all of our students!

Thank you,
Victoria

Victoria Rapanan
(925) 216-5913
Vice President, Recitals
www.healthyvocaltechnique.com

OUR NEW CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Dear SFBAC NATS Members, Greetings! My name is Alison Collins. I am beginning my tenure as SBAC NATS corresponding secretary. I am looking forward to beginning this job. I think it will be a great way to get to know the members of SFBAC NATS better. From now on, please send all messages you would like forwarded to the SBAC NATS membership to me at: alisonc@ix.netcom.com Please include "NATS" in your subject line! Please e-mail me if your e-mail address is changing, or you would prefer your SBAC NATS e-mail to be sent to another address. Diana Rae Ryan has done an outstanding job serving as corresponding and membership secretary for several years, and has now finished her term. Brava, Diana! I look forward to hearing from you and getting to know all of you better. Best regards. Alison



Announcement from Karen Brookens Potter, Cal-Western Regional Governor:

The weekend of March 13-15th, 2009 has been reserved for a special Cal-Western Regional NATS workshop to be held in Reno, Nevada featuring master clinician PAUL KIESGEN from Indiana University .

Those who have attended Paul's workshops report they are wonderfully presented and highly informative. A specific venue in Reno will be announced later in the year, but we need you to spread the word to your chapter membership so that they can mark this date in their calendars!

BIOGRAPHY:

Paul Kiesgen holds B.Mus and M.Mus degrees from Northwestern University School of Music. He is Professor of Voice at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music. In addition to studio voice, he teaches courses in vocal pedagogy for master of music and doctor of music students. He served as chairman of the voice department from 2001 to 2004. His students have sung in major venues throughout the world and many have taken important positions in teaching. He appears frequently as a master class teacher and lecturer on voice teaching, having conducted master classes and workshops around the world, including London, Oslo, Shanghai, and Rome. He was a clinician at both the 2006 and 2008 NATS Conventions.

Some of the recent topics of his master classes include:

- In Search of Perfect Phonation
- Teaching Men to Sing
- Teaching Sopranos
- Resonance Strategies for Male Singers

Dear SFBAC Members,

Dorothy Barnhouse, our coordinator for the NATS SF Late Bloomers Recital, needs to know if there is interest in having a Fall program. Would all interested teachers please contact her: dorbarn@sbcglobal.net by Oct. 1?

The Late Bloomers fills a great need for singers who might not otherwise feel comfortable performing in other NATS events. Please help by asking your students and let Dorothy know by Oct. 1 if interested.

Thank you.

Victoria

Victoria Rapanan
(925) 216-5913
Vice President, Recitals
www.healthyvocaltechnique.com

SFBAC NATS

Minutes of the Board Meeting

Sunday, August 3, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 2:40 PM at the home of President Wendy Hillhouse.

Present: Wendy Hillhouse, Meghan Dibble, Dorothy Barnhouse, Sue Field, Sharon Kaye, Tina Baird, April McNeely, Grace Johnson, Victoria Rapanan, Alison Collins

Absent: Joshua Elder

President, Wendy Hillhouse welcomed the new Board.

Alison Collins was confirmed as the new Corresponding Secretary by an email vote of the Board.

Membership Chair, Grace Johnson:

We have a new member, Marissa Atha from Sacramento. When new members come in, all Board members should be informed. Computer listings are being brought up to date. There is a membership directory for the use of members only on the National website.

Corresponding Secretary, Alison Collins:

She will send reports via email. We have three members who are not on email. Reports and announcements should be sent to her via email.

Festival Chair, April McNeely:

California State University East Bay has changed its policies regarding outside use, including that it now charges for use. She is still trying to get a venue for the Festival and the date is not yet confirmed. She is leaning toward March 21 as a date because of school schedules. Meghan will check on Canada College as a possible venue. Sharon is offering to do the hospitality for the Festival. Festival assistants needed. April will send an email to set up meeting when she has more information.

Recitals Chair, Victoria Rapanan:

Recital locations are needed in Marin and on the Peninsula. Recitals are scheduled for November in Rossmoor and for January in Danville.

Dorothy Barnhouse requested that a commendation be made to Diana Rae Ryan for all the hard work she has done over the last few years.

Website Manager, Meghan Dibble:

She will have a page for each member who wishes to be on the website. She would like to move from our present arrangement to a Sharepoint platform. This will make for a consistent presentation of announcements and also be easier to do. We could then offer a website to each member.

The Oren Brown presentation is now available on DVD as well as VHS. Meghan requested not to be the fulfillment center for any selling that the chapter might do. Sue Field volunteered to do our selling.

People registering for any of our symposiums can now do so online.

Meghan will arrange the website so that when people search for singing teachers, our teachers will be the first choices available.

The Barlow, Cohen and Swift funds are currently not listed on the website. It was suggested that they appear there as scholarships.

The Kathryn Harvey grant has not yet arrived.

Sue Field will scan the (hard copy) newsletter into digital form in order that it will be available for the website.

Newsletter Editor, Joshua Elder:

Joshua not being able to be present at the meeting there was no report made.

Treasurer, Dorothy Barnhouse:

We continue to operate in the black. Currently our CDs, at 2.37%, come due at the same time. Dorothy will rearrange this so that they mature at different times.

Files will be kept in Sharon's garage. Chapter coffee urns are currently in Sharon's garage.

Program Chair, Sue Field:

The Fall Symposium will be held Sunday, October 12, 2008 from 1:30 - 5:30 PM in the Osher Salon of the San Francisco Conservatory at 50 Oak St. in San Francisco. Babette Lightner will speak on "The Anatomy of Wholeness: Foundations of Freedom for Singers." More information about her can be found at www.babetterlightner.com and will also be in our September newsletter. Private, semi-private or small groups sessions with Babette can be held on Saturday, October 11 at \$80/hour. Booking should be made through Sue Field. The cost of the symposium to SFBAC will be \$600 plus airline fare. We can ask for money from National for these costs. We will charge for this Symposium a regular fee of \$35 and \$10 for students; Conservatory students are free of charge, because the Conservatory is donating the space.

Dates for Board meetings for the coming year were chosen. There will be meetings September 28, 2008, November 23, 2008, January 25, 2009, and April 19, 2009. All these meetings are scheduled for 2:30 PM. The annual General Meeting will be held Sunday, June 21, 2009. (*Editors Note: The date of AGM has been changed to Sunday, June 14, 2009.*)

Minutes shall be sent first to Wendy for corrections and then to the google-group of the Board and must appear on the website within 2 weeks of a Board meeting.

A quorum of the Board shall consist of 7 members. Any financial decisions must be a unanimous Board decision. There was some discussion as how to attain this if some Board member(s) were absent from a meeting.

Tina reported on the DVD "Air Is A Gift." It is currently not in an approvable form.

There was some discussion of the ownership of the google-group of the Board. We have two google-groups: one of Board members and one of the entire membership. Alison needs to get material in a timely fashion.

National is encouraging chapters to form SNATS [Student NATS] chapters.

Adjournment was made at 5:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Baird, Recording Secretary

Soprano Anja Strauss is offering two classes at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music / Adult Extension:

PERFORMANCE TRAINING - for Singers

Mondays, 7:00-8:30 p.m. / starting September 22, 2008
San Francisco Conservatory of Music / Room 207 / 8 classes, \$220

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 a selection of their choice. Students are encouraged to critique each other. We will then work on improving stage presence, incl. introducing yourself and your repertoire.

Prerequisites: Open to singers of all levels

GERMAN LIED PERFORMANCE - for Singers and Pianists

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m. / starting September 17, 2008
San Francisco Conservatory of Music / Room C07 / 10 classes, \$365

This class - taught by a native German singer - serves as a hands-on approach to the preparation of German Lied/art song repertoire. This fall the main focus will be on the composers Schubert and Brahms. Students will work on song repertoire that can be found at SFCM's library. 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.

Prerequisites: Open to intermediate/advanced singers and pianists

Info and Registration:

San Francisco Conservatory of Music - Adult Extension
50 Oak St. San Francisco, CA 94102 phone 415.503.6229
www.sfcm.edu/prep_adultdivisions/prep_adultextension.aspx
For more info about Anja, visit: anjastrauss.com

Hands-on Workshops

The Care of the Acting and Singing Voice:

A Multidisciplinary Approach

Program Committee

Soha Al-Jurf, MA, SLP

Ruth Rainero, MA

Sarah Schneider, MS, SLP

Lecture: Psychological Paradigms for Effecting Change in the Singing Voice

Tom Cleveland, PhD

Two heads are better than one: teamwork and the injured singer

Edie Hapner, PhD, SLP and John Nix, MM, MME

Combining Therapeutic Approaches for Muscle Tension Dysphonia

Starr Cookman, MA, SLP and Alissa Deeter, MM, PhD

From the toolbox: Keys to healthy and easy singing

Soha Al-Jurf, MA, SLP and Ruth Rainero, MA

Coaching Actors Performing Heightened Emotional Text

Kate DeVore, MA, SLP and Fonta Hadley, MA

Panel: Multidisciplinary Approach to Voice Care in Actors and Singers

moderated by Sarah Schneider, MS, SLP

2008 UCSF VOICE CONFERENCE

This full day of hands-on workshops will highlight the benefits of collaborative care for acting and singing voice professionals. Four 90 minute workshops will be co-presented by a speech pathologist specializing in voice and an acting or singing voice teacher. Each workshop will demonstrate, using a singer or actor, the effectiveness of this partnership. The day will conclude with a 90 minute interactive panel discussion.

UCSF Voice and Swallowing Center

2330 Post Street, 5th floor

San Francisco, CA 94115

Friday, October 17, 2008

Registration/Continental Breakfast: 7:30-8:00am

Adjournment: 5:30pm

Sir Francis Drake Hotel

450 Powell Street

San Francisco, CA 94102

Registration: \$130

For more information and registration, please visit the UCSF Voice Conference website at **www.cme.ucsf.edu**

SFBAC Annual General Meeting

Saturday June 21, 2008, 3:00pm

Jewish Community Center, Foster City.

3:00 to 3:30 - socializing, sipping and snacking on goodies prepared by Sharon Kaye

Present: NATS members: Tina Baird, Dorothy Barnhouse, Alison Collins, Meghan Dibble, Joshua Elder, Sue Field, Eric Howe, Audrey Howitt, Sharon Kaye, April McNeely, Victoria Rapanan, Diana Rae Ryan, Seoung Lee Wilson.

Guests from Lyric Images: Jungil Kim, Wing Yin Tang, Shirley Wong

1. The In-Focus Projector, purchased by the chapter for the Scott McCoy workshop, available for rental, was loaned to Tina Baird at no cost for work on the production of the DVD with Lyric Images.

2. Reports:

festival, April McNeely

Negotiating with Cal State University East Bay for next year.

Exact time and place TBA in the fall. Considering plans to include more activities, workshops, etc.

membership, Diana Rae Ryan

143 active members, 2 deceased, 11 emeritus, 4 new

newsletter, Joshua Elder

Next Newsletter will appear beginning of September. Janet Campbell has agreed to write a regular column. All members are urged to send thoughts, experiences, so that the newsletter will not merely be a list of auditions.

programs, Sue Field

Fall Workshop 2007, Inside Auditions, the brainchild of our new president, Wendy Hillhouse, was a huge success. there have been requests to repeat this, Spring Workshop was cancelled due to circumstances beyond anyone's control. Fall Workshop October 2008 will be presented by Babette Lightner. For details about her work see www.babettelightner.com. Sue will be asking members to brainstorm with her about topics for future workshops.

recitals, Victoria Rapanan

During 2007-2008 the recitals continued to grow, we have new recitals and new coordinators. A coordinator is needed for Marin.

Victoria also reported on her teaching in Manilla and her contact there with teachers who belong to PATS (Phillippine Association of Teachers of Singing). She will be going back this summer, also to Bangkok.

treasurer, Audrey Howitt

All funds are in the black. Activities in 2007-2008 have either broken even or brought income to the chapter. See the website for details.

website, Meghan Dibble

Kinks are being worked out, before the end of 2008 it will be possible to pay dues online and use the store.

3. Amended Bylaws. The final revision of the amended Bylaws was accepted unanimously. They can be seen on the website.

4. Election of Officers for 2008-2010

The slate of nominated officers was unanimously accepted.

President, Wendy Hillhouse VP programs, Sue Field

VP festival, April McNeely VP recitals, Victoria Rapanan

Membership Secretary, Grace Johnson

Correspondence Secretary (still unfilled)

Treasurer, Dorothy Barnhouse Recording Secretary, Tina Baird

5. Preview Air is a Gift DVD produced by Tina Baird and Lyric Images.

We watched the DVD which lasted about an hour, and filled out a questionnaire giving comments to the producers.

We continued to socialize, sip and snack.

Meeting adjourned at 5.30

Dorothy Barnhouse, Recording Secretary

edited by Sue Field and Sharon Kaye

Group Therapy for Singers Experiencing Psychological Effects of Past Trauma

Co-leaders Grace Johnson, DMA and Linda Ormiston, PhD announce the formation of a therapy group for singers who are coping with or suspect they have had a past sexual trauma that impacts their singing and/or performance. Participants must be aged 18 or older. For additional information please email johnsongmw@yahoo.com or phone 408-472-2029.

Linda Ormiston is a licensed clinical psychologist. She received her doctorate from Stanford in 1972. Dr. Ormiston has been in private practice since 1981, where she has done significant work with survivors of abuse. In addition, her practice focuses on anxiety; depression; re-writing life's scripts; and behavioral self-management, including weight management. In 1976, she co-authored *Taking Charge of Your Weight and Well-Being*, one of the first books using cognitive behavioral techniques. In addition to her private practice, she is a textile artist and has designed and created liturgical vestments for individuals and whole church settings including altar frontals and hangings. In 2002, she was awarded the MDiv from Church Divinity School of the Pacific.

Grace Johnson teaches voice at the Gorin School of Music in Mountain View. An active member of NATS, she has shared her doctoral research, *The Effects of Childhood Sexual Abuse on the Adult Singing Voice*, in numerous venues in London and the United States, most recently at the Voice Foundation 2008 Symposium in Philadelphia. She has several articles in press and a children's book on stage fright (*The Little Fish Who was Afraid to Swim*) soon to be released. A mezzo-soprano, she specializes in oratorio and art song repertoire. She holds the MM degree in Voice Performance/Pedagogy from The University of North Carolina-Greensboro and DMA degree in Voice Performance from Shenandoah Conservatory of Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia.

Please Welcome Our Newest Member

Marisa Atha
2033 Bidwell Way
Sacramento CA 95818
916-995-9905
marisa@buoncanto.com

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Announcing auditions for THE SINGER'S GYM

The Singer's Gym is a professional workshop that gives singers tools to be more inspired, lively and connected in their singing. After training with us, singers have better auditions and get roles in many opera companies around the Bay Area and the country. Now in our 14 successful year, we work with committed singers in opera and music-theater.

The co-teachers are Ben Bernstein and Kathy Cathcart, both Master Teachers in the Merola and Adler Fellowship Programs at the San Francisco Opera. Ben is an opera director and acting teacher, Kathy is a vocal coach and music director of the Opera Workshop at the SF Conservatory of Music. Our accompanists are among the best in the Bay Area.

Comments from singers...

- "The Singer's Gym fills a need that is met nowhere else in the Bay Area. It allows singers to explore, grow and try out new things in a supportive environment."
- "Participating in the Singer's Gym has built my confidence and allowed me to really grow. Because of the consistent work with Ben and Kathy I feel more fulfilled as an artist and able to try things that I would not have dreamed of three years ago."
- "The instructors are of the highest caliber with a wealth of talent and experience. They provide expert attention to musicianship, dramatic context, language, and technical detail. I will definitely be applying for a third time."

Audition date: Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Location: The San Francisco Opera

Time: 5 - 9 pm

Auditions are by appointment only

The dates for the Fall Session are: October 25, November 1, 8, 22

All of our sessions are held on Saturdays in San Francisco from 1-4:30 pm.

Selected participants are expected to attend all sessions.

To schedule an audition or for more information, email singersgym@comcast.net.

NATS Newsletter

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
18234 Crest Avenue
Castro Valley, CA 94546