



Edited by: B. Sculac Stern

February 2015

Come join us for our upcoming concert:

New American Romantics

Composers of Our Time on Poems of Frost, Yeats, Agee, Graves, and Hardy

Friday, March 6, 2015 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, March 8, 2015 at 4 p.m.

The Church of the Holy Trinity

316 East 88th Street (between 1st and 2nd Avenues)

[Learn More](#) or **[Purchase your tickets now!](#)**

Concert Notes from our Music Director

Choir member activities: "Using Our Gifts"

Come join NAS for a special night - Sat. March 28, 2015

NAS Revue: *It's a Grand Night for Singing!*

Concert Notes from our Music Director



By: Clara Longstreth

When you attend the upcoming NAS concert, New American Romantics, it is likely that you will hear an entire program of unfamiliar music. But, when you leave, you may find yourself humming some of the beguiling melodies! The singers are certainly enjoying the great poetry and tuneful mix of songs by living composers.

This concert features the cycle "North Country," the



7th work by Ronald Perera NAS has sung. This time he has chosen some poems by Robert Frost, which are fairly unknown, many written while he lived in England, far from his native New Hampshire. NAS singer Nate Mickelson writes, "Frost's focus on rural landscape and plain speech distinguishes him from

other American modernists such as Ezra Pound and T.S. Eliot, who were also working in Europe at the time, but who aimed for a more cosmopolitan effect. Frost has a lot in common with British Romantics like Wordsworth and Coleridge. Even so, his world is less enchanted and more fraught than theirs."

Donald Grantham, a composer new to NAS, has written a lovely work to a poem by Jane Kenyon, a New England poet like Frost. "Let Evening Come" includes images of homely subjects, the barn, the hoe abandoned in tall grass, a fox's den. By the end the poem becomes personal, deeply emotional.

The music by Matt Harris that NAS has most often sung is light and somewhat playful. But in this program we sing an excerpt from Harris' opera on Tess of the D'Urbervilles. These choruses abound in melodic charm; they are romantic in every sense of the word.

Two other works would also get top honors for romantic style, Ben Moore's "The Lake Isle of Innisfree," and Morten Lauridsen's "Sure on this Shining Night." Come and be swept away!

Choir member activities: "Using Our Gifts"

By: Jason Hill

Unused Volunteer PTO: 16 hours. It was January 5th, 2015, and I found myself at work reviewing the previous year's allotment of vacation, holidays, etc. One of the perks that comes with working in a large institution is the use of PTO (Paid Time Off), the latest corporate acronym for time away from the office. It replaced sick time/vacation time some years ago as a means to give employees greater control over time away from work. Two years ago my company instituted an expansion of PTO; the concept of Volunteer PTO. Employees are encouraged to take time away from work to volunteer with a non-profit organization of their choosing. What a great idea! Yet I found myself sitting in front of my computer two years later having not used any of the allotted time. So, what was the disconnect? I wanted to help others and my employer encouraged me to do so.



photo courtesy of Hannah Kerwin

Many of us strive to use our gifts to help others. I've seen numerous instances during my short

time with NAS of folks going out of their way to lend a helping hand. Whether it is bringing snacks, organizing music, providing rides to events, or any number of activities, there is always someone willing to pitch in. But how do we initiate these activities ourselves? If we are not prodded to help, do our gifts sit on the sideline and remain unused? It brings me back to that computer screen in January: Unused Volunteer PTO: 16 hours. What a waste of an opportunity!

Since that morning I have endeavored to make sure that I never again pass up an opportunity to volunteer. Later this spring I will be using my 16 Volunteer PTO hours to assist a private elementary/middle school in Brooklyn with their spring gospel choir show. In discussions with the principal/CEO about the opportunity, it has become abundantly clear that although I will donate a very small amount of time, the reward both personally and musically will be immeasurable. I challenge each of you to do the same: find a place to use your gifts! Volunteer and enrich those around you. You may be amazed to find that the person receiving the greatest benefit from your efforts is you.

About Jason Hill: Jason was born and raised in Charlotte NC, and moved to NYC 10 years ago. This is his first year in NAS. A vocal performance major in college, Jason now works as a Senior Vice President in Commercial Lending with Santander Bank. That's a fancy way of saying he does large business loans. When not finding any and all opportunities to sing, he can be found at his apartment on the Upper West Side either curled up on the couch with his 11-yr old cat, Aria (type-casting for an opera singer's pet, no?!?!), or grilling out in his back yard. Both activities provide equal delight. Jason's hopes for the immediate future include getting married, starting a family, and finding a place in the city that makes real grits. 10 years and counting and the search continues!

Come join NAS for a special night - Sat. March 28, 2015

SHAKE OFF THOSE WINTER BLUES!
Come swing with us to the tunes of Timatha Kasten and her Total Knock Out Orchestra featuring some of our very own singers!

SWING 46
JAZZ AND SUPPER CLUB
349 WEST 46TH STREET, NYC



SATURDAY MARCH 28, 2015 at 7pm
\$145 per person
Includes 3 Course Dinner, Open Bar, Silent Auction and Dancing!

NAS

New Amsterdam Singers will be holding its 2015 Benefit, **"Swing with NAS"**

Timatha Kasten and her **Total Knock Out Orchestra** give exceptional interpretations of sophisticated jazz classics and Latin dance music in the style of Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughan, with a touch of Tito Puente. Timatha has charmed her listeners all over the globe from Japan to New York. Let these dynamic musicians work their magic on you!

Venue: Swing 46

Address: 349 West 46th Street

\$145 per person that includes cocktails, multi-course dinner, silent auction, and dancing to finish the evening!

[Click to purchase tickets!](#)

NAS Revue: *It's a Grand Night for Singing!*

By: Bernardica Sculac Stern

Another year, another wonderful night of music!



Singers from NAS showed a different side of their musical talents at the famed NYC cabaret venue, "Don't Tell Mama." From the fun "Nobody's Chasing Me" to the funny "Pierre," from the classic "Some Enchanted Evening" to the cool medley of Johnny Cash tunes, the crowds enjoyed a varied and pleasurable program. We were tantalized with old favorites like "When You're Good to Mama," and found new ones like "Proud Lady." We learned therapy can lead to unexpected revelations from "Dr. Schwartz," and confirmed "It's a Good Day," as long as we have enough "Java Jive!"

The following singers contributed their time, energy, and musical gifts: Dana Crowell, Susan Daum, Rebecca Dee, Johannes Gülich, Nathaniel Granor, Jason Hill, Kate Leahy, Mike Milton, Jay Pott, Nina Reiniger, Bernardica Sculac Stern, Ellen Stark, and Barbara Zucker-Pinchoff. Many thanks to the masterful direction of Paul Gordon Greenwood, the entertaining MC work of Mike Milton, and the wonderful production of Nina Reiniger. If you missed out this year, then make a note to yourself for next year, you'll be glad you did!



photos courtesy of Hannah Kerwin

View our website for information, past articles, tickets, and more: <http://www.nasingers.org/>



**PO Box 373
Cathedral Station
New York, NY 10025
www.nasingers.org**

connect with us

