

# What They're Doing...

the impressive accomplishments of AIMSers



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**1990-91** • Ingvaldur Yr Jonsdottir (Inga) resides in Iceland and writes, "I sang in the opening concert and was a finalist in the Meistersinger competition in 1991. Best of thanks for a wonderful program; it served me very well in my career!" Thanks for the update, Inga. Her website is [www.songstudio.ehf.is/english](http://www.songstudio.ehf.is/english).

**2006** • Elisabeth Schwarz (née Grabner) (Meistersinger 2<sup>nd</sup> Place) is currently under contract with the Salzburger Landestheater and the Theater Baden. In the summer of 2008 she sang in the Lèhar Festival in Bad Ischl. In recent years she has been engaged by the Vienna Volksoper.

**1995** • Stephanie Weiss (soprano '95, '00) was a winner at the Missouri state MET auditions held in February, 2001. She is now focusing on mezzo repertoire and is under contract with the Deutsche Oper Berlin and is scheduled for guest appearances in Frankfurt and at the Berliner Staatsoper unter den Linden. She maintains a private studio in Berlin in addition to her performance career. Recently she has been a member of the AIMS faculty.

**1998** • Amanda Mace (soprano '98, '00; '00 Meistersinger Competition Winner) sang on the Evelyn Lear/Thomas Stewart 2nd Annual "Emerging Singers" concert (sponsored by the Wagner Society) in 2001 at the German Embassy in Washington, DC. She was accompanied by Betty Bullock (AIMS faculty member, '84-'98, '00-'07). Music critic Phillip W. Raines wrote, "...A knowledgeable and enthusiastic audience greeted five young singers who gave electrifying performances of Wagnerian music and who literally had this audience cheering wildly at the end in support of the raw energy, fine singing, and excellent musicianship displayed throughout the evening...Amanda Mace negotiated the valleys and summits of "Dich teure Halle" quite well. The voice is enormous. More than a large voice, it is an extremely accurate voice in pitch and intonation. And then, there were the warmer tangerine tones in the high range that won me over. Ms. Mace has had training in how to use facial expressions to her advantage. Sieglinde, however, was the blockbuster...she let loose with "Du bist der Lenz" with no swooping, swapping (of pitch), or slurring (of line). The voice filled the hall, richly and warmly. The internal intensity she was portraying swept over the audience...this young artist has the goods both vocally and dramatically to become a great one. Watch this name."

**In 2007, she performed the role of Elsa in *Die Meistersinger* at the Wagner Festspiel, Bayreuth, Germany and in December sang one of the Walküries in *Die Walküre* at the Vienna Staatsoper. In 2008-10 she is contracted to sing Tosca and Ariadne at the Vienna Volksoper and to appear in performances of *Die Walküre* at the Staatsoper.** (Amanda was a student of Gustavo Halley in Kansas City.)

**1999** • Chad Johnson (tenor) was one of 4 winners in the MET Opera auditions in Buffalo and 2nd place winner at the Great Lakes Regional auditions in January, 2007. Also in January, he was engaged by Maestro James Levine to sing Ferrando at the Tanglewood Music Festival. "Maestro Levine offered me the role immediately following the audition in a one on one meeting in his office. It was a surreal and exciting experience to sit across from James Levine and have him compliment me on my singing and tell how excited HE was to work with ME this summer." In March, he sang Ferrando (*Così fan tutte*) with Connecticut Opera (Hartford) and then the Spring Concert Tour for Santa Fe Opera. He also appeared as Ruggero (*La Rondine*) at Lyric Opera San Diego and Alfredo (*La Traviata*) at Mobile Opera. In 2008, Chad will sing Ralph (*HMS Pinafore*) in Nashville, Ferrando (*Così fan tutti*) in Sarasota and Paolino (*Il matrimonio segreto*) in Brooklyn. In 2009, he appears with the Atlanta Symphony in Mozart's *Requiem*. ([www.chadajohnsontenor.com](http://www.chadajohnsontenor.com))

**2002** • Aldo Di Toro (tenor, Meistersinger Competition 1<sup>st</sup> Place) Click on AIMS Reviews for Aldo's comments and recent activity.

**1996** • Gustavo Halley (voice faculty '96-'07) retired in 2007 as a member of the voice faculty at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music. He has maintained an active performance career appearing in Kansas City Symphony's production of *Don Giovanni* in August, 2000, in *Madame Butterfly* with the Kansas City Lyric in September, 2000, sang the bass part in Stravinsky's *Les Noces* for the Kansas City Stravinsky Festival in February, 2001 and in March performed in *The Gondoliers* with the San Diego Comic Opera. His most recent performance was the title role in *Don Pasquale* with San Diego Lyric Opera (October, 2006). Also see AIMS Faculty Biographies.

**1969** • Cornelius Eberhardt (AIMS General Music Director and Principal Conductor '69-'06) celebrated his official retirement after more than a quarter-century as the General Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Corpus Christi Symphony in the Spring, 2000 with a performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony featuring soloists Elena Correia (soprano '97, '98) and Virginia Dupuy (voice faculty '93). Maestro Eberhardt continues as conductor emeritus with the Corpus Christi Symphony and as a guest conductor throughout Europe and the United States. He also

retired as AIMS' General Music Director in 2006 and received a gold medal award for his contributions to Graz and Styria from the Governor of Styria in November, 2006. Maestro Eberhardt is one of the four "founders" of AIMS. Maestro Eberhardt passed away after a short illness in 2010.

**2005 • Meredith Ziegler** (mezzosoprano) For two seasons, Meredith has been a Resident Artist with Connecticut Opera. She performed Mercedes in *Carmen*, Zulma in *L'Italiana in Algeri*, and Inez in *Il Trovatore*. Other recent roles include Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel* with Opera Theater of Connecticut. She will be joining Opera North in the summer of '07 as Principal Young Artist performing the role of Meg Page in *Falstaff*. In 2007, she was a Regional Finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and 2nd prize winner of the Amici Vocal Competition. In 2006, she won 2nd prize in the Connecticut Opera Guild Competition.

**1995 • Kevin Hanrahan** (tenor '95,'97) completed his doctorate and is assistant professor of voice at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**1997 • Priya Palekar** (soprano) sings with San Diego Opera and San Diego Lyric Opera.

**2006 • Ben Blozan** (piano) is a vocal coach with The Nashville (TN) Opera .

**2005 • Ann Juliette Schindewolf** (soprano, Meistersinger Finalist) made her debut as Hänsel in Flensburg (Germany) in November 2006, with tremendous success and has been invited in 2007 for Niklaus in *Tales of Hoffman*. She also signed a 2-year contract commencing September, 2007 with Bremerhaven (Germany).

**2006 • Andrea Hill** (Mezzo-soprano, Meistersinger Finalist) sang Cenerentola in Hof (Germany) Opera's production of *Cenerentola* in May, 2007.

**2005 • Dara Hobbs** (soprano, Meistersinger Finalist) was given a 2-year contract in 2006 by the Theater Krefeld, Mönchengladbach (Germany). In her first year she will sing Aida, Marie (*Bartered Bride*) and Ariadne. She has continued her career in Germany in the succeeding years.

**2006 • Amy Lynn Call** (Soprano, Meistersinger Finalist) was the national winner of the Sigma Alpha Iota Career Performance Grant last fall. She sang Zerbinetta's aria (*Ariadne auf Naxos*) with the Shenandoah Conservatory Symphony in April 2007 and, in June, the role of Queen of the Night in Chemnitz, Doebeln, and Freiberg, Germany.

**1998 • Blythe Gaisert** (mezzo '98) completed her Master's degree at the Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati. She sang the title role in Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia* in February, 2001 at CCM, Mere Marie in *Dialogues of the Carmelites* at the Aspen Festival in the summer with James Conlon conducting, a solo quartet on Zemlinsky's *Psalm 83* with the Cincinnati Symphony and Maestro Conlon, and performed with several opera companies. In 2007, she was a member of the Artists Studio at Sarasota Opera and will be performing the title role in *Carmen* in the summer of 2007 at the Aspen Music Festival. ([www.blythegaisert.com](http://www.blythegaisert.com))

**2002 • Ben Gac** (bass baritone '02) is a piano technician at Wheaton College in the Chicago area.

**1998 • Janice Creswell** (soprano '98, '99; '98 Meistersinger Finalist) was a member of the Cologne Opera Apprentice Program in Cologne, Germany in 1999-2000, where she sang the roles of Olympia/*Tales of Hoffman* and Blooming Maiden/*Parsifal*. In the fall of 1999, she won a 2nd/3rd Place (tie) in the Mirjam Helin International Singing Competition in Helsinki, Finland. In 2000, she received a contract in Mainz (Germany) to sing Frasquita/*Carmen*, Despina/*Così fan Tutte*, Blondchen/*Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, and Fire/*L'Enfant et les Sortilèges*.

**1976 • Deborah Polaski** (soprano '76) performed Cassandre and Didon in the 2000 Salzburg Festival production of Berlioz' *Les Troyens*. "...Deborah Polaski delivered Cassandre's fateful warnings with elemental power..." (Opera) She sang the roles again at the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich, Germany under the baton of Zubin Mehta and sang Ariadne at the 2001 Salzburg Festival. She starred at the Wagner Festspiel in Bayreuth and the Metropolitan Opera productions of Wagner's Ring Cycle operas. She will perform these roles again in Vienna in 2007. Read an interview in which she credits AIMS with starting her career at [www.musicweb-international.com/SandH/2006/Jul-Dec06/polaski.htm](http://www.musicweb-international.com/SandH/2006/Jul-Dec06/polaski.htm)

**1982 • Helen Bickers** (soprano '82, '86; guest performer '90, '96, '00; Master Class Instructor '96) returned to her home in Atlanta after singing with Hannover Opera (Germany) for many seasons (Countess in *Marriage of Figaro*, Queen Marie Antoinette in *The Ghosts of Versailles*, Amelia in *Un Ballo in Maschera*, Chrysothemis in *Elektra*, Helvetia in *Die Walküre*, Ariadne in *Ariadne auf Naxos* and many other roles) and in numerous other venues in Europe (*Aida* with Deutsche Opera Berlin, Verdi *Requiem* with Berlin Symphony Orchestra). She was a featured soloist in the 30th Anniversary of AIMS IN GRAZ celebration concert.

**1998 • Alaina Brown** (soprano '98, Meistersinger Finalist) was an apprentice with the Palermo Opera in Sicily in fall, 2000. In spring, 2001, she performed Annina in *La Traviata* with Michigan Opera Theater, where she also teaches and directs opera scenes workshops. In 2001/2002, she was a soloist with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra.

**1995 • Jeanné Brown** (soprano '95, Meistersinger Finalist) was presented in recital in spring, 2001 at Weill Hall in New York City by the Center for Contemporary Opera, accompanied by **Mara Waldman** (vocal coach, '97-'98).

**1994 • Jason Budd** (bass-baritone '94; Meistersinger Competition winner) won the 2001 Opera Columbus Competition.

**1983 • Betty Bullock** (AIMS staff pianist and faculty member, '84-'98, '00 – '11) was a coach-accompanist at the Washington Opera (Washington, D.C.) for many years and is now a faculty member of the Levine School of Music.

**1998 • Sarah Coburn** (soprano '98) was one of 10 national finalists in the Metropolitan Opera Competition in New York City and competed in the 1999 National Grand Finals Concert in April. She was also the winner of the Graduate Women's Division at the Texoma NATS competition in Dallas in November, 2000 and joined Seattle Opera the next season.

**1985-2004 • Elizabeth Nohe Colson** (voice faculty '85-'04) was honored by her students and many former AIMSers with a 75th birthday celebration concert in Atlanta on September 24, 2000 and again for her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2005. Performers at the concert in '00 included **Sandra Lutters** (piano '93; staff pianist '94), **Lea Lanier** (soprano '99), **Vanessa Olmstead** (soprano '98, '00; '00 Meistersinger Competition Finalist), **Fran Bjorneby Kraemer** (mezzo '00), **Jeanné Brown** (soprano '95, Meistersinger Finalist), **Elena Correia** (soprano '97, '98; '98 Meistersinger Competition 1<sup>st</sup> Place) **Arietha Lockhart** ('97-'98; '97 Meistersinger Competition 1<sup>st</sup> Place), and **Helen Bickers** (soprano '82, '86; guest performer '90, '96, '00; Master Class Instructor '96) and others.

**1981 • Rona Commins** (soprano '81) taught for the California State University summer programs in Florence, Italy (13 years) and Paris, France (5 years), with concerts in Florence, Pisa, Paris, Auvers-sur-Oise, and Venice.

**1997 • Elena Correia** (soprano '97, '98; '04; '98 Meistersinger Competition Winner) sang with the Palm Beach Opera in 2001 - Countess Ciprano (*Rigoletto*) and understudied Desdemona (*Otello*). She also attended the opera workshop in TelAviv with Joan Dornemann in 2000 and performed Rosalinda (*Die Fledermaus*) in Atlanta.

**1998 • Sarah Crane** (soprano '98; Meistersinger Competition Finalist and Audience Favorite) was a member of the Opera Studio in Cologne, Germany from August 1998 to August 2000 and spent the following year as a member of "Les Jeune Voix du Rhin", the opera studio attached to Opéra National du Rhin, Strasbourg. In September, 2001, she was contracted by the Freiburg Theatre (Germany).

**1999 • Natalyn Cuevas** (soprano '99) toured Georgia, Tennessee, and Florida in 2000-2001 as Rosina in a production of *The Barber of Seville*.

**1969 • Barbara Daniels** (soprano '69) had an extraordinary career in both Europe and America and now resides in Innsbruck, Austria.

**2000 • Michael Philip Davis** (faculty '98-00) performed in a concert of Kurt Weill works presented and narrated by Regina Resnik (Meistersinger Competition judge '99) at the Kaye Playhouse in New York City and in other venues including Nashville, TN. He also served as stage director for *Madame Butterfly* and *The Merry Widow* at Inspiration Point/Opera in the Ozarks. In 2001, he sang a world premier at Tampa Opera and repeated the role in February, 2007. In July 2006, Michael directed *The Tragedy of Carmen* at Todimusifest in Portsmouth, VA and will direct *Trouble In Tahiti* in 2007.

**1992 • Amy E.A. DeJong** (soprano '92) received a Master's Degree in Voice from DePaul University (Chicago) in 1997. She has sung in the chorus at Chicago Lyric Opera (*Die Meistersinger* in 1999), as Zo-Zo in DuPage Opera Theater's production of *The Merry Widow* in 2000, and as Mrs. Einsford-Hill in Pheasant Run Theater's production of *My Fair Lady* in 2000.

**1999 • Judy Diana** (staff pianist '99-'00) has served as a pianist for the Artist Center at Opera Colorado preparing and accompanying outreach shows and mainstage productions. She was also the accompanist for *Sweet Betsy from Pike* and *The Old Maid and the Thief* on a tour with the Intermountain Opera Company in Bozeman, Montana in 2001.

**1999 • Teresa Dody** (soprano '99; Meistersinger Competition Finalist) has recorded three operas – *The Seagull* by Thomas Pasatieri, *The Village Singer* by Stephen Paulus, and the title role in *Ariadne auf Naxos* and is contracted to record *Savriti* by Gustav Holst, *Medea in Corinth* by Benjamin Lee, and *Salome*.

**1998 • James Donegan** (tenor '98) has performed a number of roles in musical theater such as Che in *Evita*. He also performed in the ensemble of *Miss Saigon* at the Theatre Under the Stars in Houston in April, 2001 and has appeared in Atlanta and other cities. James lives in NYC, where he is an Equity union actor and has been involved in cabaret and concert performances and seen in national television commercials.

**1984 • Katherine Eberle** (mezzo '84) is a Professor of Voice at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. She served as the state president of NATS from 1998-2000 and UI Voice Department Chair from 1998-2000. She remains active as a

soloist and recitalist and has served as an adjudicator for competitions including the MET competition. Her recording, *From a Woman's Perspective*, is available on Albany Records and was also released by Vienna Modern Masters.

**2000 • Katy Elkin** (oboe '00) is principal oboe of the Haddonfield Symphony and performs regularly with Concerto Soloists of Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra. She is also a founding member of a Baroque trio of period instruments and plays the shawm in Piffaro, a Philadelphia Renaissance wind band.

**1984 • Valerie Errante** (soprano '84) is Associate Professor of Voice at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She actively performs in recitals and concerts and presents lecture recitals on the German art songs of turn-of-the-century Munich, part of an ongoing research, performance, and recording project. Her solo recording, *Songs of Alec Wilder*, was released by Albany Records.

**2000 • Martin Fournier** (tenor '00; Meistersinger Competition Finalist) completed his law studies at the University in Graz in 2001 and was engaged by St. Gallen Opera House (Switzerland). He now sings with the Graz Opera.

**2000 • Beaumont Glass** (vocal coach '00-'07) has recently published three books – *The Complete Song Texts of Hugo Wolf*, (Leyerle Publications) which is the latest in a series of song translation books, with other volumes that include the complete works of Schubert and Brahms), *Nicolae Bretan, His Life-His Music* by Hartmut Gagelmann, translated by Beaumont Glass (Pendragon Press) and *Memoirs of an Opera Bug* (Leyerle Publications). Prof. Glass now resides in Camden, ME with his wife, **Evangeline Noël Glass** (vocal coach '00-'07). Beaumont Glass directed Christine Steyer (soprano '05) in *The Crucible* at the ChamberOpera Chicago in January '07. Unfortunately, Prof Glass has been very ill in recent years.

**2000 • Jake Friesen** (tenor '00) was tenor soloist for Haydn's *Creation* in Kansas in 2001. In 2002, he sang the Steersman in *Der fliegende Holländer*.

**1992 • Barbara González-Palmer** (staff pianist '92-'95; staff pianist coordinator/piano faculty '96-'00) returned to teach at Rutgers U., where she is a member of the piano faculty and Director of the Collaborative Piano Program. She also holds the office of Regional Governor in the National Opera Association. Under her music direction at both the U. of Oregon and Rutgers U., opera theater productions received several national awards. Her students have been prize-winners, finalists or semi-finalists in contests held by such organizations as the Metropolitan Opera, Concert Artists International, and NATS, and hold teaching positions at institutions throughout the United States.

**1982 • Constance Haumann** (soprano '82) has sung throughout the United States and Europe with a successful one-woman show, *Exiles in Paradise*, that features music by composers Robert Stolz, Arnold Schoenberg, Oscar Strauss, and Kurt Weill, all of whom fled Germany for Hollywood during World War II.

**1983 • Gordon Hawkins** (baritone '83) sang the role of Enrico in *Lucia di Lammermoor* with Seattle Opera in 2000. "...Gordon Hawkins was a fine Enrico, full of vocal strength and a firm line." (Opera) He made his debut with Dallas Opera in the 2001 production of *Rigoletto*, singing the title role, and received the prestigious Callas Debut Artist Award for his outstanding performance. He subsequently sang Paolo in *Simon Boccanegra* with Dallas Opera and Captain Anckarstroem in *Un Ballo in Maschera* with Seattle Opera, among others.

**1992 • Mary Ann Hill** (soprano '92) was a soloist for the Mozart Society of Atlanta and the Atlanta Balalaika Orchestra during the 2000/2001 season.

**1972 • Roy Hinkel** (tenor '72) retired from teaching at Albright College in Reading, PA where he had been a staff member in the music department for 36 years.

**1972 • Liz Schilling Hinkel** (soprano '72) has been a faculty member in the Alvernia College Music Department and the Wyomissing Institute of Fine Arts. Both she and Roy have established private studios in their home where they teach voice and piano students.

**1993 • Bodo Igesz** (Stage Artistry, '93-'95, '97-'07) continues as Artistic Director of Greensboro Opera in Greensboro, NC. He is also engaged in other cities such as Green Bay, WI, Santa Barbara, CA and San José, CA. In January 2007, Bodo was Visiting Professor (The Roy Acuff Chair of Excellence Professor) at Austin Peay State U.

**1998 • Donna Janusko** (mezzo '98) recently performed the role of Berta in the spring production of *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* at Greensboro Opera Company in Greensboro, NC.

**1999 • Christina Johns** (soprano '99) sang the title role in *La Gioconda* and Santuzza in *Cavaliere Rusticana* with Casa Italiana Opera Company in Los Angeles in 2000-2001.

**1993 • Mary Frances Katz** (soprano '93) was a soloist with Capitol City Opera in *Riders to the Sea* and *The Crucible* during the 2000/2001 season and also performed in *Little Red Riding Hood* in the school outreach programs.

**1980 • Thomas King** (tenor '80, STAFF '83-'84, Audition Training Seminar instructor, '85-'05 AIMS CO-Artistic Director '04-'07), **Vicki King** (piano '80, staff pianist '83-'84, '86-'93, '95, Operetta Coach '97-'07), **Bard**

**Suverkrop** (bass '79, voice faculty '81, '84, '86-'87, '96-'97, '00), **Jan Suverkrop** (piano '79, vocal coach '81, '84, '86-'87, '96-'97, '00), **Roy Wylie** (piano '85, staff pianist '90-'91, '93-'95, '97-'00), **Jerry Biebesheimer** (baritone '79; AIMS staff '80-'84 and Meistersinger adjudicator) and **Arlene Biebesheimer** (soprano '80-'81, vocal coach '04) have performed a series of exchange recitals. The Kings gave a recital at Shenandoah Conservatory in Winchester, VA where the Suverkrops are faculty members, and the Suverkrops reciprocated in a recital at Austin Peay State U. in Clarksville, TN, where King is Professor of Voice. Roy Wylie gave a piano recital at Austin Peay and the Kings performed a recital at Auburn U, where Roy teaches piano. The Kings also gave a recital at Arkansas State U. where **Jerry Biebesheimer** serves as Director of the Fowler Center for the Arts and **Arlene** teaches music in Jonesboro. Then the **Biebesheimers** joined the **Kings** in a recital at Austin Peay State U.

**1981 • John Kolody** (piano '81; staff piano '82-'84, '86-'87, '92-'93; vocal coach '94-'98 and '03-'07) presented two programs at La Mama Experimental Theatre in the East Village of New York City in 2000. *Opera Burlesque*, an evening of operatic spoofs, was performed for two weeks in the cabaret room, and *I'll Take Manhattan*, a musical revue of songs devoted to NYC, played in the main theater for one week. In the cast for both shows were former AIMSers **Susan Burris** (soprano '93-'94), **Susan Cook** (soprano '84), **David McCarthy** (piano '93; staff pianist '98), and **James Donegan** (tenor '98). John continues to work as a coach and accompanist in New York City, including accompanying for the studio of Doris Jung. John also performed with the New York Grand Opera in Carnegie Recital Hall (now Weill Hall), joined at the piano by **Mara Waldman** (vocal coach '97-'98), and was a member of a Baroque ensemble performing Buxtehude and Mozart at St. Luke's in the Fields Church in Greenwich Village. John also presented a one-week course in cabaret at SMU in Dallas. John continues to be a regular on the AIMS coaching faculty.

**1993 • Edward Krader** (tenor '93, faculty '94) is now teaching voice at Hillsborough Community College in Tampa, FL. He spent 7 years auditioning and performing in Europe as well as studying with **Ena Thiessen** (voice faculty at AIMS for 13 years) in Munich.

**2000 • Fran Bjerneby Kraemer** (mezzo '00) continues as Director of Music at Westminster Presbyterian Church. In December, 2000 she soloed and conducted the Vivaldi *Gloria* with members of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

**1987 • John Lalande** (German language faculty '87, '89, '93, '97-'98, '00, '03, '06, '08, '10, '12) is presently the Chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Literature at the State University of New York College at Oswego.

**1999 • Lea Lanier** (soprano '99) was a soloist with the Augusta Symphony, presented a recital in Jacksonville, FL and performed the role of Mabel in *Pirates of Penzance* in Lagrange, GA in 2001.

**1979 • Andrew Litton** (piano '79) retired as Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Dallas Symphony in 2006 and now lives in New York City. In spring, 2001, he conducted *Rigoletto* at The Dallas Opera to critical acclaim.

**1997 • Arietha Lockhart** ('97-'98; '97 Meistersinger Competition Winner) gave a recital at Spivey Hall in Atlanta in Spring, 2000 which was repeated at Brenau University in Gainesville, GA in 2001. "...Arietha succeeded in wowing her audience. An exceptionally high soprano, her pure, unadorned tone and direct delivery is a refreshing change of pace..." (Atlanta Journal Constitution) In January, 2001, she won the Legacy Award at the National Opera Association Competition. She was a soloist in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in summer, 2001 and performed Helmwig in the 3rd Act concert presentation of *Die Walküre* with the ASO (Donald Runnicles conducting) in April, 2002. During the 2001/02 season, she understudied Leila in *The Pearlfishers* with Atlanta Opera.

**1989 • Ben Loeb** (piano '89 and Gramma Fisher Fellow) is currently pursuing a graduate performance degree in conducting with Gustav Meier at the Peabody Conservatory of Music after receiving an MA in accompanying from Curtis and a DMA in accompanying from Juilliard. He has performed in the U.S. and Europe and has conducted numerous performances ranging from the Harvard Concerto Soloist series with Yo-Yo Ma, to Lincoln Center, to recordings with his sister, rock star Lisa Loeb.

**1997 • Jim Lowe** (staff pianist '97) was recently hired as Asst. Conductor with Houston Grand Opera.

**1999 • Samuel Lowry** (tenor '99) completed his Master's Degree in Voice at Peabody Conservatory in 2001.

**1993 • David McCarthy** (piano '93; staff pianist '98) has been working and residing in New York City, where he plays in the studios of Doris Jung and **Antonia Lavanne** (voice faculty '81, '88-'92). He is affiliated with Mannes School of Music and also coaches in his private studio. David was previously a coach at Dallas Opera.

**1984 • Mary Mills** (soprano '84) has performed all over the world. Her roles include Pamina/*Die Zauberflöte* at San Francisco Opera; Marguerite/*Faust* for Opera de Lyon, France; the title role in Massenet's *Manon* in Bilbao, Spain and Monte Carlo; Micaela/*Carmen* at Paris Opera, Bastille; and a world premiere concert of Gil Shohat's *Israelina Symphonia* in Haifa, Israel. She also recorded Tom Tom/*Babes in Toyland* with John Mcglinn conducting in London; and sang the roles of the Infanta in Zemlinsky's *Der Zwerg* at Opera Garnier, Paris; Marguerite/*Faust* for Florida Grand Opera, Miami; Tatiana/*Eugene Onegin* for Opera Pacific in Costa Mesa; Ilia/*Idomeneo* for Opera Garnier, Paris; and Mimi/*La Boheme* for the Metropolitan Opera in the Parks Series.

**1997 • Edoardo Müller** (conductor '97, '04 -'12) conducted *Lucia di Lammermoor* with the Seattle Opera in 2000. "...Edoardo Müller showed once again that his keen sense of phrasing and pliant tempos place him high among bel canto conductors." (Opera) "...Eduardo Muller was the superb conductor, extracting every inch of drama and color from Donizetti's score - a vibrant, luminous performance." (Seattle Post) He had previously conducted *Lucia* at the Metropolitan Opera in December, 1999. In 2000-2001, Maestro Müller also conducted *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* with Seattle Opera, *Aida* with Cincinnati Opera, and *Idomeneo*, *Aida*, and the Verdi *Requiem* with San Diego Opera. Recent engagements include *Nabucco* with Cincinnati Opera in 2001, *Tosca* and *Don Pasquale* with San Diego Opera in 2002, *Tosca* with Dallas Opera in 2002, and *Traviata* at the MET in 2004. Maestro Müller continues to conduct at leading opera houses. A unique experience is his annual aria-reading master class for singers and orchestra players at AIMS.

**1982 • Cynthia Templin Moe** (soprano '82) has performed professionally since she attended AIMS. From 1986-1999, she sang with the St. John's Cathedral Choir. She has many concert recordings on the Delos and Penguin labels. She also performed with the Merola Program of the San Francisco Opera, Inspiration Point in Eureka Springs, AR, Central City Opera in Colorado, Cecilia Schulz' Program at Seattle Opera, and the Colorado Opera Festival.

**1994 • Jennifer Murray** (soprano '94, '99; Meistersinger Finalist) married Kurt Robert Hilbert in 2000. Kurt and Jennifer both studied opera at Northwestern U. in Evanston, IL, where Kurt completed double degrees in music and political science and attended law school. They spent an extended honeymoon in England, where he studied international law at New College, Oxford University. They performed recitals together in Atlanta in 2001 and attended AIMS together in 2002.

**1997 • Leon Natker** (Stage Artistry faculty '97-'00) and special lecturer several summers since then is General Director of the San Diego Lyric Opera. The company recently opened a restored theater which it owns and operates. The inaugural production featured AIMSers Andrea Huber (soprano) and Chad Johnson (tenor) and Leon in *Grafin Mariza*. Even the conductor was an AIMSer. Other productions staged by Leon have included fellow AIMSers **Douglas Schmidt** (baritone '99), **Gustavo Halley** (voice faculty '96-'07), **Laura Portune** (soprano '99), **Priya Palekar** (soprano '97) and others. Natker from SDLO retired in 2011.

**2000 • Emily Newton** (soprano '00) won the Senior Women's Division of the Texoma Region NATS Competition held in Dallas in November, 2000.

**1998 • William Noll** (conductor and presenter, '98-'00) continues as the Director of Mayfair Artists Representatives with offices in New York City and Naples FL. Also active as a pianist and conductor, he performed the Scharwenka Second Piano Concerto with the Jupiter Symphony in New York City.

**1998 • Vanessa Olmstead** (soprano '98, '00; '00 Meistersinger Competition Finalist) performed for an Atlanta Opera fundraising event in Atlanta.

**1976 • Sue Patchel** (soprano '76) debuted at the Metropolitan Opera in *Tristan und Isolde* (December, '99) when she substituted for Jane Eaglen, who was ill.

**1989 • Rebecca Polk** (soprano '89) is completing doctoral studies in voice at Indiana University in Bloomington, where she also teaches.

**2000 • Jerrold Pope** (voice faculty '00) formerly a voice faculty member at Florida State University, now teaches at Boston University and resides in Boston. He has performed from New Jersey to Paris, New York, Grand Rapids, and South America.

**1999 • Laura Portune** (soprano '99; Meistersinger Competition Alternate) credits AIMS with opening the door to her career by introducing her to Leon Natker (AIMS 1997). Her first professional job in San Diego led to other jobs. Laura sang Valencienne/*The Merry Widow* with the San Diego Comic Opera in March of '00, received a Master's Degree in Voice from the Ohio State University in June of '00, spent the summer of '00 as an apprentice with the Des Moines Metro Opera, moved to California to sing with the San Diego Opera Ensemble as Rosina/*The Barber of Seville* (touring the San Diego area and Mexico) from Aug '00- March '01 and Gianetta/*The Gondoliers* with the San Diego Comic Opera in March '01. She also performed with the Des Moines Metro Opera, covering both Lauretta/*Gianni Schicchi* and Violetta/*La Traviata*, and returned to San Diego to sing Juliette/*Romeo et Juliette* with the San Diego Opera Ensemble.

**1993 • Sylvia Plyler** (vocal coach '93-'97) is a professor of music at the College Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati, where she is an opera coach and accompanist. She also has worked as a coach for the Aspen Music Festival.

**2000 • Joslyn Rechter** (mezzo '00; Meistersinger Competition Finalist (3rd Place)) spent 2000-2001 in London at the National Opera Studio. The following year she joined the Cologne Opera Studio in Cologne, Germany.

**1998 • John Sands** (staff '98-'00, '05) finished composition studies at Vanderbilt University in Nashville in 2005 and now studies at the Philadelphia School of Design.

**1988 • Marti Braziel Schert** (soprano '88, '93, '95) teaches voice at Valdosta State University in Georgia, where she sang Queen of the Night in *Die Zauberflöte*.

**2000 • Sasha Shapiro** (viola '00) began playing with the Illinois Philharmonic in January, 2001.

**1989 • Rebecca Shipley** (soprano '89) sings in the Atlanta Opera Chorus and was a soloist at the Spoleto Festival in Charleston.

**2000 • Letitia Singleton** (mezzo '00) sang the title role in Handel's *Agrippina* in Lucca, Italy and entered the M.M. program at the College Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati in September, 2001.

**1995 • Robert Thies** (piano '95; Lieder Coach '04-'07 with Harold Heiberg) is performing internationally as a concert pianist. A gold winner of the International Prokofiev Competition, he was the first American pianist in four decades to win first prize in a Russian piano competition since Van Cliburn won the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow. Robert recently completed a 40-city tour of the United States, and his concerts and solo performances have been broadcast throughout Russia, the Baltic States, Mexico, and the U.S. "...Thies made his enormous technique the servant of the music – a superior musician on his way to a major career." (Savannah News Press). Robert continues an active career in performance of chamber music and with symphony orchestras.

**1996 • Indra Thomas** (soprano '96; Meistersinger Competition Winner) sang the role of Liu in *Turandot* in October, 2000 at the Metropolitan Opera, where she was a 1998 national auditions winner. She also sang Imogene in *Il Pirata* at the Caramoor Festival. "...Ms. Thomas's affinity for long-spun, slow melodic phrases was impressive. The audience awarded her a tremendous ovation." (New York Times) Other performances include Verdi *Requiem* in Utah, Elizabeth/*Don Carlos* in Boston, and Amelia/*Simon Boccanegra* (understudy) with the San Francisco Opera and the title role in *Aida* with the Chicago Lyric Opera and Atlanta Opera.

**2000 • Marsha Thompson** (soprano '00; Meistersinger Competition Finalist) received 2nd prize in the Marguerite McCammon Vocal Competition at Ft. Worth Opera in March, 2001. In 2002, she sang *Aida* in Verona and Milano in a Zeffirelli production funded by the Toscanini Foundation and Mimi in an English production of *La Bohème* in Houston with the Houston Ebony Opera Guild.

**1975 • Jo Ella Todd** (soprano '75, '76) was engaged in Mainz for a year after participating in AIMS, 6 years in Salzburg, and 9 years at the Munich State Theater as a soloist in the opera. She returned to the States to teach at Barry University and the New World School of the Arts in Miami and has been on the voice faculty at the University of Missouri in Columbia since 1995.

**1993 • Thomas Trotter** (tenor '93, '94; '94 Meistersinger Finalist) sang Lindora in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* with Arizona Opera and Minnesota Opera and Arturo in *Lucia di Lammermoor* with the Atlanta Opera during the 2000-01 season. In 2001-02, he sang in *Die Zauberflöte* with Birmingham Opera, Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* with Toledo Opera, and in the Mozart *Requiem* and Haydn *Creation* in New Jersey, Connecticut, and Illinois.

**2000 • John Tsotsoros** (tenor '00) was a winner at the Missouri state MET auditions in February, 2001.

**1991 • Rebecca Turner** (soprano '91; vocal coach '98) was a "fest" ensemble member of Düsseldorf Opera (Germany), where she sang in productions of *Der Freischütz*, *Der fliegende Holländer*, *Das Rheingold*, and *Orpheus in the Underworld* and *Turandot*. Rebecca now teaches voice at West Virginia University.

**1992 • Stafford Turner** (baritone '92) finished his DMA at CCM in Cincinnati in June, 2000 and is currently on the voice faculty at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, TX.

**1986 • Charles Wetherbee** (violin '86) is currently the concertmaster of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra in Columbus, OH.

**1990 • Sun Yu** (baritone '90) continues to perform guest roles throughout Europe. He was the winner of the Liederkrantz Competition, and was the 2nd cast Timur in the Washington (D.C.) Opera's Production of *Turandot*. Sun Yu was featured in the gala concert celebrating 30 years of AIMS IN GRAZ.

**2000 • Kurt-Alexander Zeller** (tenor '87) performed Monostatos in March, 2000 in Washington East Opera's production of *Die Zauberflöte* in Walla Walla, winning praise from critics for his skill as a singing actor, "...a unique facility which brought a clarity of character to the role not often seen." Last June, he was invited by Early Music America to be a member of a panel on "Keeping Musicians Healthy" at the 6th Biennial Berkley Festival of Early Music in California. Dr. Zeller is administrator of the annual "What Every Performing Artist Needs to Know About the Body" summer workshop on body mapping and Alexander Technique at Willamette University in Salem, OR, where he is on the voice faculty. Kurt teaches voice at Clayton State University in Jonesboro, GA.

• **Western Michigan University** in Kalamazoo presented "A Recital by Winners of Scholarships for Study at AIMS in Graz". Appearing on the program were **Bryan Fowler** (tenor '00), **Leah Krznarich** (soprano '00), and **Susan Musselman** (soprano '99, '00).