

Fall Symposium

“*RESONANCE...Singers’ Guide to Sustainable Technique*” Guest Speaker/Master Class Clinician - Dr. Brian Gill

The NATS-LA Fall Symposium was held at Pepperdine University's Raitt Recital on Saturday, October 25. Dr. Brian Gill began the morning by explaining for the first hour, in very understandable terms, the scientific nature of vocal acoustics, laying the groundwork for how to apply this knowledge in our work with singers as they present imbalances and other problems relating to resonance.



After the first morning break, all in attendance filed back into the recital hall to hear the first group of master class singers. One could sense the excitement in the air, as people were already remarking how quickly Dr. Gill managed to demystify some of the more baffling concepts of vocal science.

The day progressed with each singer (first classical, then later in the day, musical theatre) presenting different issues relating to resonance, as well as insufficient or incompatible breath flow, each of which was dealt with by using a variety of means and exercises.

Dr. Gill applied the use the Voce Vista program with several of the singers, tying in the information from the morning session, and giving us the chance to understand how to interpret what appears on the screen, how the Voce Vista program indicates when the optimum balance in resonance is achieved, and how to integrate that information into our teaching.

At the conclusion of the day, surveys were handed out. Here are some of the remarks gathered from that survey:

- Enjoyed and applaud the way many age and voice categories were represented in this symposium.
- I would love to have Dr. Gill come back and teach a private, hands-on workshop for our NATS-LA teachers, possibly in the summer or winter break, and would be happy to pay for such a seminar (2-4 days).
- Great balance of all methods of instruction! Would like to have a summer of this.

- I love master classes that really deal with technique as opposed to interpretation.

Some select quotes gathered after the event from some who were there...

Brian was fantastic! In fact, it's the first presentation of a "scientific" nature that made sense to me because he explained the Voce Vista from a pragmatic and usable perspective and he's a wonderful man as well. A true "Mensch". BRAVA!!!!

— Al Brightbill, NATS-LA Treasurer

Thank you again for our recent NATS symposium. The venue was lovely, the attendance just right, the students well prepared, and our master teacher/ lecturer outstanding. The breadth and depth of knowledge displayed by Dr. Brian Gill, combined with his personal charm, and his ability to quickly accomplish a worthwhile change in each of our singing students, proved the great value of his expertise in the field of resonance. Plus, for us “old hands,” it was nice to have scientific knowledge reinforce what our ears tell us needs to be done, plus have new exercises to accomplish that. Thank you!

— Sue Secrist, NATS-LA Member

I'm so glad I made the trip to Pepperdine to attend the Symposium. Even though sometimes I think I've “heard it all” and do I really want to spend the day listening to singers when there are so many other things to do. Well, Dr. Gill's presentation was great. It was interesting and “user friendly”. I must admit that I shy away from the new generation of computer generated feed-back to help us better inform our students. But I “got it” this time, mainly because of Dr. Gill's presentation. He was down to earth and his master class showed marked improvement in every singer. I came away with some new ideas, and last week, I had my students use a straw to blow bubbles in their water bottles! Thank you for bringing him to California.

— Margaret Dehning, NATS-LA Board Member