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Spring 2012

### Summer Singing Workshop

The NCVS is excited to announce the first annual Summer Singing Workshop.

Join the NCVS, along with renowned voice scientists and vocal trainers, for a 4-day singing workshop with "wired" master classes on August 1-4, 2012. Melding professional voice and technology, these enhanced techniques will explore in-depth singing instruction, using technology in studio with a focus on Mezzo-sopranos and Countertenors.

For more information [click here](#)

### NEW NCVS Staff

Welcome Mara Kapsner-Smith and Lynn Maxfield to the NCVS team.

#### [Mara Kapsner-Smith](#)

- *Research Associate* and speech-language pathologist with the National Center for Voice and Speech. She received her M.S. in Medical Speech-Language Pathology from the University of Washington in Seattle, where she completed a master's thesis in auditory-perceptual assessment of voice quality. She has worked in inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation settings, most recently in the Laryngology clinic at the University of Washington Medical Center. Mara specializes in the assessment and treatment of voice, swallowing, and respiratory disorders.

#### [Lynn Maxfield](#)

- *Teaching and Research Associate*, tenor, holds a PhD in Voice

### MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The National Center for Voice and Speech is well into its third decade of operation. As many of you know, we are a center without walls, happy to exist in small units of collaborators at various institutions around the country.

When we were founded in 1990 with a single major grant from NIH, our consortium of investigators were at the University of Iowa, the University of Utah, the University of Wisconsin, and The Denver Center for the Performing Arts. Sponsors at Brigham Young University

(Provo, UT) and Texas Southwestern Medical Center (Dallas, TX). Our mission has remained highly focused: to translate contemporary research findings into education, as well as clinical products and services, for voice professionals.

We appreciate the respect and interest the voice and speech community has shown for our efforts at the NCVS

Ingo R. Titze  
Executive Director  
NCVS

Pedagogy and an MA in Voice Performance from the University of Iowa. In the summer of 2011, he worked as Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the National Center for Voice and Speech.

After a one-year Visiting Assistant Professorship at Eastern Connecticut State University, he is excited to re-join the staff at NCVS permanently beginning in June 2012. In addition to teaching and researching, he will maintain an active performance presence in the area.

## **Research Papers**

### **How Monitoring Voice Affects Voice Production**

Studies have found that occupational voice users like teachers and call center workers are at nearly a two-fold increased risk for vocal injury than the average population. To better understand this increased risk, small voice monitoring devices have been used (e.g. Voice Accumulators, Voice Dosimeters, Ambulatory Phonation Monitors). However, it is unknown how these monitoring devices affect the behaviors of the user, which may in fact skew the very thing to be monitored.

*.... to see the full summary of How Monitoring Voice Affects Voice Production by Dr. Eric J. Hunter [click here](#)*

### **New Thoughts on Vocal Fundamental Frequency and Vocal Fold Mass: It's Not As We Once Thought**

Vocal pitch or fundamental frequency (FO) during speech and song has often been described by the mass of the vocal cords (vocal folds). However, mass (thicker and longer vocal folds) is an anatomical, not a functional concept. Why should this concept, that has been used so often, no longer have credence? The vocal fold is made up of a small amount of tissue that is attached to cartilages on three of its six sides. As a unit, the attached tissue has little freedom to move. Constraining the unattached tissue with boundaries creates vibrational displacements that are not uniform. Thus, the amount of material in vibration is hard to quantify and to associate with a single mass, as often attempted in the scientific and medical literature. It is better to consider two other variables that affect FO control: length and stress of a laminated (layered) "string". The formula for a vibrating string is used to prove this point where each layer should be considered a separate string.

*... to see the full summary of New Thoughts on Vocal Fundamental Frequency and Vocal Fold Mass by Dr. Ingo R. Titze [click here](#)*

### **Of Humans and Alligators**

Our larynx (voice box) is a very complicated structure. The human voice is created when lung pressure increases and air is pushed through the larynx. An array of complicated movements inside the larynx moves vocal

folds towards each other and stretches them. Almost like the string on a stringed instrument, human vocal cords (vocal folds) are elongated and shortened to achieve different tension and thereby distinctive oscillation frequencies, which result in the perceived pitch of our voice. However, larynges of different animals show different degrees of complexity. A study was conducted in which vocal production in American Alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*) was examined.

.... to see a full summary *Of Humans and Alligators* by Tobias Riede., et. [click here](#)

## Voice Conferences Calendar

The NCVS has developed a page on Facebook that lists all of the voice conferences worldwide, allowing you to view all the conferences in one centralized location. This resource is made possible with your help. The information on these conferences is collected by you submitting the information and we post it, it's that easy. If you know of any voice conferences we have missed, submit the information [ncvs.calendar@gmail.com](mailto:ncvs.calendar@gmail.com), and we'll add it to our calendar.

To check out the voice conference calendar, [click here](#)



### STAFF - National Center for Voice and Speech

Ingo R. Titze, Ph.D. - Executive Director  
Eric Hunter, Ph.D. - Deputy Executive Director  
Carrie L. Pymm - Program Manager  
Kent Montgomery - Administrative Assistant  
Elizabeth A. Nelson - SVI Coordinator  
Mara Kapsner-Smith - Research Associate  
Lynn Maxfield - Teaching and Research Associate  
Anil Kumar Palaparathi - Research Engineer  
Megan Engar - Research Assistant  
Sydney Fredrickson - Research Assistant  
Patrick Pead - Research Assistant

## Help the NCVS Become an Advocate & Educator to the Public

*We are looking to raise support for our current outreach programs at NCVS. The goal of these programs is to help people around the world*

*enjoy healthy and effective vocal communications. If you are interested in more information contact: Carrie Pymm @ [carrie.pymm@ncvs2.org](mailto:carrie.pymm@ncvs2.org) or To DONATE online go to: <http://ncvs.org/donate.html>*

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National Center for Voice and Speech | 136 South Main Street Suite 320 | Salt Lake City | UT | 84101