

TRANSITIONS: Alter Egos—Secret Lives of Singers

*It is not uncommon for singers and voice teachers to have “side hustles” in other fields or music-related jobs such as choir director and music director. More surprising is when colleagues who are well-known for vocal performance and pedagogy, become equally prominent in an unrelated tandem career. Cynthia Vaughn shines the spot-light on a few superheroes and their alter egos: **Cate Frazier-Neely** (multi-media artisan), **Jason Baldwin** (woodturning craftsman), **Larry Hensel** (puppeteer), and **D. Brian Lee** (web designer/developer).*

Clark Kent is a hard-working journalist, respected by his co-workers at the fictional Daily Planet newspaper. Little do his newsroom colleagues know that when there is a local crime or a diabolical plot to destroy the world, Mr. Clark takes off his glasses and press pass, and dons a red cape and blue tights to become Superman. The evil villains who are thwarted by Superman's uncanny timing and superpowers have no idea that the man in the cape is also a darned good copy-editor.

A growing number of experienced, respected voice professionals are discovering the joy of tandem careers. It may be a life-long passion, a hobby turned business, or a marketable skill set that leads to dual interests.

CATE FRAZIER-NEELY CateFNStudios.com

Superhero: Performer, Voice Teacher, Singing Voice Rehabilitation Specialist, Author, Clinician, Author (print media, *Journal of Singing*, blogger, book: *Meditations to Feed Christmas*, a spiritual memoir/journal (Balboa Press, 2018)

Alter-ego: Abstract and Contemporary Artist and Designer

“From earliest memory I loved the ‘feel’ of colors and the sensory motions of crafting with my hands. Growing up in a family of professional musicians, I had become a multi-instrumentalist, singer, and even a teacher by my early teenage years. But in the world of arts and crafts, ah, that was my voice free of the family unit energy. Experimenting and seeing ‘what happens when you do....’ has always been more interesting to me than ‘draw this



Cate Frazier-Neely: *Night Beach*

literal thing.’ I accrued lots of skills by just ‘doing’ and was entirely self-taught, learning sewing and pattern reading, beginning oil painting, calligraphy, various needle arts, miniature furniture building, and drafting designs on graph paper. While in graduate school for vocal performance and pedagogy, I worked part time for a fabric store, sewing clothes for their Model Garment Program. I made a little money sewing bohemian male wedding shirts and sewed all my own concert gowns. After our children came along, I sewed costumes for their play and created a line of clothes and

accessories sized for American Girl Dolls that sold well in local shops. Modern art quilting became an obsession for a while and then, ten years ago I started to make jewelry, redesigning new creations from broken jewelry and vintage bits. Within the past several years, abstract art and collage have appeared as passions. I

believe with my whole

heart in the transformative and healing properties of Art, and live this truth as fully as I am able. The world of crafting also inspires my years of volunteer work for such organizations as Ten Thousand Villages, Women of Worth Uganda, Bead for Life and most recently, Dining for Women. I am interested in supporting fair trade artisans and the concept of micro-economics as ways to break cycles of poverty.”



Cate Frazier-Neely: *Annunciation*

continued on page 20 ...

continued: TRANSITIONS: Alter Egos—Secret Lives of Singers

— continued from page 19

JASON BALDWIN JasonBaldwinTenor.com

Superhero: Opera and concert artist, Voice Teacher

Alter-ego: Craftsman/Designer: [Flatiron Woodturning](http://FlatironWoodturning.com)



Jason Baldwin: *Purple Heart wood accented with Buckeye Burl*

"How did this happen? I have always loved to make things. About 5 years ago I started researching and making custom fly rods for myself and family members. One of the components of these is the "reel seat", which is how the base of a fly reel attaches to a fly rod. These are turned on a lathe, whether they are made of wood or some other material. I wanted to make my own, so I found a used wood lathe on Craigslist that a person was selling packaged with some pen making hardware. I tried making a few pens and am now hooked. My passion turned into a business in 2017 and now I am shipping one-of-a-kind pens across the country to customers, including singers I have worked with. I love that there are endless ways to make any number of styles of pens."



Jason Baldwin: *Blue dyed Box Elder Burl with old gift cards and aluminum beer can*

LARRY LEE HENSEL

Superhero: International opera and concert artist, voice teacher/Professor Emeritus, Certified Alexander Technique clinician, opera director

Alter-ego: Puppet designer/builder, Opera Out of the Box™, Flying Pie Puppet Films™

"As a child growing up 35 miles from Mason City, Iowa, I used to BEG to go to the MacNider Arts Museum to see the collection of Bill Baird marionettes (you know, "The Sound of Music" marionette guy). The MacNider Collection of Baird puppets is the largest holding of the late puppeteer's work to be found anywhere. I first added "store-bought puppets" (Folkmanis puppets) to operas I directed, and when I saw the power that puppets provided, I knew I needed to go that next step. (The characters in the opera were using them, similar to the way Avenue Q characters use their puppets as an extension of their character.) So I really wanted to construct my own puppets, and also to begin the beautiful art of puppetry and to learn how to teach puppetry movement.



Larry Lee Hensel: *Puppet: Czech 19th century melodrama watersprite (ala Rusalka) for the Kerrytown Concert Hall Performing Arts Series—Halloween Concert, Ann Arbor, Michigan.*

continued on page 21 ...

continued: TRANSITIONS: Alter Egos—Secret Lives of Singers

— continued from page 20



Larry Lee Hensel: *Flying Pie Puppet Films* (inspired by Jim Hensen)

"I applied to the Eugene O'Neill Puppetry Conference <http://www.theoneill.org/summer-conferences/puppetry/>. The application is competitive, and only 1 in 10 applicants are accepted. The first time I applied, they said no, but then 2 weeks before the conference started, I got a call from the Director, saying, 'we would like to include you in the conference—we think you're doing interesting work, and would like to help you, but you don't have nearly the puppetry experience that other applicants demonstrate. However, we

have a last minute cancelation, and we are inviting you to attend. That said, you had better prove your talent to us.'

So I took the chance, and attended. Each student is placed in a 'thread' with a master puppeteer, and they focus on a certain aspect of puppetry. I was fortunate to be placed with a 'movement' specialist from Germany, who was a student of Albrecht Roser—one of the most respected puppetry artist in the world. (Jim Henson studied with him a number of times). The O'Neill was generous, accepted me for where I was, and I met amazing artists from all over the world. The puppetry community are the most generous, kind, and wildly creative artists with whom I have ever worked. I love puppetry because all of the arts (like opera) are engaged.

"I also think my current love and fascination with puppet building has to do with building —I just want to work with my hands. And maybe that's why I love Alexander Technique work so much as well." (ed. Larry Lee Hensel has been invited to present workshops in the Alexander Technique at the 2018-2019 Explore Puppetry Series at the Center for Puppetry Arts in Atlanta.)

Larry Lee Hensel: Puppet: *Marie Claires É Doux—who only eats French confections* (University of Wyoming Opera)



continued on page 22 ...

continued: TRANSITIONS: Alter Egos—Secret Lives of Singers

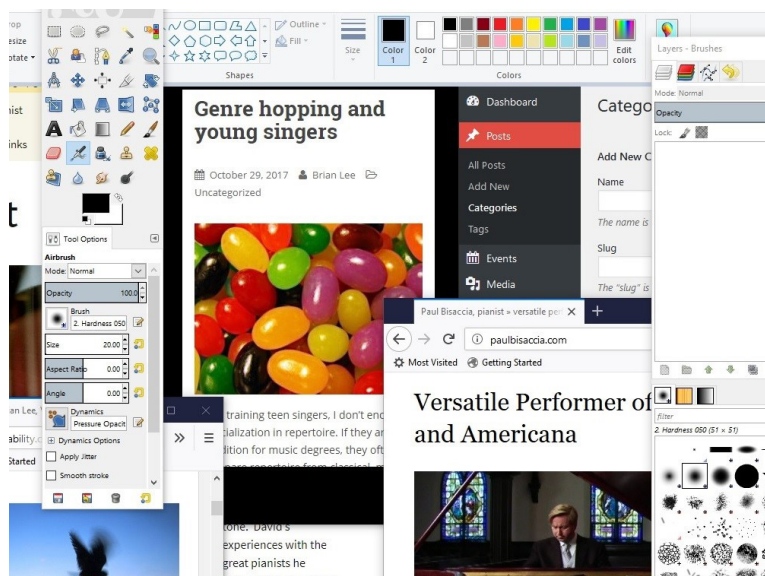
— continued from page 21

D. BRIAN LEE vocalability.com

Superhero: Performer, Voice Teacher, blogger and author of *Sane Singing: Navigating the Vocal Journey* (2018)

Alter-ego: Web development and design

“Or....Why I returned to Cubicleville. I was hesitant to talk about this because I am mostly very quiet about my dual career. Most of my web development colleagues don't even know that I sing, and many of my students and musician friends don't know about my tech job. I am glad to have a growing reputation as a voice teacher and writer. What has ended up happening is that instead of more students, I am simply attracting better students, and taking them farther than before. Meanwhile, working a full-time position in web development gives me a) a much better financial situation, b) something to do outside of the [studio], c) an environment where I can learn and improve my skills faster and d) skills for the future, whatever my work situation may be. I want to have a reasonably comfortable human existence, and I might as well use the means available to me to do so. For me, the way to successfully be a musician and voice teacher is to have an income I can count on that won't break my back and that pays well. So many artists never have that...There is more than one way to be a voice teacher.”



Participate in a Master Class at the National Conference

Do you or your students want to participate in a Master Class? The 2018 NATS National Conference will feature several major master class sessions. We welcome self-recommendations or recommendations of students to participate in the sessions. Please note the requirements for each session and complete all required fields in order to complete your recommendation. An audio sample is required in order to be considered.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Complete the online application. ONLINE APPLICATION WILL BE AVAILABLE [ON THIS PAGE](#) AFTER MARCH 15, 2018.
- 2) All applicants must provide an audio sample of appropriate repertoire, maximum 4 minutes. MP3 is the preferred audio format.
- 3) NATS members volunteering themselves should enter their name in both the NATS Member field and the Applicant field.

Submission Deadline: MAY 1, 2018