

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION *of* TEACHERS *of* SINGING



MARY WOLFMAN EPSTEIN

THE MARY WOLFMAN ENDOWMENT

PROVIDES FUNDING FOR THE NATS ARTIST AWARDS

The Mary Wolfman Endowment was the first permanently endowed scholarship fund created at the NATS Foundation in 1983 thanks to a generous gift of \$10,000 from Mary and her husband Ben Epstein. The first gift of such size in the history of the NATS Foundation provided for the \$1,000 Mary Wolfman Scholarship Prize awarded to 1984.

Dubbed "Boston's Queen of Jewish Music," Mary Wolfman Epstein was a soprano, playwright, director, vocal teacher, and talent manager in the Boston area. Epstein worked with many Jewish and secular organizations, and she co-founded the New England Jewish Music Forum. She wrote over thirty original musicals, most of which were based on Jewish themes or individuals. She enjoyed classical recitals and opera, performing art songs by composers such as Mahler, Brahms, Schubert, Schumann, and the Russian composers and modernists, including David Diamond and David Duke.

In 1995, Wolfman Epstein received an honorary doctorate from Hebrew College in Brookline in recognition of her contributions to the community.

Wolfman Epstein served NATS as National Vice President, Region Governor for New England, and Treasurer and President of the Boston Chapter.

"I was a master's student in vocal performance at Boston University 1982-1984. My voice teacher there, Ellalou Dimmock, sent me to Mary Wolfman. She was a promoter and helped young people seeking performance experience. I learned a lot from her and grew as a performer so that I was much more comfortable with an audience. She taught me how to walk, talk, dress, and communicate. We would write a "script" of dialogue between songs and plan the order so that it had a flow. I would get a nice little fee and she would get a "cut". I sang music theatre, classical, Armenian classical and folk, and she taught me to sing in Hebrew and Yiddish. She gave me history of the Yiddish theatre and had great stories to tell. I must have sung her "gigs" for 5 to 10 years. It was amazing experience." NATS member Joanne Mouradjian, Professor of Music in Performance, Soprano Soloist, Wheaton College

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