

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION *of* TEACHERS *of* SINGING



SHIRLEE EMMONS

THE SHIRLEE EMMONS ENDOWMENT

PROVIDES FUNDING FOR SPEAKERS AT NATS CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Long-time member of the New York Chapter's Board of Directors, "Shirlee Emmons was an American classical [soprano](#), [voice teacher](#), and author on [vocal pedagogy](#). She began her career in the early 1940s as a concert soprano, eventually becoming one of the original singers in the [Robert Shaw Chorale](#) in 1948. She branched out into [opera](#) in the 1950s, performing mainly with regional companies in the United States. She achieved several honors as a performer, including winning the [Marian Anderson Award](#) in 1953 and an [Obie Award](#) in 1956.

In 1964 Emmons abandoned her career as a singer to begin a second career as a voice teacher which lasted until her death 46 years later. She taught on the faculties of several universities, including [Boston University](#) and [Princeton University](#), and gave [masterclasses](#) and guest lectures at schools like the [University of California](#) and [Westminster Choir College](#). Several of her students have had successful singing careers, including [Metropolitan Opera](#) stars [Harolyn Blackwell](#) and [Hei-Kyung Hong](#). She co-authored 4 books on the art of singing, penned a biography on tenor [Lauritz Melchior](#), and contributed articles to numerous music publications." - From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Emmons earned her Bachelor of Music, Lawrence University, 1947 and Doctor of Fine Arts, Lawrence University, 2000. She wrote a regular column in the Journal of Singing called "Voices from the Past," was one of the first judges for the Art Song Composition Award, and served twice as a Master Teacher for the NATS Intern Program. Following her death, her estate established the Shirlee Emmons Endowment at NATS.

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