

“THE COLLABORATIVE MUSICIAN”

**2009 Quad State Convention
October 2-3, 2009
Plymouth State University**

Friday, October 2

5:30 Cocktail Hour at the Common Man Restaurant
6:00 Dinner at the Common Man Restaurant
8:00 Recital by Brad Hougham, baritone and Diane Birr, pianist
 Silver Center, Plymouth State University (PSU)

Saturday, October 3

8:00-9:00 Registration/coffee at Silver Center, PSU
9:00-10:00 Jean Barr Lecture
 *“Nightmares and Dreams: The Life of a Collaborative Pianist”**
10:00-10:15 Break
10:15-12:00 Ensemble Master Class with Jean Barr and Diane Birr

12:00-1:30 Luncheon at Prospect Hall, PSU

1:30-2:30 Commissioned Composers’ Recital at Silver Center, PSU
2:30-3:30 Jean Barr Lecture
 *“Tips for Coaching a Chamber Ensemble”***
3:30-3:45 Break
3:45-5:30 Voice Master Class with Brad Hougham and Diane Birr

*From dyspeptic divas to truculent trombonists, the collaborative pianist has seen it all. In this amusing and instructive presentation, Jean Barr reflects on what it takes to create art out of the collaborative process.

** So You Have to Coach an Ensemble ... Do You Know How? There you sit. Four people are in front of you, prepared to play. Will you be tongue-tied? Come join Jean Barr for some tips on how to begin, what you need to know, and how you can share it.

CLINICIANS

JEAN BARR

Jean Barr is Professor of Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music at the Eastman School of Music. The first keyboard artist in the United States to be awarded a doctoral degree in accompanying, she studied at the University of Southern California with Gwendolyn Koldofsky and at Northwestern University with Gui Mombaerts. At the outset of her career she was accompanist for the master classes of Jascha Heifetz, Gregor Piatigorsky, William Primrose and Martial Singher.

Considered by many to be a pioneer in her field, Jean Barr has sought to engender a broad appreciation of the collaborative arts. In recent years she organized significant chamber music concerts for the National Conference on Piano Pedagogy and subsequently for national conventions of the Music

Teachers National Association. She also was the first chair of MTNA's Collaborative Performance Advisory Committee. Most recently, the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy created a Committee on Collaborative Performance, chaired by Dr. Barr.

Prior to joining the Eastman faculty to establish graduate degrees in Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music, Jean Barr taught at the University of Southern California, the University of Texas at Austin, Arizona State University and, in the summers, at the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, California. She also was on the summer faculty of the International Workshops for many years.

In 1994 Jean Barr received the Eastman School of Music's prestigious Eisenhart Award for Excellence in Teaching. She was the recipient of the University of Rochester's Susan B. Anthony Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004. Her most recent honor is the Music Teachers National Association 2008 Achievement Award.

DIANE BIRR

Pianist **Diane Birr** has collaborated with numerous vocalists and instrumentalists in recitals and master classes throughout the United States, and in Australia, Canada, France, Scotland, Austria, and Norway. She has frequently been featured as a pianist on the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra's *Chamber Music Series* and in concerts at Ithaca College. Dr. Birr has served as an official accompanist for the Music Teachers National Association's (MTNA) national competitions, the International Double Reed Society Conference, the International Horn Society as well as the International Trombone Association's conferences. For sixteen years Birr served on the faculty of *International Workshops*, a two-week music and arts festival held in locations around the world, where she performed in recitals and master classes and coached chamber music. She is a member of the TroICa trio with trumpeter Kim Dunnick and saxophonist Steven Mauk. The group will soon be releasing its first recording featuring works by Lawrence, Rivier, Bronner, Podgaitz and Satterwhite. In addition, TroICa has been invited to perform at the 2010 International Trumpet Guild Conference in Sydney, Australia. Birr currently serves as MTNA Eastern Division Director-Elect and is Associate Professor of Piano at Ithaca College. She formerly taught at the University of Northern Iowa. Her D.M.A. degree in accompanying and collaborative piano is from the Eastman School of Music.

BRAD HOUGHAM

Lyric baritone, **Brad Hougham** is a sought-after vocal pedagogue and clinician, and serves on the voice faculty at Ithaca College School of Music. Each summer, he travels to Spoleto, Italy, where he teaches voice at the Spoleto Vocal Arts Symposium, an international institute for vocal studies and opera performance. He has taught master classes and clinics in the United States, Europe and Canada. Dr. Hougham studied music at the University of Saskatchewan, receiving a Bachelor of Music degree with Great Distinction. He earned a Professional Studies Diploma from The Mannes College of Music, a Master of Arts degree from City University of New York and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

Mr. Hougham's career goal is to make great music with great musicians, and he has had the fortune of working with some of operas most celebrated maestri, including James Levine, Valerey Gerghiev, Paul Goodwin, and Jane Glover. He has appeared as a soloist in many notable venues (Avery Fisher Hall, Merkin Hall, and Brooklyn Academy of Music, to name a few), and he has been featured as a soloist on National Public Radio. Dr. Hougham's singing can be heard on two recordings: *Rossini in Venice* (Albany Records), and *Soldier Stories* (Mulatta Records), with the Manhattan Chamber Orchestra.