

Marvin Keenze, baritone
2022 NATS Eastern Region Conference Honoree
Temple University, Philadelphia, PA

Mr. Keenze was born in south Louisiana in 1937 and began piano lessons at the age of four. In 1948 he moved to Baton Rouge, attended the Louisiana State University Laboratory School in order to continue piano lessons at LSU. His musical experiences at the First Methodist Church with Frederick Holler led him to 5 years at the Westminster Choir College in Princeton where his degrees were in piano and conducting. He also experienced a five-month choir tour around the world. After receiving a Master's Degree he became a member of the U.S. Army Chorus at Ft. Meyer and began many years of voice study with Todd Duncan and a musical life in Washington, D.C.

In 1965 he married Kathryn Jones and they settled in Falls Church, VA where he was the Minister of Music at the Falls Church Presbyterian Church. In 1967 he and Kay moved to Philadelphia where he studied conducting with Elaine Brown at Singing City. From there he became a music faculty member at the University of Delaware and part-time at Swarthmore College. In 1976 he joined the faculty of the Westminster Choir College where he taught singing and voice pedagogy for 35 years, founded the Voice Resource Center and Laboratory, and coordinated the Master Teachers and Singers Summer Week. He was also coordinator of voice study for four summers at Boston University's Tanglewood Institute.

Marvin joined NATS in 1969 and became a state and regional governor and Board member. As a singer, choral conductor, teacher, pianist and adjudicator, he has visited 52 countries around the world. He has adjudicated the Metropolitan Opera's regional and district competitions, the NATS and National Opera Association competitions in Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and Slovenia. He was a recipient of the Voice Foundation/ NATS Van Lawrence Award for his work in voice pedagogy and research. Mr. Keenze is a member of the American Academy of Teachers of Singing, NATS, and holds an honorary membership in the New York Singing Teachers Association, the Choral Conductors of Croatia and in many national singing teachers associations. Since 1990 he has been International Coordinator for NATS and chairman of the International Congress of Voice Teachers (ICVT). He received the *NATS Life-Time Achievement Award* in 2018.

Mr. Keenze maintains a private singing studio in Philadelphia and is a member of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of NATS. He and Kay are residents of the Cathedral Village.