

Special Events and Keynote Speakers at the NAPT Conference in Chaska, MN April 26-29, 2017



Thursday Opening Event: Michael Dennis Browne is a Distinguished Poet, Professor Emeritus at the University of Minnesota. His poems have been published in many magazines and anthologies, and his awards include fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Bush Foundation, the Jerome Foundation, and the McKnight Foundation. Two of his collections have won the Minnesota Book Award for poetry. His most recent collection of poems, *The Voices*, was published by Carnegie Mellon in the 2016. As a librettist, he has written many texts for music, working for many years with composer Stephen Paulus. Their post-Holocaust oratorio, *To Be Certain of the Dawn*, was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in music by the Minnesota Orchestra.



Friday Morning Keynote Speaker: Nicholas Mazza, Ph.D. is Professor and Dean Emeritus at the Florida State University, College of Social Work, Tallahassee, FL. Dr. Mazza holds Florida licenses in psychology, clinical social work, and marriage and family therapy. He has been involved in the practice, research, and teaching of poetry therapy for over 40 years. Dr. Mazza is the founding (1987) and current editor of the *Journal of Poetry Therapy*.



Saturday Keynote Poet: Deborah Alma, MA., “The Emergency Poet” offers a participatory, poetic and playful experience set inside a 1970’s ambulance where “patients” are prescribed an appropriate poem, verse or lyric as a fun way of bringing poetry to people.



Saturday Closing Event: Ovation is the portable version of One Voice Mixed Chorus - a small ensemble of 12-15 singers that brings One Voice's music and their message almost anywhere. Their mission is to build community and create social change by raising our voices in song. Ovation has performed for audiences large and small, from 20 to 30 education professionals, to entire school communities of over 600 elementary students. In the past year, Ovation has been dedicated to promoting team building and wellness.