



NATS strives to be a welcoming and supportive community of members and students who celebrate the unique identities, varied backgrounds, and experiences of all individuals. We are dedicated to ensuring that all voices are valued and heard in an inclusive environment with equitable treatment for all

July 1, 2020

Greetings NC NATS members!

I just “returned” from an outstanding National NATS Conference which was held virtually this past week. It was an exciting week full of pedagogy, acoustics, concerts, independent studio business building, and learning about new technologies to improve the online teaching experience for ourselves and our students. My brain is still spinning! It was wonderful to see so many of our members in attendance.

At the National business meeting yesterday, two of our very own took office at the National level. Dr. Robert Wells was installed as National Vice President for Auditions and Dr. DeMar Austin Neal, IV as National Vice President for Workshops. I am thrilled to offer you both congratulations from the NC Chapter.

I write you today to update you on the officer changes within our chapter and our upcoming Music Theater/CCM Auditions in the fall.

As of today, July 1, 2020, your new NC CHAPTER officers have also been installed. I will assume the responsibilities of President. Dr. Brittnee Siemon will be taking over the role of Vice-President and Auditions Chair and Dr. Gennard Lombardozzi has been installed as Secretary. Ms. Angela Santucci continues her work as our Treasurer, Dr. Jennifer Bryant-Pederson as Webmaster/Social Media, Ms. Susan Young as Collaborative Pianist Liaison, and Dr. Sally Thomas as Member at Large. Our outgoing President, Ms. Jennifer Seiger has taken on the role of District Governor and will, no doubt, serve us well in this position.

The board unanimously voted at our summer board meeting in June to hold our fall auditions online to mitigate risk to our valued teachers, singers, collaborative pianists, and parents. Specific details regarding the online auditions are forthcoming from our new VP/Auditions Chair and I suspect there will be tweaks along the way as NATS leadership provides more direction to us throughout the summer.

What you need to know at this juncture is the announcement of the winners and the **Virtual Honors Recital** for our MT/CCM auditions is still slated for **November 13th and 14th, 2020**. Dr. Siemon will soon provide a timeline for us along with guidance on collaborative pianists, use of pre-recorded tracks, and other important deadlines.

In order to have a successful online experience, the submission deadline for audition videos will likely be at the end of *October* as virtual auditions require a different kind of timeline. This October deadline will allow time for the vetting of videos, approximately a week for you to judge online from the comfort of your home, and include time for us to tally after all videos have been judged. As you likely are aware, our 2020 Regional and National Auditions were conducted online with much success but this format does require more time as each step has to be completed in its entirety before the next can commence. I felt it was important for you to be briefed on this now so you can prepare your singers to be ready to record and submit their videos by, what I expect, will be an early deadline.

This will be the first virtual event for the NC Chapter and I'm certain you will have many questions along the way. This will be a learning experience for all. While we navigate these waters, remember that your Auditions Chair and your board are here to provide you with the guidance and assistance you might require.

Our membership is strong and resourceful and although we would all prefer to sing together, we can come together virtually and create a memorable and educational NATS experience for our singers as well as model how to stay positive and create art during a crisis.

No decision has yet been made regarding the spring auditions. We will keep you updated on that.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and I look forward to seeing you virtually as we continue to raise our voices in unity and song.

Best regards,

Wendy L Jones

President, NC Chapter of NATS