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Iowa District NATS Resonance

*“All music arises from
the human voice –
that’s why art song to
me is the most
exquisite form” –
Daron Hagen*

GREETINGS

I am excited to send out the first of our monthly e-newsletters for members of the Iowa District of NATS. I hope that this newsletter becomes a vibrant forum for information on vocal pedagogy, literature, health, and other items of interest to members of NATS in this state. I also hope this newsletter will enable all Iowa NATS members to receive regular, clear communication of information that is pertinent to our auditions, conferences, and the business of our chapters. As such, regular messages from our officers will be an important component of this newsletter.

I greet you from the campus of Luther College, where we are about to start our school year, and I know many of you are experiencing a rush of activities and obligations as your own school year begins. I wish all of you well in what I hope will be a busy and productive year for you and your students, and that you are all able to find some time to balance your obligations with time to rest and reflect. I am happy to serve as your Iowa District Governor, and I look forward to communicating and working with you as we promote great singing and vocal pedagogy in the state of Iowa.

As we begin a new school year, I would ask your help as we look to strengthen the NATS organization in this state. If you have new colleagues at your colleges and universities, please encourage them to join the national organization and one of our Iowa chapters. Please also encourage private teachers who are doing vital work in setting the foundation of good singing for our young people to do the same. NATS is the largest professional organization in the country specifically geared towards the teaching of singing, and I would like to encourage active membership among those of us who have a vested interest in this art form and helping it to thrive and grow in this state. NATS provides resources that can help us grow in our profession and offers opportunities to connect with our colleagues around the country. Thank you for your membership and belief in this organization and for all you do for the art of singing in this state. I appreciate your assistance in identifying and encouraging others to join the organization.

I am excited that we will be hosting the Central Region NATS Conference on October 29-30 at the University of Iowa, which will be held in their wonderful new facility. Please be involved in these auditions: send your students, encourage them to submit abstracts for the poster paper presentation session, and come not only to serve as adjudicators, but also to participate in the conference sessions, topical breakfast, and the master class. Thanks to all those involved in the planning of the conference this fall. The business meeting for the Iowa District will be held during the conference at the end of the Topical Breakfast on October 30, 2016.

I look forward to being an advocate for NATS and for you. Please feel free to contact me with your questions, concerns, and ideas. I'm happy to be a sounding board for how we can improve the organization in this state and have NATS serve as a valuable resource for you. My e-mail is struvejo@luther.edu.

Message from Iowa Chapter President Kate Saulsbury:

Dear Iowa Chapter Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to briefly bring you up to date on current chapter activities. Please know that I am, first and foremost, extraordinarily proud of the Iowa Chapter and the world class teaching that continues to occur within our diverse group. I deeply appreciate the opportunity to help guide its growth and development based upon the wishes of a majority of its membership. A great deal of work has been happening to strengthen the foundation of this historically impressive organization of teachers of singing. Sincere efforts are underway to streamline and clarify all pertinent information so that in the future, when we do convene as a Chapter, we will be able to elevate our discourse and keep our time together as positive, and productive, as possible.

The Iowa Chapter has experienced a year of significant changes, and growing pains, as we reorganize to accommodate and incorporate the adjustments of infrastructure by both the Central Region and National NATS levels.

Pertinent information for you to know is that we will not be holding Chapter auditions this year, because the annual Central Region Conference will be held in Iowa City this fall. In the past we have voted to abstain from holding Chapter auditions the same year that the C.R. auditions are held in Iowa. Drake University has graciously offered to hold the next Iowa Chapter auditions in the fall of 2017 before the C.R. conference occurs. Dates to come soon.

Our great Chapter now boasts two newly formed SNATS groups. Way to go UNI and Morningside College! Watch for information in the near future regarding SNATS-organized events and invitations. If you would like to organize a new SNATS group on your campus or in your community, please contact Mitra Sadeghpour at mitra.sadeghpour@uni.edu.

As you may recall, I surveyed the Chapter last winter to gather information about how members would like to see the Chapter evolve, and then shared the results with the current members at the time. The officers and I used the information obtained in the survey to rebuild the Chapter's bylaws according to the survey results, and will be posting them soon for the entire chapter to review, and eventually, vote upon.

If you are planning to host a singing-related event and would like to make it an Iowa Chapter event, please do not hesitate to contact me at saulsbury@morningside.edu. Doing so would make your event eligible for additional matching grant money of up to \$600 from the national NATS organization. Applications for these grants are due several weeks prior to the event. Details at NATS.org.

It is with regret that I must inform you of the resignation of our treasurer and wonderful colleague, LaDonna Manternach. Our sincere gratitude is collectively extended to LaDonna and we wish her well on her new endeavors "in the family business". I have appointed a new interim treasurer to fill her post and would like to sincerely thank Ann Cravero for agreeing to step into the position of treasurer until the next set of officer elections.

Information about the items mentioned above and many other things related to our Chapter will soon be available on our brand new website, currently in development and soon to be published. On the new site you will be able to access current news about Chapter events, auditions, workshops, links, bylaws, SNATS information, and much more.

I hope to see many of you in October at the Central Regional Conference and Auditions!

Warmest Regards,

Kate Saulsbury

President, Iowa Chapter

Starting a Student NATS chapter: Information and Benefits by Mitra Sadeghpour, Central Region NATS Liaison.

Start a Student NATS chapter at your school and join over 140 chapters all over the United States and Canada!

Chapters are simple to start- you need:

1. An advisor who is a current member of NATS
2. 5 student members
3. A student president

That's it! However, your institution may have their own requirements for student organizations on campus. These often include a constitution and a full set of officers. Sample constitutions are available on the NATS website. I'd suggest contacting the student organization office on campus for guidelines, and also possible funding opportunities!

Why start a chapter?

Enrich your campus and community with activities featuring singing and the teaching of singing! Give students leadership opportunities and access to the incredible network that is NATS! Enrich your voice department with more student volunteers at school and NATS activities! Provide a "home" for students who are dedicated to the study of the art and science of teaching voice.

SNATS members can attend NATS events for reduced prices, or for free in exchange for volunteer hours! Up to \$200 matching grants are available from NATS to support chapter events. And in our Central Region, there are dedicated activities at the Central Region Conference for SNATS members.

Currently we have five chapters in Iowa: Drake University, Wartburg College, University of Northern Iowa, University of Iowa, and Iowa State. Let's get a SNATS chapter on every campus!

You can get more information from three major sources:

Dr. Alison Feldt, Vice President of NATS for Outreach, vpoutreach@nats.org
 Dr. Mitra Sadeghpour, Central Region SNATS Liaison mitra.sadeghpour@uni.edu
 NATS website http://www.nats.org/about_snats.html

CENTRAL REGION NATS CONFERENCE – October 29-30, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

This fall's Central Region National Association of Teachers of Singing Conference and Auditions will be held at the University of Iowa's brand new building in Iowa City, Iowa. The Iowa District

of NATS is responsible for hosting this event, so please bring your students to participate in the auditions and attend the conference. The success of the conference and the auditions also depends upon the willingness of members to serve as adjudicators, providing valuable feedback to students participating in the auditions. Thank you in advance for your expertise and for giving of your time to further the art of singing in Iowa and our region.

Several colleagues from throughout the region will present their research and expertise in sessions held during the conference, and the topical breakfast on Sunday morning will provide attending members an opportunity to enter into conversations with colleagues on a variety of topics pertaining to vocal pedagogy, health, and literature. Saturday evening will feature a master class with Karen Brunssen and Natalia Rivera. Finally, the research and interests of our students will be featured in a poster session. Look for more details about the events planned at this year's conference as well as information regarding registration, accommodations, and rules governing the auditions on the NATS Central Region website: centralregionnats.org. Registration will open on September 26, 2016.

Please thank our hosts for this event, Dr. Katherine Eberle and Susan Sondrol Jones, who are working hard to coordinate spaces and prepare for the conference. A short greeting and introduction to the new Voxman Music Building follows:

The Voice Area of the University of Iowa School of Music in Iowa City, Iowa, will host the Central Region National Association of Teachers of Singing Conference and Students Auditions. This will be the first major conference to be held in the new Voxman Music Building, a six-story, 190,000-square-foot, state of the art music building housing the music library, opera and chamber music rehearsal spaces, faculty studios, individual rehearsal spaces, a 700-seat concert hall, and a 200-seat recital hall. 500 singers and teachers are anticipated to attend from Missouri, Illinois and Iowa. Students will compete in two days of vocal competitions using every classroom and performing venue in the building. <https://inspire.uiowa.edu/voxman-music-building>. We invite you to enjoy the student auditions, lectures, mini lectures, poster papers, master classes, book signings, and the opportunities offered as we meet old friends and new colleagues.

CALL FOR STUDENT RESEARCH POSTERS for the Central Region NATS Conference in Iowa City on October 29-30, 2016.

All students of NATS members in the Central Region are invited to submit abstracts for presentation in Poster Paper format at the Second Annual Central Regional Conference in Iowa City, Iowa, which will be held October 29 and 30, 2016 at the University of Iowa.

Topics for poster papers may include voice pedagogy, vocal repertoire, performance practice, musicological studies *or any other topic* related to the art and science of singing and the teaching and learning of singing. Projects may come from single students or may be group projects. Examples could include

projects/papers from voice pedagogy or song literature courses, classical and musical theatre repertoire or performance practice, effective practice strategies, and recital programming.

Abstracts should be 500 words or less, and in Microsoft Word format. Include the project title, name or names of the presenters, and a summary or outline of the project and the conclusions drawn. For guidance on writing an abstract, there are numerous online sources. A good place to start is: <http://www.ncsu.edu/project/posters/index.html>.

Abstracts will be accepted between August 29 and September 30.

Submission deadline: September 30, 2016, 11:59. Submit electronically to mitra.sadeghpour@uni.edu, with subject line "Student NATS Poster Session."

INVITATION FOR SUBMISSIONS

Please view this newsletter as an opportunity for you, our colleagues in Iowa, to present information, research, events, and other items you would like to share with your NATS colleagues throughout our district. The NATS e-newsletter will be sent monthly, and I welcome your submissions as we look to build this document. The due date for submissions will be the 25th of each month so that the newsletter may be sent out no later than the 30th.

Please feel free to contact me if you have ideas for submissions, things you would like included in the newsletter, and any information on events, or articles you would like to see published in this forum. Also, if anyone is willing to help with the assembly and formatting of the newsletter, I would welcome assistance. Thank you for your support and your feedback.

My e-mail is strujejo@luther.edu.