

Schedule for NATS 2026 Winter Workshop
Manhattan School of Music, New York City, January 3-5, 2026

The Teacher's Toolbox: Practical Strategies for Cultivating Authentic Voices

Saturday, January 3, 2026	Sunday, January 4, 2026	Monday, January 5, 2026
8-9:30 AM EDT: Registration	8-9 AM EDT: Registration	9:00-10:00 AM EDT: Registration
9:30-11 AM EDT: Dr. Emily Siar: <i>Speaking the Same Language: Aligning Voice Pedagogy Terminology</i> <i>Voice teachers have no shortage of ways to describe the act of singing. How do we make sure we're on the same page to best serve our students? This session explores foundational terminology in voice pedagogy related to respiration, registration, and resonance. Participants will gain a clearer understanding of the semantics behind these systems, leaving them better equipped to engage in informed, collaborative dialogue with colleagues and students.</i>	9-11 AM EDT: Leda Searce: <i>Tools for Navigating a Path for Success: Rehabilitation to Habilitation</i> Having a voice disorder can be a challenging experience for singers. However, with the support of an expert vocal health team, the singer can usually recover. This workshop will explore the journey of the singer from the point they first experience symptoms, through the evaluation process, rehabilitation, and finally the return to typical vocal activities, emphasizing important tools for the singing teacher as they navigate that path with their student. The workshop will include didactic instruction as well as hands-on, interactive experiences.	10:00-12:00 PM EDT: Melissa Malde: <i>Mapping the Movements of Singing</i> In this interactive session, participants will explore how to make healthy and efficient movement choices that promote artistic freedom in their singing.
11-11:15 AM EDT: Refreshment Break (15 min)	11-11:15 AM EDT: Refreshment Break (15 min)	12:00-1:30 Lunch Break
11:15-1:15 PM EDT: Dr. Ian Howell: <i>Hearing Singing: A Guide to Functional Listening</i> Timbre is often dismissed as too subjective to have pedagogical utility. However, long-established psychoacoustic phenomena may be directly connected to real and repeatable functional coordinations in a singing voice. This presentation focuses on these simple aspects of timbre that will dependably occur when the trained ear is stimulated by specific kinds of sound waves. These aspects of sound then become both a sign that a given function has occurred and also as a stimulus to generate that function.	11:15-1:15 PM EDT: Joan Lader: Performance Masterclass Renowned voice teacher Joan Lader, recipient of the Tony Award Honors for Excellence in Theater and NATS 2026 NMTC Honoree, will present a performance class for all Winter Workshop attendees and NMTC semifinalists. Drawing on her extensive experience with elite performers and recording artists, as well as clinical rehabilitation, she will demonstrate strategies for building healthy, sustainable technique.	1:30-3:30 PM EDT: Zipporah Peddle: <i>Building Your Book: Exploring Developmental Repertoire for the Versatile Musical Theatre Singer</i> Join us as we bring together the concepts explored throughout the workshop and apply them to developmental repertoire for training musical theatre singers of all ages and experience levels. Through group singing and discussion, participants will create the diverse sounds of musical theatre vocal production and experiment with a range of song excerpts spanning different periods, styles, and composers. Together, we will consider how repertoire can be approached through multiple lenses — technique, artistry, and identity — while discovering practical tools for both teaching and performing. Come ready to sing, share, and play!
1:15-3:00 PM EDT: Lunch Break	1:15-3:00 PM EDT: Lunch Break	

Saturday, January 3, 2026	Sunday, January 4, 2026	Monday, January 5, 2026
3:00-5:00 PM EDT: Mike Ruckles: <i>Hysterical for Hysteresis: Harnessing Its Transformative Potential in the Training of Crossover and Commercial Music Singers</i> Hysteresis describes how a system’s current state/function is strongly influenced by its previous state/function. In this session, we will explore the effects of hysteresis on the singing voice, and how we can harness its properties to our students’ great benefit in the studio. These tools become especially powerful in training the crossover singer who seeks to navigate dramatic shifts in their singing attractor states (e.g. Verdi to Schwartz). This session will also feature a masterclass component, offering practical context and application.	3:00-5:00 PM EDT: Tom Burke: <i>Twang Farm: Phonemic Prompts for Vocal Versatility and Problem Solving</i> In this workshop, you’ll discover a novel approach to helping students access a wider range of voice qualities easily using “magic words”—phonemic prompts designed to efficiently establish the vocal fold, vocal tract, and velar configurations needed for speaking and singing across different qualities and registers.	
	7:30-10:30 PM EDT: NATS Artist Award Finals <i>(complimentary admission)</i>	**6:30 NMTC Pre-Curtain Reception- <i>(available for a discounted price with WW registration)</i> Reception includes food & drink AND priority seating for the NMTC Finals. 7:30-10:30 PM EDT: NMTC Finals <i>(complimentary admission)</i>

— *Schedule is subject to change* —