

inter nos

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Mission: *To advance excellence in singing through teaching, performance, scholarship, and research.*

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ASSOCIATION NOTES

Emerging Boldly

By Executive Director Allen Henderson

Throughout the pandemic I have given some thought space periodically to emergence: How NATS and organizations like ours emerge from a two-year period that has brought upheaval to society and to our professions. During the pandemic, we never wavered in our support of members and their work in our industry. We “pivoted,” “reorganized,” “re-packaged,” and many other well-used adjectives in order to serve our members and provide resources to teach safely. Our staff worked remotely while few noticed that they were doing so, a testament to their dedication and professionalism. Yet, despite all our efforts of support, difficult choices have been made by some to leave the profession, change their careers and move in new directions. Still others, lost jobs at institutions and studios where they taught. Our profession has been impacted forever.



Allen Henderson
NATS Executive Director

At NATS, our leadership has chosen a bold path forward. We seek to emerge boldly from the pandemic, bolstered by several positive outcomes: 1) While some of our sibling organizations saw percentage membership declines in the double digits, NATS reported an INCREASE in membership of 2.8% since the start of the pandemic in early 2020. 2) Pandemic funding from the federal government has assisted NATS during the pandemic and will allow us to continue to expand our services to members moving forward. 3) Despite the pandemic, we have made significant progress on meeting the benchmarks set forth in our strategic plan.

Live and In-Person Events Are Back!!

NATS had a successful and COVID-free Winter Workshop in New York City in January, which also included the finals of the National Musical Theatre Competition (NMTC) and NATS Artist Awards (NATSAA). While some chapter and region audition events are remaining online this spring due to varying venue protocols and restrictions, some audition events are returning to live settings. Thank you to all the leaders who, since 2020, have worked tirelessly to ensure our students continued to have valuable feedback experiences through NATS Student Auditions during these uncertain times. We are excited to welcome all those who qualify for the National Student Auditions to Chicago in July.

For the first time in four years, NATS will be holding a live and in-person national conference! Chicago is the place, July 1-6 are the dates, and we hope you will be part of the celebration as we come together for our largest professional development event. As you should have seen by now, we have a stellar lineup of presenters and special guests, opportunities to sing together, more sessions than ever before, and an abundance of opportunities for networking and mentoring. You can

The cover photo was taken March 10 at the 2022 SERNATS Annual Conference and Student Auditions held at Florida State University and features students and faculty from LaGrange College.

find full details on nats.org. Early registration ends **APRIL 1**, so make sure you register this month.

In the coming months, members will hear about significant initiatives related to repertoire, art song literature courses, voice pedagogy curriculum, and expansion of categories in the NSA. We also are launching our online training modules focused on I.D.E.A. (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism). This summer we welcome new leaders to our NATS Board of Directors (see the announcement on p. 33). When you have the opportunity, please thank those completing their terms for their incredible service during these challenging times, and please welcome and thank new officers for dedicating valuable service to our association. I am grateful to be able to serve alongside these leaders.

Emerging boldly, NATS is living our vision of *transforming lives through the power of singing*. **How are you planning to emerge boldly from these challenging times?** I hope you will share with me your answer to that question at the email below, and I hope to share some of your responses with our members in the coming months.

As always, I welcome your comments at allen@nats.org.



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