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Mission: *The National Association of Teachers of Singing, Incorporated, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to encouraging the highest standards of the vocal art and of ethical principles in the teaching of singing; and to promoting vocal education and research at all levels, both for the enrichment of the general public and for the professional advancement of the talented.*

The National Association of Teachers of Singing, Inc. is a member of the National Music Council.

INDEPENDENT VOICES

From the Independent Teacher Associate Editor The Joy of Not Doing it All

Happy New Year! No, I haven't got the wrong calendar page. Ask any teacher and they will tell you that September is really the start of a new year. As we say goodbye to a summer that hopefully included some rest and recreation, we reboot our studios and reimagine our goals.

Author Toni Sorensen writes, "Autumn is the time of year when Mother Nature says, 'Look how easy, how healthy, and how beautiful letting go can be.'" In addition to some actual closet cleaning, I like to take this time to toss out a few old habits, ideas, and activities that no longer "fit". Even as my studio space has expanded over the summer to finally include our own recital/classroom space (see "What We're Talking About" [p. 21](#)), I have asked for more help and collaboration than ever before. A one-woman band may be a novelty and impressive feat for a city busker, but eventually the constant clanging and banging just gets annoying!

I hired a local artist to create a mural for my studio, bartered with a local theatre company to trade rehearsal space for a season program ad, contracted a handyman to fix those things that I was never actually going to "get around to", and passed on some performance opportunities and music directing to younger colleagues. This year I will complete service on two community boards and various committees and it will be time for someone else to step up with their time and fresh ideas. I will then bide and hold space for whatever will come next.

In this issue of NATS *Inter Nos Independent Voices*, Ohio independent studio owner

[Christin Coffee Rondeau](#) shares a story that many of our readers will relate to. She emerged from a "quiet season" and learned some profoundly important things about risk, readiness, and the kind of person and teacher she wanted to be.

Utah voice teacher [Brian Manternach](#) discovered the joy of kayaking in the great outdoors, and realized some strategies for teaching in the great indoors in "Eyes on the Horizon."

NATS Vice President for Membership [Nancy Bos](#) has some great ideas for ways to get the most out of your NATS membership. Here's a hint: it starts with volunteering.



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auditions (far above previous estimates!). Our membership has increased, thanks in great part to the Membership Committee's multiple endeavors over the past two years. With the assistance of the NATS Office, the President reported that members are approximately 1/3 independent studio teachers, 1/3 academic institution teachers, and 1/3 other related professions (including choral directors, performers, therapists, collaborative pianists). 70% of the membership identify as female, with members identifying as male increasing in recent years. Regarding ethnic background, members identify as 82% white, with approximately 11% identifying as Asian, African American, Hispanic, and other. (Note: 5% undisclosed.) The Board of Directors, the national membership committee, and the national office regularly monitor this data. Our goal is to continue to strive for greater diversity and inclusion in all our association's programming and membership.

Two new committees were put forward and approved by the board. The newly approved International Advisory Committee started as a "group" last fall to review our current international initiatives and what NATS should do moving forward. Their survey of the membership revealed strong interest in pursuing international initiatives. To that end the group has planned the 75th NATS Transatlantic German Pedagogy Trip for June 2019, and the International Ambassador program. A new Advocacy Committee, chaired by Loraine Sims, was approved by the board. It will work in the best interests of NATS for advocacy of music/singing in education,

diversity and inclusion in NATS activities as well as in the larger musical/singing community, and for arts advocacy in government, business and communities. All committees are listed in a separate report in this *Inter Nos* (see pp. 13-14).

The NATS History has been updated on the NATS website. Our appreciation goes to Martha Randall (past NATS historian), Kathryn Proctor Duax (current NATS Historian), and the national office. The Mid-South Region will host the 2020 NATS National Conference in Knoxville, TN. Angela Holder is the Program Chair. The Board also approved the reactivation of the Montreal Chapter.

"Parking Lot" is our standard open forum for topics raised throughout the meeting, not related to the published agenda. Following completion of the agenda, fruitful discussion included current issues related to programs, membership, and auditions.

Our thanks to those who completed their terms of service on the Board of Directors : VP of Membership Dan Johnson-Wilmot, Secretary/Treasurer Lloyd Mims, Past President Norman Spivey, and Regional Governors Carol Chapman (Central), Brian Horne (Great Lakes), Cindy Dewey (Cal-Western), Richard Weidlich (New England), Craig Maddox (Southeastern), and Reginald Pittman (West Central). On behalf of NATS, we deeply appreciate their time, leadership and high standard of committed service to this Association.

continued: Independent Voices— The Joy of Not Doing it All

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"**What We're Talking About**" explores timely topics in the online voice teacher forums. Where do independent voice teachers find space for their student recitals? You'll be surprised at some of the creative performance venues!

Remember that this is your newsletter—*Inter Nos*—a professional trade publication for voice teachers to share ideas "between ourselves." What would you like us to explore? Please send your articles or topics for consideration to CynthiaVaughn@mac.com.

"Autumn colors remind us we are all one dancing in the wind."
—Lorin Morgan-Richards

Cynthia Vaughn teaches voice at Magnolia Music Studio in Richland, Washington, the studio she originally founded in Fort Collins, Colorado in 2008. She was formerly on the voice faculties of Colorado State University and Cedarville University. Cynthia Vaughn and Meribeth Dayme, PhD, are co-authors of a leading college voice class textbook/anthology, The Singing Book (W. W. Norton, 3rd Edition 2014). Cynthia wrote the "Currents" column for Inter Nos and was a featured writer and editor for Classical Singer.

Call for Submissions

Short articles on relevant topics are being accepted for inclusion in the independent teacher section of future issues of *Inter Nos*. Submissions should be sent by email to CynthiaVaughn@mac.com.

