



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF SINGING

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"Between Us"

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## ASSOCIATION NOTES

### A New Arts Landscape in America?

As I write this column there is much turmoil in the United States on numerous fronts. Uncertainty reigns as to how various funding sources for the arts and arts education will be impacted at the federal level which may also impact state and local level arts funding depending on where you live. In the past, ultimately there has been bipartisan support for arts funding at some level but most of us have not seen such polarized positions on many issues that previously enjoyed bipartisan support in our lifetimes. As a result, many in leading arts organizations are cautious in their statements in these uncertain times. The recent travel ban also resulted in difficulty entering the country for some of our arts colleagues engaged in artistic activity in the United States. What is NATS doing and what can you do as NATS members during this time of uncertainty?



Allen Henderson  
NATS Executive Director

Some of our larger sister organizations with considerably more financial resources have lobbyists in Washington, D.C., who work daily to keep them informed, advise them on official positions and help them devise engagement plans as legislation is proposed and moves through the legislative process. NAFME, Americans for the Arts and Opera America are three such organizations. In addition, NATS is a member of the National Music Council which also lobbies and works on behalf of its member organizations. Our strong connections with all of these organizations helps us stay informed and able to inform you regarding these issues and how you can engage on various levels. Starting recently in our weekly *Intermezzo* email to members each Tuesday we included the first of what we anticipate will be a series of links to pertinent articles on this issue. We will continue to keep you, our members, informed and based on events will engage with our partners when called to action to support the preservation and expansion of our cultural landscape in the United States. A few of these recent resources may be of interest to you. The first is especially important as it is a good resource for all of us to visit regularly as we seek to engage in meaningful ways.

- [Americans for the Arts - Arts Mobilization Center](#)
- [Op-Ed by Deborah Borda, LA Philharmonic president and CEO](#)
- [An interview with former NEA Chairman Dana Gioia](#)
- [How to Survive the Next Four Years on Social Media? Opera Can Help](#)

## continued: A New Arts Landscape in America?

Many of you are friends with me on [my personal social media Facebook page](#), are members of the [NATS members-only Facebook group](#) or have liked the [NATS Facebook page](#). If you are not receiving our weekly *Intermezzo* in your Inbox it is easy to subscribe by clicking the "Intermezzo" ad on the left side of every NATS.org page. (Click [HERE](#), then click "Subscribe" on the upper left). For those engaged in social media actively no matter what your political bent, we are all barraged today with both accurate AND inaccurate articles on our newsfeeds. NATS will always endeavor to ensure that the information we place in our official channels is the most accurate information possible at the time. I have made a pledge to myself that for every post that may include commentary on the latest developments in our political world that I will equal or surpass it with posts sharing the beauty of our art form: singers sharing their art with the world. I encourage you to join me in this pledge as we try to keep ourselves balanced and leaning toward sharing beauty with our social media world during times of uncertainty.

Speaking of beauty in our world, I am looking forward to joining many of you at the [International Congress of Voice Teachers](#) in beautiful Stockholm this summer. With the dollar strong against the Swedish Kroner right now your registration is more of a bargain than when the event was initially planned. I have also heard that some of our members are finding \$600-800 round trip airfares. Our hosts are planning a great event with all of our sessions taking place in the brand new Royal Conservatory facilities in Stockholm.

As the Spring arrives the remaining regions will hold auditions advancing singers to the National Student Auditions in Boulder, Colorado this summer, our fourth year! The Summer Workshop, NATS Intern Program and other NATS activities will mean a busy summer for NATS. I hope you will engage yourself in at least one professional development activity this summer that will help you grow as a teacher and artist.

As always I welcome your comments to [allen@nats.org](mailto:allen@nats.org).