

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of TEACHERS of SINGING

CELEBRATING

80

YEARS

Established March 23, 1944.

World's largest association of professional
voice teachers and collaborators.

TRANSFORMING LIVES
THROUGH THE
POWER OF SINGING.

inter nos

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Milestones

By Allen Henderson, NATS Executive Director

Happy 80th, NATS!

Happy Birthday to NATS! On Saturday, March 23, 2024, NATS celebrates its 80th birthday. I doubt that our founders, when they met to officially form the National Association of Teachers of Singing in 1944, envisioned the diverse organization we are today. With members throughout North America, in over 30 countries, 15 regions, and comprising more than 80 chapters, NATS and its members have influenced countless teachers and singers throughout its history. Some of us “grew up” in NATS, others of us are brand new to the association. No matter how long or short your association with NATS, we welcome you to engage deeply in this association of colleagues as we live out our vision of “Transforming Lives through the Power of Singing.”

58 National Conferences

This summer in Knoxville, Tennessee, we will gather for our 58th national conference. Some may wonder how we are able to have our 58th conference when we usually meet every two years, and we are celebrating our 80th birthday. For many years, NATS national conferences occurred every 18 months, so one conference would be in the summer and the next over Christmas break. Yes, NATS members used to spend part of their Christmas break at a national conference.

In addition to a wealth of breakout sessions and mini-recitals, our conference program this summer will include a concert by acclaimed tenor **Lawrence Brownlee** at the historic Tennessee Theatre. We hope to confirm soon that this concert will be filmed for later broadcast on PBS in partnership with the Knoxville Opera. This would be a first for NATS. We also will have our first major concert at a conference by **Amanda Reckonwith**, sure to be a significant highlight. In our ongoing efforts to ensure we are creating a sense of belonging, we will be joined by **Nicole Robinson**, CEO of Cultural Connections By Design. A music educator earlier in her career, Nicole will lead us in several plenary and breakout session to further our IDEA efforts. **Kerrie Obert** will bring important research on the voice to us in a plenary session, and we will be joined by faculty and students of one of the oldest degree programs in traditional music in

the country at East Tennessee State University. In another first, we will have a film screening at the national conference featuring the award-winning film “**The Sound of Identity**” about the first transgender singer to sing in major opera houses, Lucia Lucas. We will be joined by the film’s director James Kicklighter. We are also fortunate to have NATS member **Eden Casteel** sharing her cabaret performance *Kahn Artist: Madeline and Me*. These events highlight the richness of our community and by coming together this summer, we CELEBRATE that richness, we SUPPORT the many ways singing artists and teachers choose to construct their careers, and we LIFT UP the singing art as vital to the fabric of humanity. I hope you are making plans to join us.



Allen Henderson
NATS Executive Director

A look forward

In our efforts to continue collaborations with sibling organizations, I am excited to announce that we will be joining our 2025 Winter Workshop with the 2025 National Opera Association Conference, January 5–8, 2025, in Savannah, Georgia. Incoming Vice President for Workshops Kevin Wilson and the planning committee are delighted to bring our colleagues an enriching and integrated event. Look for more details soon.

The 11th International Congress of Voice Teachers (ICVT) returns to North America! NATS will be the host organization as we bring ICVT back to North America and gather in Toronto, Canada, July 31 to August 3, 2025. The Call for Presentations is live, and more details are coming soon as we program around the theme “Voices Uplifted.” Check out the variety of presentation modes available and submit your proposals by June 1, 2024!

Thank you to all our NATS leaders who bring their expertise to our community and make us stronger through these collaborations.

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