Onward and upward

By Allen Henderson, NATS Executive Director

hope your summer was as action-packed as our NATS summer was — if that was your goal. Our NATS Pedagogy Trip to England, NATS Intern Program in Pennsylvania, NATS Board of Directors Meeting in Jacksonville, the first-ever NATS Science-Informed Voice Pedagogy Institute in Utah, and the NATS Summer Workshop in San Diego made for a busy June and July. You will hear about many of these in this issue of *Inter Nos*.

As we move into the fall, there are a flurry of application deadlines for several important initiatives. Please stay attuned to communications from our offices regarding:

- NATS Mentoring Program for Composers
- NATS Artist Awards
- National Musical Theatre Competition
- Van Lawrence Award
- NATS Intern Program
- NATS Art Song Composition Award

This fall also starts the cycle leading to our 2024 NATS National Conference in Knoxville, Tennessee, so we will be seeking applications for the:

- Joan Frey Boytim Independent Teacher Fellowships
- NATS Emerging Leader Awards.

2024 NATS National Conference

As we look toward Knoxville, we are aware that a number of U.S. states have politicized the educational system, attempted to censor art and freedoms of expression through art and literature, and passed legislation impacting LGBTQ+ citizens and reproductive rights. Tennessee is among them. Nearly half the states in the U.S. have implemented some type of limitations on freedoms and many of these continue to be challenged in court. So, what's an association to do when faced with such widespread impact? NATS is not alone in grappling with such weighty decisions.

As Executive Director, I, along with our Board of Directors, have a dual responsibility to care for our members and for

our organization. After wide-ranging conversations, we have committed to moving forward with our meeting in Knoxville for several reasons.

- Changing venues is a difficult challenge for our small staff given the complexities of an event such as a national conference.
- Our conference planning model results in venues being selected four to six years in advance.
 Cancelling contracts carries nearly \$100,000 in penalties for our event and would severely impact the finances of our association.



Allen Henderson NATS Executive Director

 We have a volunteer committee that has been engaged in planning for many years. Many of them served on the 2020 conference committee which became our virtual conference and so have dedicated nearly six years of service to this task.

How might our presence and collective voice as artists make an impact in Knoxville? With the help of our planning committee, we are pursuing a variety of options to show our support for marginalized communities. Some of them are:

- All attendees will be provided a list of LGBTQ+ and BIPOCowned/friendly restaurants throughout Knoxville in support of hospitality workers who disproportionally identify as members of marginalized communities.
- Our programming will highlight our support of marginalized communities with a screening of the award-winning film "Sound of Identity" by filmmaker James Kicklighter who will be in attendance. We will be inviting members of the trans community in Knoxville to attend this important screening for its first viewing in the area.
- We will feature a cabaret performance by award-winning performer Amanda Reckonwith, the alter ego of actor-singer David Sabella.
- Attendees will be given the opportunity to offset their spending in this destination through our partnership

inter nos VOL. 56, NO. 2 PUBLISHER Allen Henderson, Executive Director, allen@nats.org

EDITOR Beth Buchanan, Marketing and Communications Manager beth@nats.org INDEPENDENT TEACHER ASSOCIATE EDITOR Cynthia Vaughn, cynthiavaughn@icloud.com

ADVERTISING TEAM advertising@nats.org

DESIGN Carter Publishing Studio

inter nos is the official newsletter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing. It is published two times per year (spring and fall) for all NATS members.

4 INTER NOS | FALL 2023

ASSOCIATION NOTES



Discover. Engage. Grow.

Nurture your career in the arts at North Park.

For more information, contact Erin Matonte ematonte@northpark.edu (773) 244-4583 northpark.edu/smat



with Social Offset, a nonprofit that helps event attendees and business travelers <u>offset</u> spending in destinations whose laws do not align with their core values by making it easy to donate to local charities that do.

In the coming months, as we announce the full schedule of conference events and activities, I hope you will be pleased with the ways NATS continues to support, celebrate, and uplift the breadth and depth of our profession. We look forward to celebrating excellence in the singing art as we celebrate the 80th birthday of NATS and music's ability to uplift individual and collective stories. I hope you will be there to add YOUR voice to the celebration.

As always, I welcome your comments or response at <u>allen@nats.org</u>.

Have you moved, changed your contact information, or your email?

Members: Now is a good time to update your information on NATS.org. Keeping your contact information up-todate ensures that you won't miss any of our member benefits or upcoming events.

-
_

To make updates, log on to your Member Home Page (your email address for NATS correspondence is your Login). Then, click the "My Profile" link on the right.

You also can call the NATS National Office at 904-992-9101 for assistance.