

# INDEPENDENT VOICES

## From the Independent Teacher Associate Editor

I am excited and honored to be the new Associate Editor for Independent Voices. I am grateful to outgoing associate editor, Nancy Bos, whom I've known since she was a NATS Intern more than a decade ago. Even then, Nancy showed great enthusiasm and vision and was an advocate for non-university independent voice teachers. Over the years, it has been exciting to watch Nancy take on leadership and advocacy roles in NATS. I promise to continue her mission to encourage independent teachers to become active in NATS leadership at the local, regional, and national level. Independent studio teachers comprise 60% of NATS total membership and our numbers are growing.



Cynthia Vaughn  
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As a brand new NATS member in 1984, fresh out of graduate school, I attended my first national summer workshop in Boulder, Colorado. It was amazing! I learned so much and met many new friends from across the US and Canada, who treated me like a real professional voice teacher (even though I still felt like a student.) Since then, I don't think I've missed a national conference in thirty years. I've met heroes and mentors like Roy Delp, Jean Westerman Gregg, Robert Edwin, Meribeth Dayme, Marni Nixon, and Joan Boytim, and I still have conference reunions with friends that I first met at the 1984 workshop!

My NATS journey has come full circle from private voice studios in California, Illinois, Ohio, New York, and Colorado to a decade of university teaching. In 2008 I left full-time academia to open a small independent community music school. Fast forward to 2016, I am now director of two multi-teacher independent studios, where I teach 20-25 weekly voice lessons and oversee other teachers. In addition to knowledge of vocal repertoire, technique, and styles, I continue to learn about business, entrepreneurship, and mentoring.

The columns and articles for Independent Voices will continue to be "Inter Nos" – between us. I'm very active on social media and voice teacher forums and will stay current on trends and topics. One of the new features I'd like to introduce is a series of articles and interviews on TRANSITIONS. As singers and voice teachers we go through many transitions: such as transitioning from graduate school to professional, transitioning from a singing career to teaching, transitioning into parenting plus a teaching career, transitioning from a small town to a big city or vice versa. In this issue, Stephanie Samaras talks about leaving the bustle of NYC for the historic charm and beaches of Charleston, South Carolina. Sharon Szymanski writes about unexpectedly transitioning from a small independent studio to a community music school.

As I reach out to colleagues for input and ideas, short articles on relevant topics will be welcomed for consideration for future issues of Independent Voices for Inter Nos. Send submissions for review to my e-mail address [CynthiaVaughn@mac.com](mailto:CynthiaVaughn@mac.com)

Are you ready? Let's do this! Cynthia Vaughn

*Cynthia Vaughn is the Founder/Director of Magnolia Music Studios in Fort Collins CO and Richland WA. 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** (WWNorton, 3rd edition 2014). Cynthia wrote the "Currents" column for **Inter Nos** in the 1990s and was a feature writer and editor for **Classical Singer Magazine**.*