



ASSOCIATION NOTES

A Cycle of Continuous Improvement

As musicians, we were taught early on that our progress is dependent on developing a cycle in which we perform - evaluate that performance - work on various aspects to improve and start the cycle over. As singers, this cycle is informed not only by our own self-evaluation but that of our teachers, stage directors, coaches, collaborative pianists and others who we invite into our circle of support. It is also informed by our own research into the repertoire we are preparing, the languages we are singing, and many other influences.



Allen Henderson
NATS Executive Director

As teachers of singing, our cycle of continuous improvement must be to teach - evaluate that teaching experience/lesson - work to improve our effectiveness and ability to address the needs of the student in preparation for the start of the next cycle. We invite others into our circle of support for our teaching through our NATS colleagues, social-media groups, workshops and other professional development events we attend to improve our effectiveness.

As our professional organization, NATS is also in a cycle of continuous improvement. Each event, publication and program is evaluated upon its completion. Participants are invited to submit their evaluations; staff and members are charged with the responsibility to read participant evaluations and perform their own evaluation; and changes are discussed and approved through various channels for better quality in the next iteration. Our Board of Directors is the "hardest working board in show business." They are the voice of the members as we come together each summer - and many times during the year online - to oversee the work of the association.

Every two years, NATS comes together for our national conference. Through this experience, our circle widens, our knowledge grows, our profession is celebrated and long-distance professional friendships are renewed. When we leave, we leave renewed and refreshed with new knowledge and affirmation that the profession we love and dedicate ourselves to is full of passionate colleagues who are engaged in the pursuit of excellence in the teaching of singing.

We were six attendees short of breaking the 1000 mark in attendees in Boston in 2014. Make sure you are part of our record-breaking attendance in Chicago this July, where we expect to surpass 1000 by a significant number. You will find much more information in this publication and, of course, online at www.nats.org.

We can't wait to see you in the Windy City!

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