

# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION *of* TEACHERS *of* SINGING



**LOUISE LERCH**

**THE LOUISE LERCH AWARD**

THIRD PRIZE IN THE NATIONAL MUSICAL THEATRE COMPETITION

“Louise had an infectious love for music and dedicated her life to music and teaching young people. She had a passion for music theater and worked extensively with NATS as an accompanist, board member and music reviewer. Honoring Louise in this way is the perfect fit. This award ensures that her giving spirit and encouragement live on.” - Jolie Stratton, friend and funder of the award

Longtime NATS member and former NATS Foundation President Louise Lerch worked extensively with the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Foundation, as a member of the board since 1991, and as a music reviewer for the *Journal of Singing* (1986-1998). Louise was a consultant to Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation for the Musical Theatre Collection for Teens and Kids (1995-2002). Her books have sold worldwide and have been used by many performers currently on Broadway. She won numerous awards throughout her career, including, SMU Outstanding Service and Dedication Awards as Director and Creator of the Meadows School of the Arts Musical Theatre and Creative Dramatics Workshops (1993-98), and the Baldwin-Wallace College Conservatory of Music Achievement Award as Outstanding Alumni (1991).

Louise received her Bachelor of Music-Organ from Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, OH, a Master of Music-Organ from the University of Oklahoma, in Norman, OK, and a Master of Arts-Voice from Texas Woman's University in Denton, TX. From 1978 to 2005, Louise taught at TWU, Brookhaven College, Texas Wesleyan College, Interlochen Arts Academy, University of Oklahoma, SMU, and Eastfield College, where she was Director of the Center for Studies in American Musical Theatre.

Louise dedicated her life to music and teaching young people. She touched the lives of thousands of students who have gone on to perform on Broadway, at Disney theme parks, and beyond. She is remembered for her generosity, and big heart. Her student's, affectionately referred to her as 'Mama Louise' and she treated each one as special.

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## **GIVING to NATS**

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