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newsletter

Fall 2016

A Big Welcome to 16 New Chapters! Message for our SNATS Chapters

- Eastern Connecticut State University**, Willimantic, CT: Dr. Emily Riggs, advisor; Hannah Bythrow, president
- Fredonia School of Music - SUNY Fredonia**: Daniel Ihasz, advisor; Eleanor Steinmetz, president
- Kennesaw State University**, Kennesaw, GA: Todd Wedge, advisor; Sierra Manson, president
- Loyola University**, New Orleans, LA: Dreux Montegut, advisor; Abigail White, president
- Morningside College**, Sioux City, IA: Kate Saulsbury, advisor; Anna Zetterlund, president
- New England Conservatory**, Boston, MA: Dr. Ian Howell, advisor; Alyssa Weathersby, president
- Oberlin Conservatory**, Oberlin, OH; Lorraine Manz; advisor, Theodora Nestorova, president
- Snow College**, Ephraim, UT: Dr. Ruth Ellis, advisor; Taylor Stewart, president
- University of Mary Hardin-Baylor**, Belton, TX: George Hogan, advisor; Katherine Spellmon, president
- University of Minnesota-Twin Cities**, Minneapolis, MN: Jean Del Santo, advisor, Rebecca Blackwell, president
- University of Southern California**, Los Angeles, CA: Lynn Holding, advisor; Laurel Mehaffey, acting president
- University of Southern Maine**, Gorham, ME: Dr. Mariana Mihai-Zoeter, advisor; Celeste Mittelhauser, president
- University of Utah**, Salt Lake City, UT: Seth Keeton, advisor; Wendi Griffiths, president
- Webster University**, Webster Groves, MO: Dr. Jacob Lassetter, advisor, Danielle Feinstein, president
- West Chester University**, West Chester, PA: Dr. Stephen Ng, advisor; Emily Walls, president
- Western Michigan University**, Kalamazoo, MI: Ken Prewitt, advisor; Hayley Girard/Sarabeth Brown, co-presidents



Warm greetings to all SNATS members and chapter advisors! It is my pleasure to serve you as NATS Vice President for Outreach. Working with SNATS Chapters is a large part of my position. I am here to help and support you in any way I can. This is the first of what will be a bi-annual newsletter.

Alison Feldt serves as Vice President for Outreach for NATS.

My work began by contacting each chapter advisor to obtain updated advisor and chapter president information. This work will be repeated every fall; however it is important that you notify me immediately anytime there is a change in leadership. My goal is to have the SNATS directory up to date and accurate at all times. The directory lists the chapter advisor(s) and president(s) and their email addresses.

I am working on creating handbooks for both chapter advisors and presidents. The bones of those handbooks will be posted on the SNATS page at nats.org soon. I welcome your input and additions to the handbooks, especially from experienced SNATS advisors. It is my hope the handbooks will serve as resources to help each chapter remain active and vital.

Finally, I am happy to visit your chapter as time allows. Please know that I am always here to support you and your chapter. The spring newsletter will go out between March 15-April 15, 2017. Email your chapter's news/photos to vpoutreach@nats.org before March 15.

SUBMIT YOUR EVENT LISTINGS

SNATS chapters who would like to have their events listed at [nats.org](http://www.nats.org) can follow this link: http://www.nats.org/snats_events.html and click the “Submit an Event” button.

Chapter News

Central Methodist SNATS

Dr. Susan Quigley-Duggan, advisor
Kay Wilken, president

Central Methodist SNATS held a fundraiser October 8th to raise money to support travel to the NATS Central Region Conference. They will hold a voice master class January 21, 2017. One of their SNATS members will compete at the Kansas City Metro Region NATS February 2017.

Drake University SNATS

Leanne Freeman-Miller, advisor
Gabrielle Clutter & Alex Tillinghast, co-presidents

Events planned for fall semester include:

- 9/29: Audition Workshop
- 10/4: Opera movie night
- 10/18: Opera movie night #2

- 10/27: Open Studio Masterclass
- 12/10: Opera Scenes Recital

At the end of the semester the chapter will present student directed, performed, and accompanied scenes.

Northwestern State University SNATS

Terri Sanders, advisor; Kaylee Weakley, president

The newly formed SNATS Chapter at Northwestern State University has been approved officially by the Northwestern State University Activities board as a recognized student organization on campus. This chapter is pleased to be part of the NATS Southern Region.



(left to right) LaFaith Williams, Jade Knight (Treasurer), Kaylee Weakley (President), Billy Gorr (Vice-President), Carley Ryder, Morgan McCrory (Secretary), Mikayla Richardson and Amanda Charles.

About Alison | Vice President for Outreach, National Association of Teachers of Singing

Alison Feldt is an Associate Professor of Voice at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, where she has taught voice and voice related courses since 1989. She served as chair of the music department from 2007 to 2016. Dr. Feldt has served NATS in a number of different positions including North Central Region Governor, and State Governor, President, and Auditions Chair of the Minnesota Chapter of NATS. She served as conference chair for the 2006 NATS National Conference in Minneapolis.

Dr. Feldt is the recipient of numerous national and international singing awards, including first place in the Minnesota District National Association of Teachers of Singing Artist Award competition, the Minnesota District Metropolitan Opera Auditions and the Minnesota-Western Wisconsin Metropolitan Opera Auditions, the Opera/Lied Award from the City of Salzburg Cultural Foundation, and the Nico Dostal and Robert Stolz Foundations Operetta Award. She was twice a finalist for the McKnight Fellowship for Performing Musicians, and is a recipient of a Jerome Foundation Travel/Study Grant. Dr. Feldt has performed throughout Europe as well as Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Oberlin Conservatory

Lorraine Manz, advisor; Theodora Nestorova, president



The Oberlin Conservatory SNATS Chapter is new. They are currently creating a charter/constitution as a means of connecting with the Oberlin College Student Union as an organization. They are planning speakers, master class teachers, workshops, symposiums, and to host a possible NATS Competition. In addition, they are getting organized, selecting board members/officers, and communicating regularly!

St. Olaf College SNATS

**Tracey Engleman, advisor
Nick Swanson and J.W. Keckley,
co-presidents**

St. Olaf College SNATS sponsors several events each semester including dinnertime conversations with voice faculty and alumni and trips to Minnesota Opera performances.

Knowing that Renee Fleming would be performing nearby, music students from St. Olaf College were eager to take part in the experience. That's when Nick Swanson and J.W. Keckley, co-presidents of the St. Olaf Chapter of Student NATS, got to work. Their perseverance paid off.

The students enjoyed a personal meet and greet with the opera star, following her recital in October for the Schubert Club's

International Artist Series in St. Paul, Minn. The next day, the students attended a master class by Ms. Fleming at MacPhail Center for Music in Minneapolis.

Ms. Fleming's master class was an incredible experience. From the second she stepped onto stage, students were captivated. Four graduate-level singers performed arias for her, and she offered insightful criticism and shared a great deal of her philosophy on music-making. They learned not only how generous of a performer and person she is, but quite a bit about making it in today's opera industry.

At the conclusion of the program, a staff member ushered the St. Olaf students downstairs to a secluded room and informed them that the world-famous soprano herself would soon be fielding their questions. Her generosity proved to be true as she spent an extra 20 minutes with the St. Olaf students, talking about the transition from undergraduate to graduate school, what to look for in a voice teacher, and how to market oneself in today's world. She was as personable as could be, and seemed to take great pleasure in sharing the knowledge she's amassed over the years with a younger generation. Each St. Olaf student left awe-struck at meeting an idol, but with concrete advice to take forward.



Opera star Renee Fleming and St. Olaf music students following a master class at MacPhail Center for Music in Minneapolis.

University of Mobile SNATS

Dr. Kathryn Hedlund, advisor; Austin Boyett, president



The University of Mobile SNATS held an Alexander Technique Workshop and Masterclass with Patricia O’Neill in January 2016. They haven’t yet decided what to do for their spring 2017 workshop; however they hope to partner with University of South Alabama SNATS, who just formed a chapter this fall.



Photos from an Alexander Technique Workshop with University of Mobile SNATS students, led by Patricia O’Neill.

University of Montana

Dr. Kimberly James, advisor; Marin Sewell, president

The University of Montana Student Nats Chapter met on October 4 to determine officers and begin planning for the academic year ahead. The first activity they will help facilitate is student travel to Billings MT for the Montana Chapter Student Auditions in November. The students discussed professional development meetings, guest master class opportunities, and fundraising. Chapter activities are posted on the UM Student Nats Facebook page.



Meet the newly elected UM SNATS officers.

University of North Carolina-Greensboro SNATS

Robert Wells, advisor; Grace McKinnon, president

UNCG SNATS Chapter activities for 2015-2016 year:

- A faculty lecture titled "How to get the most out of pianist collaborations" with Dr. James Douglass, Associate Professor of Collaborative Piano
- "Russian Vocal Literature Symposium" with Professor Kenneth Griffiths from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. This was a two-day workshop on Russian lyric diction, art song, and opera. In preparation for this event, UNCG faculty and graduate students provided workshops on related topics, including Russian art song lectures, an introduction to the Cyrillic alphabet, etc.

- A "legit" Music Theater master class led by Daniel Callaway, faculty member at Elon University and UNCG Graduate Student

- Aria/Art Song master class and Q&A session with tenor Randall Bills. Randall has extensive experience performing in opera houses worldwide, and he is currently based in Europe

- African American Art Song Lecture with Louise Toppin. Dr. Toppin, an expert in this field, is on the faculty at University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.

Among activities planned for the 2016-2017 academic year are a lecture-recital and master class to be given by Emily Pulley, soprano.

University of Toronto SNATS

Elizabeth McDonald, advisor
Stephanie Higgins, president

This year, SNATS UofT launches the SNATS UofT Community Outreach Concert Series and all SNATS UofT members are encouraged to participate in the variety of concerts (and venues!) scheduled throughout the series, and to take their music-making into the greater Toronto community. Their first concert was at Richview Manor on October 2nd.

On October 28th, they held a [Book and Score Sale](#). Diane Nelsen, alumna of the Faculty of Music, has generously donated her expansive music library to further their fundraising efforts as a new student group. There were many rare scores and editions available. What a great way to build your music library!

During the Book and Score Sale, they also had the opportunity to sign up for their Annual Blood Drive in Memory of Prof. Lynn Blaser.

The University of Toronto will host the 2017 NATS Intern Program. Lorna MacDonald is the local coordinator and Elizabeth McDonald is the chapter advisor.

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University of Tulsa (TU SNATS)

Judith Raiford, advisor; Jacqi Cole, president

The TU SNATS Chapter is a very active chapter and as an official campus organization receive full funding for luncheon meetings held every second Friday of the month during the academic year. Their September meeting is always an open meeting to recruit and welcome new members. The December meeting is a holiday party and their April meeting is a business/election meeting. They have guest speakers at their October, November, February and March. Some of their recent guests have been the Studio Artists from Tulsa Opera, Martha Sharp, professor emeritus from the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Tim Sharp-Executive, Director of ACDA, Aaron Beck, Director of Education and Outreach for Tulsa Opera and Director of the Tulsa Youth Opera, Dane Trimble from Classical Singer magazine, and several local musicians and teachers who work with professional singers in various capacities.

The chapter's social event of the fall is "Dinner and an Opera," where members attend one of the Tulsa Opera performances and then meet for dinner at a nice restaurant. In the spring semester, TU SNATS members serve as monitors and greeters for their vocal auditions, juries, and special events (vocal competitions held on our campus, etc.) This fall they added a service project to draw up and post unofficial Practice Room Guidelines and Rules, as well as serving on teams to police practice rooms and keep them tidy and in good order.



Several TU SNATS members attended La bohème last year.

University of Western Ontario

Patricia Green, advisor; Laura Duffy, president

SNATS Western was founded in 2015 with only five members and has quickly grown to 16 members and counting! Their chapter is dedicated to the promotion of vocal pedagogy, as well as career building and support for those interested in professional careers in teaching and performing.

They are hosting four major events this year: two concerts open to all voice students at Western and two workshops exclusively for SNATS Western members. Their chapter will also assist with the NATS Ontario Vocal Showcase at Western in November and performing concerts in the London community throughout the year.

Their first event was an outreach concert that took place October 13. This is an aria concert providing singers who are preparing for summer programs and YAPs the opportunity to perform their arias before audition season. Their aim is to provide performance opportunities for Western voice students, and also to reach more students on campus to foster an interest in opera.

Spring 2015 events included:

- Workshop on NATS adjudicating: Barbara Dunn-Prosser (NATS Ontario President, Lecturer at UWO)
- Volunteered at NATS Regionals which were held at Western

Fall 2016 events include:

- Aria Concert October 13 in the airport lounge of Talbot College
- Workshop: Running a Home Studio with Beth Horst, November 9
- NATS Ontario Vocal Showcase, November 19
- Members of Western SNATS will also give presentations on their Voice Fridays series: Laura Duffy, Practical Practicing, October and Jen Cyr and Chad Louwerse, Bring us your Jury Repertoire, November

Winter 2017 events include:

- February: TBD Running a master class workshop
- March: recital & jury repertoire concert

University of Wyoming SNATS

Katrina Zook, advisor; Lauren Larson, president
University of Wyoming SNATS is an RSO (Recognized Student Organization).

Spring 2016 the University of Wyoming SNATS held an event titled Sophomore Barrier Jury preparation in which students practiced musicianship skills and mock research interviews. They also were present at a SNATS Informational Table during the Colorado/Wyoming Nats Student Auditions, University of Wyoming, April 2016. For fall 2016, they held a SNATS Game Night and Promotional and Organizational meeting (Sept. 2016). In October, they held a SNATS Opera Viewing Evening of Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*.

Washington State University

Rebecca Shol, president
Bogdan "Theo" Mynka, incoming president

The chapter was very busy in 2015-16, performing, providing clinics for the School of Music and doing community outreach. They also sponsored several events to raise money for the members in Concert Choir to travel to Korea in May 2016.



Some of their 2016 activities included:

February 29 – March 4: Students sponsored Teacher Appreciation Week during which they provided coffee and goodies to the faculty each morning and wrote notes of appreciation to their teachers.

March 25: Atrium Recital in Holland Library

March 26: Dr. Shawn Copeland from University of Idaho presented an Alexander Technique workshop

April 5: Pie Your Professor fund raiser

September 23 and 24: Recital and master class presented by guest artist Karina Brazas

September 29: Andrew Turner, past president of WSU SNATS, performed arias from *Carmen*, *La Gioconda*, and *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* with the Washington State University Symphony Orchestra as a finalist in the WSU School of Music Concerto/Aria Competition.

October: Annual Trick or Soup event in which chapter members go around the community of Pullman in costume collecting food for the local food bank.

The chapter also instituted SNATS Study Sessions within the School of Music. Two two-hour study sessions are held weekly where students assist each other in preparing course work and studying for exams. The chapter received a grant to bring guest artist Dr. Anne Jennifer Nash, Concordia College voice faculty, for a recital and master class January 2017.

Wilfrid Laurier University SNATS

Amanda Brunk, advisor; Rachel Kalap & Janelle Laarakker, co-presidents

This year, the Wilfrid Laurier University SNATS Chapter will host a series of teaching workshops for new teachers, where they will be in a master class setting with studio teachers showing them how to work with young students. This is their third year hosting this series.

NEW! FOR 2017

NATS Student Membership

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nats.org/Student_Membership

Although NATS Student membership is not a requirement for belonging to a SNATS Chapter, your active participation with SNATS is a great first step toward purchasing a NATS student membership for yourself!