



## NATS Mid-Atlantic Region 2019 Annual Report and Financial Statement

### Membership

As of April 24, 2019, the Mid-Atlantic Region currently is home to 641 active members (the same as last year at this time), including 44 emeritus members and ten student members. Eighty-five members have allowed their memberships to lapse, an increase of 18 over last year. All four Mid-Atlantic Districts, i.e., Maryland/DC, Virginia, North and South Carolina, continue to recruit and welcome new members to the fold. Each District has a Recruitment and Retention Plan actively in place. NC-NATS is actively spear-heading a program to attract and recruit Collaborative Pianists.

### SNATS Chapters

Disappointingly, the ten SNATS Chapters located in the Mid-Atlantic Region currently listed at National are defunct or dormant. I contacted all ten advisors listed; three responded. Efforts to re-invigorate a SNATS Chapter at Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA are underway.

### NATS NSA: Mid-Atlantic Region

The Region's annual conference and auditions event was held at Towson University, Towson, MD, March 22-23, 2019, while the university was on spring break. The Annual Board Meeting was held on March 21, 2019. President Karen Brunssen joined us for the entire weekend, sharing news of NATS with the Board and the membership while lending her ear to many members ☺. One Hundred Thirty-Six (136) teachers sponsored students; 472 students auditioned, 86 pianists collaborated, 24 substitute adjudicators served for member teachers unable to adjudicate. Two Master Classes were led by member teachers of the MDDC-NATS District: one for college singers; one for high school singers, during which Karen also served as clinician. Poster presentations by five members, and local music vendor The Musical Source were also on hand. Towson was the perfect venue for Mid-Atlantic's large event, and came a quite a cost: \$7,661.69. MDDC-NATS contributed \$750.00; the Region paid the rest. The implementation of an application fee and the generous *gratis* clinician participation allowed the Region to afford this year's event. The region's 2018-2019 Financial Statement is attached. One Hundred Forty-Four singers qualified for the NSA; 95 have applied, taking the lead in the nation ☺.

### Annual Board Meeting

Fourteen Executive Board members met from 6.30-9.30 pm, Thursday, March 21. Ongoing active issues are securing venues that can accommodate our numbers on dates that accommodate Regional and National deadlines; increasing on-site sponsoring teacher participation (loss of independent teacher income and travel costs are prohibitive for many),

navigating AuditionWare; copyright/downloaded-purchased music issues. Financial stability is now possible, given the fee structure in place. As long as pro-active preparations are made for events in the MDDC District, where costs are highest, the Region should maintain solid financial health. A small committee of Mid-Atlantic Board members is currently studying the numbers to manage and plan future ‘peopled’ NATS NSA-Mid-Atlantic Region events.

AuditionWare, while a huge positive element in the scheduling of up to 700 auditions for Regional events (last year, 680 auditions were heard), still can be thorny and time-consuming to use. One issue: this year, many teachers took advantage of simply selecting pianists from the dropdown menus without following up, creating havoc when pianist # of audition quotas were met prematurely. This caused considerable dismay for those pianists and teachers who were promised by those pianists and created many extra hours of work for the RG.

The vetting of downloaded-purchased music is not only necessary, but is now a time-consuming component of each day’s auditions. Back up resources for singers who’ve traveled 600 miles only to learn their music is illegal are not readily available in satellite locations, whose library may be across campus or closed due to spring break. On-site music vendors often don’t have copies of the music (for \$\$) in question.

Non-attending sponsoring member teachers are increasing in number, in spite of the \$50 substitute adjudicator fee in place. Finding subs is also a very time-consuming task for the RG, who must serve as liaison. Even with a two-year consecutive absence rule in place, i.e., sponsoring member teachers’ singers may not participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of teacher absence, teachers continue to test these limitations.

VPs-Auditions Chairs in each District have asked me many times over the course of my tenure as RG for access to the NATS Database to facilitate their Auditions events. I bring this to the table again this year. Incoming Mid-Atlantic Regional Governor Jill Terhaar Lewis is well aware of these issues, having actively served as an officer in SC and on the Regional Board. The Region will be in very capable hands on July 1, 2019 (⌚).

## **Mid-Atlantic NATSAA**

The 2020 Preliminary Rounds will be held at American University in Washington, DC October 11-12, 2019.

## **District/Chapter Highlights**

All four Districts hold progressive auditions events, annually. SC and NC hold two events per year, splitting by genre, i.e., Music Theater/CCM in the fall and Classical in the spring. MDDC and VA hold one event in the spring. VA is considering its options, as its numbers are outgrowing time and resources required during the course of one weekend. All District Annual Reports and Financial Statements are attached.

## **MDDC**

Collaborations with area arts organizations and educational institutions have made it possible to offer more wide-ranging workshops to the membership. The collaboration with Maryland Lawyers for the Arts in fall 2018 resulted in a panel of professionals in areas of establishing an online presence, use of social media, copyright law and the building and branding of the home studio. The collaboration with Vocal Arts DC has resulted in a master class with Metropolitan Opera Counter tenor Iestyn Davies with specialization in repertoire of Baroque/Early Music. MDDC's Memorandum of Agreement with American University will support events such as NATSSA Mid-Atlantic Preliminary auditions this fall and potentially, studio classes and workshops in the 2019-2020 season. MDDC continues to offer successful collaborative studio classes several times a year where member teachers share teaching methods and strategize with new ones. Recruiting members for officer posts remains challenging. This year's efforts to recruit new members, particularly at colleges and universities in the District, produced 18 new and reinstated members. Spring 2020 NATS Student Auditions: MDDC Chapter event is TBA. Total membership: 117. Financially, the Chapter is well-positioned.

## **VA**

The 2019-2020 incoming Board of 13 is comprised of a healthy balance of academic, independent and ethnically diverse member teachers. Spring auditions at Shenandoah University—with a two-hour weather delay -- heard 486 auditions in two days – VA is discussing how to move forward with regard to increasing numbers. Local member teachers served as Clinicians: Nick Pallesen and Judith Cline. Next year's NATS Student Auditions: VA Chapter event will be held at Old Dominion University, February 14-15, 2020. Financially, VA is very sound. Membership Chair Melissa Chavez has spearheaded several initiatives to attract and retain members. Current active members number 139.

## **NC**

Two auditions events are held annually. The fall MT/CCM event heard 340 auditions; the spring classical event heard 330 auditions. Missy Wise, 2016 NATS MT Competition Winner, was the clinician at the fall event; Andrea Healy Moore, soprano and well-known advocate for music by living American composers, presented in the spring. District Governor Dr. DeMar Neal, along with Arlene Shruti, nationally recognized collaborative pianist and currently on faculty at UNCG, initiated a 'meet and greet' for collaborative pianists at the spring auditions event. The chapter welcomed several collaborative pianists into the membership this year. Triad collaborative pianist Susan Young, new NATS member, has agreed to serve in the inaugural post of Collaborative Pianist Liaison on NC's Executive Board. Financially, NC remains in a very strong position; the Board is considering how to use accrued funds in future -- perhaps increasing award amounts. The Fall NATS Student Auditions: NC Chapter MT/CCM 2019 auditions event will be held at Meredith College; spring 2020 auditions event will be held at UNC-Greensboro. Members number 163.

## **SC**

Two auditions events are held, annually: the fall NATS Student Auditions MT/CCM event heard 204 auditions sponsored by 36 members. Classes of Alexander Technique, Functional Voice Training; Master were led by SC Chapter teachers. Drawing from local resources saved SC \$900 in clinician fees and expenses. DG Jill Terhaar Lewis (Regional Governor-Elect) organized several membership events/workshops in September 2018 in numerous underrepresented parts of the state. A NATS Discretionary Fund grant helped fund these endeavors, which successfully laid groundwork for recruiting new members. SC has a mentoring program in place; and a nominating committee to present new officer candidates to the membership. Financially, SC remains sound. The fall 2019 NATS Student Auditions-MT/CCM will be held at Converse College; the spring 2020 NATS Student Auditions-Classical event will be held at Furman University. Current membership: 105.

### **Upcoming Events:**

2020 NATSAA Preliminary Auditions: American University, Washington, DC, October 11-12, 2019

2020 NATS NSA: Mid-Atlantic Region: March 13-14, 2020 University of South Carolina, Columbia

2021 NATS NSA: Mid-Atlantic Region: March 19-20 UNC-Greensboro, NC to be confirmed

2022 NATS NSA: Mid-Atlantic Region: March 18-19, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara D. Peters". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Barbara" on the first line and "D. Peters" on the second line.