

**NATS Arkansas Chapter
Spring Conference 2017
February 24-25, 2017
Harding University, Searcy, AR**

President's Call and Schedule

Dear Arkansas NATS colleagues,

You are invited to attend our annual conference and student auditions to be held at Harding University February 24-25, 2017. Please mark your calendars and make plans to be with us. We are looking forward to hosting you and I hope to see you all there!

This year we are having a MEMBER's Recital on Friday evening. We need as many as possible to submit your offering for the recital. We will build an evening recital from your application repertoire. Please look for the application on the website, soon. I apologize for the delay in this process. I am solely responsible. We do need to make this work. Our students need to see us performing!

There is a special event this year we are pleased to announce: On Thursday night before the conference, Harding University will be hosting the group "Women of the World" in concert. The program will be at 7:00 in the Administration Auditorium and will be FREE to NATS participants. This Boston-based international vocal quartet from Japan, India, Italy and Haiti performs original and folk music with a contemporary twist. **They will also be giving us an early reprise of their performance on Friday morning** before auditions start. A great example of professionals singing early in the day! Plan to be there early for a treat!

Our Master Class on Saturday Morning will be done by Corey Trahan from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, LA. He is the current NATS Chapter President of Louisiana and is an active performer, educator and stage director in opera, oratorio, music theatre, operetta and recital venues. Known for his comic timing, versatile voice, and onstage charisma, he is being seen and heard internationally in repertoire ranging from operatic classics to modern musical theatre. We are proud to feature one of our Region's Own!

As I'm sure you are aware NATS has made a number of changes to the auditions process in order to create a uniform standard in adjudication and repertoire requirements. Although we are in the second year of this new process it is good to make sure you are fully aware of some of the changes. If you are like me... it is tough to teach an old dog, new tricks. Please pay particular attention to the following:

- The numbers for the categories have changed considerably. Please pay attention to this.
- Some of the repertoire requirements have changed. For example upper division students are required to have four pieces and the advanced categories require five.
- The Musical Theater categories are now divided by gender.
- The Musical Theater repertoire no longer has date requirements and will allow repertoire from "Staged Broadway and Off-Broadway productions." Verifying repertoire from more obscure productions turned out to be a very time consuming process prior to the regional auditions. If you choose repertoire of this type *please* assist your colleagues in verification process by providing reference information.
- We have been asked to use a rubric and a numbered grading scale for adjudication. The rubric may be found in the auditions handbook. There is a helpful webinar on scoring available on the NATS website at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_f7WsiEc-A&feature=youtu.be. *I urge you to review these items before you attend the auditions.*

All conference-related documents will be posted online at www.natssouthern.com. Click the Arkansas chapter link and you're there! Print all of the information that you expect to use. *Please observe the **January 28th registration deadline**.*

The master class application AND the Member's Recital Application will be on the Arkansas Chapter website.

A tentative schedule for the conference is found on the following page. Please check the website for the official schedule prior to the auditions.

I look forward to seeing you in Searcy!

Warm regards,
Rager Moore

Tentative Schedule - All times are approximate. Check website for exact times and locations

Friday, February 27

8:00 registration (pick up name tags)

9:00 Judges Meeting

9:30 Special Performance by Women of the World

10:00 Prelims begin

12:00-1:30 Luncheon for Judges

1:30-4:00 Prelims Continue

7:00pm Members Recital (Semifinalists announced after recital)

Saturday, February 28

8:00 Business meeting

9:00-10:30 Semifinal round auditions

10:30-12:00 Masterclass

12:00-1:00 Member box lunch

1:00 Final round auditions and awards ceremony

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Site Chairperson: Kelly Neill, kneill@harding.edu