

GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE CALL

It is my pleasure to announce the Thirty-Third NATS Southern Region

Fall Conference and Student Auditions.

November 6 – 8, 2008

Northwestern State University

Natchitoches, Louisiana

Here's what we'll be offering:

PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Wed, November 5	Board of Control Meeting	(evening)
Thu, November 6	Preliminary Round Auditions	(all day)
	Member Artist Recital	(evening)
Fri, November 7	Chapter & Region Meetings	(breakfast)
	Semi-Final Round	(morning)
	Master Class for non Semi-Finalists	(morning)
	Lecture/Recital Presentations	(afternoon)
	Master Classes -- Member Teachers	(afternoon)
	Region Banquet	(evening)
Sat, November 8	Final Round Competition	(9a.m. – 2 p.m.)

Take time to read all the information available on our excellent web site. You should find everything you need there. If not, please contact me or the appropriate officer. Here are a few announcements which will be useful to you as you prepare your applications:

THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATIONS, ACCOMPANIST REQUESTS AND BROTHERS NOMINATION FORMS IS **OCTOBER 5, 2008!** YOU MUST BE A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING AND YOU MUST INCLUDE PAYMENT WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FORMS. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.

We have a new Auditions Chair! Dr. Kimberly Broadwater, who resides in Cleveland and teaches at MS Valley State, is stepping into the job after serving as the Mississippi Auditions Chair for several years. We welcome her and wish her the best. Arthur Shearin, after years of exemplary service, will remain on the Board as the incoming Arkansas Chapter President, but please do not call him or email him with auditions questions, and don't send him your applications! Kimberly's address and email are listed on the bottom of the web site home page and in the Auditions Booklet.

IMPORTANT PROCEDURE CHANGES—PLEASE NOTE:

- You will find a new Preliminary Round Judging Form posted on the web with the other registration documents. Judges will not receive a packet of judging forms prior to the Preliminary Round. The teacher must print a judging form for each student. The student will fill out the form and take three copies—one for each judge -- to his/her Preliminary audition. This form takes the place of the Repertoire Sheet. It saves on copy costs and preparation time.
- Accompanists must play from ORIGINAL MUSIC. No copies will be allowed except to facilitate difficult page turns. I am sorry for the inconvenience this will cause for accompanists who would rather carry more convenient notebooks of copies, but we must be in compliance with copyright law. Students will be responsible for keeping up with their original music. Please do not make us disqualify your students. Adhere to the rule.
- The order of the Final Round is changing this year. The Graduate Level categories (Classes 13–16) will compete in Session 3, followed by Music Theater in Session 4 (Classes 17-19).

There are several changes on the Board of Control. The new roster, posted in the Contacts section, reflects these changes. Welcome to our new officers!

The 2008 Conference features our own Southern Region NATS members! We'll have a Member Artist Recital, Lecture Recitals and a variety of Master Classes, all offered by our eminently qualified member artist-teachers. Get these and other Conference details from the full Conference Schedule, which will be up on the web by mid-September.

Several years ago we initiated an award honoring Ronald Brothers, a wonderful friend who passed away. Ronnie had accompanied NATS students for many years, and he is still sorely missed. The Brothers Award recognizes an outstanding accompanist at Southern Region NATS, someone who has encouraged young singers at our Conferences over the years. We have no applications currently on file for the Brothers Award, and last year we did not give an award. The recipient must be nominated by a NATS member. The form is available on the web site, so please take the time to nominate a deserving collaborator. We would like to have a large pool of nominees this year.

Our financial situation is once again healthy. We have a good bank balance and ample funds to plan our activities. The frugal planning by last year's Conference hosts at Ole Miss, the generosity of our chapters and individual members, and last year's temporary Teacher Registration increase (to \$60) have put us in good shape. This year our Registration goes back to \$50. When was the last time a fee decreased?

Several of our Region members attended the National Conference in Nashville last summer. Jenna Tucker sang beautifully in the NATSAA semi-final round and won a large cash award. The programs at the Conference were varied and interesting. We heard recitals by Dawn Upshaw (accompanied by Gilbert Kalish) and Danielle Talamantes, the 2006 NATSAA First-Place Winner. Our national conferences just seem to get better and better. Consider making plans to attend a NATS national workshop or conference. These events are educational, inspirational, and great for re-charging your teaching and performing batteries! Take advantage of your NATS opportunities!

I look forward to seeing all of you in beautiful Natchitoches, Louisiana in November. Have a safe and prosperous fall.

Connie Roberts
Southern Region Governor