



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
**TEACHERS
OF SINGING**

Southern Region

Call to Conference

Warm Greetings to All!

As educators, the beginning of each academic year offers a wealth of exciting and new possibility, all in the form of our unique and talented students. This year, as we toil away at the large task of guiding them in their journey to becoming performing artists, may we find even more moments of wonder and joy throughout this process.

I'm honored and thrilled to invite each of you to the ***Southern Region Conference and Student Auditions, November 7th-9th, 2024, at Mississippi College in Clinton, MS.*** The Southern Region Conference Planning Committee began conference preparations last Spring, and we are very grateful to our contact at Mississippi College, Dr. Viola Dacus, as well as the entire voice faculty, staff, and administration at MC for their willingness to host our conference. We are also incredibly grateful that Adam Philley has agreed to continue serving as our region Auditions Chair.

You can find a tentative schedule and preliminary information for the conference on our website: [NATS Southern Region](#). As you navigate the Southern Region of NATS website, you'll notice some changes instigated by your region PR Team and approved by your executive board. Among those changes you will notice a separate "Region Conference" page in a pull-down menu under "Region." Here is a link to the new page: [Region Conference](#). Our hope is that the separate conference page easier to read and navigate as we add documents leading up to the event. You'll also notice an added SNATS page that lists all the SNATS chapters in our region, their current faculty sponsor, and current chapter president. Additionally, we added a "Contacts" page for your region leaders, including headshots, as well as a "quick access" SNATS contact page.

Student Audition and Conference Information

- I. At the top left of the region conference page, you will find the document: "Region Auditions Information." This document outlines information regarding: Eligibility and Participation, Teachers/Adjudicators, Students, Collaborative Pianists, Structure and Conduct of the Auditions, Preliminary Round, Semi-final Round, Final Round, Registration, Classification, and Awards, and Categories of Entry. In coordination with the National Student Auditions, this year our region will once again incorporate Commercial Music or (CM) categories, as well as Children and Youth categories. These categories will be ***unsubdivided*** again this year, as they were last year. Details can be found under "Categories of Entry" in the "Regions

Audition Information” document. Consider this document a handbook for Southern Region Auditions. You can find more information regarding these new categories on the bottom left of the [Region Conference](#) page.

***Now is the time to invite our colleagues who specialize in Commercial Music, and teaching children and youth to join NATS! As always, during your registration for the conference, you will have the opportunity to “opt out” of any category you aren’t comfortable adjudicating. I’m also attaching and posting a Minor Chaperone form: all teachers bringing minors under the age of 18 years are required to submit a form for each of their minor students. This is to ensure the younger aged categories are safe and supervised.*

II. Conference Registration:

Conference and student audition registration will open on October 1st, 2024, and end October 25th, 2024. This year, all region auditions in NATS will be using Auditionware. Adam Philley, our auditions chair, is very comfortable and experienced with Auditionware, so we are in good hands! AuditionNow will not be utilized again until it has been completed and has been beta tested.

III. Registration Fees:

I’m pleased (and relieved) that we are starting our auditions cycle this year with region finances in a much better place than last year. However, to regain pre-COVID 19 financial status, the Southern Region Executive Board voted to maintain student and teacher registration at the following levels:

Registration: Student registration for each category will be **\$23**
Member conference registration will be **\$75** & this will include the member breakfast.

IV. Final Awards: Students in 1st-3rd place in every category will receive a check in the amount we have awarded in the past, as well as an awards certificate. Students in 4th place will receive a certificate, but no monetary award.

V. American Negro Spiritual Categories– It’s an American Negro Spiritual Category year! These are unsubdivided into: AS 3, AS 7, and AS 9. You can find details regarding category regulations and repertoire requirements in the ‘Region Auditions Information” document on our website under **Categories of Entry**, page 7.

VI. Hotel Information: We are currently working on this and will have it posted on the website next week!

More Conference Information

- I. Featured Masterclasses with Guest Clinicians Dr. Linda di Fiore and Liz Gray**
- On Friday evening of our conference, we have contracted two guest clinicians Dr. Linda di Fiore and Liz Gray. You can find their headshots and bios here:

[Region Conference Page](#). Kudos to Dr. Sloane Artis for securing two fantastic guest clinicians!

II. Applications for Student Participation in Featured Masterclasses

- Apply for your student to participate in the featured masterclasses here:
 - [CL Masterclass with Dr. Linda di Fiore](#)
 - [MT/CM Masterclass with Liz Gray](#)
- **These links will also be posted on the region conference page:

*****As part of the application process this year, you will be required to agree to the following statement:**

Southern Region of NATS Masterclass Agreement:

I understand and agree that my student will NOT perform the same repertoire in the final round of student auditions that they performed on a featured masterclass. I also understand that if this takes place, my student will be disqualified from the final round of student auditions.

III. Member Participation: The MOST IMPORTANT element of the conference...YOU!

- **Join us at the conference!** Bring your students, connect with friends and colleagues, and share your experience and artistry with our region. Your conference planning committee incorporated some of your requests from previous years in this year's line-up:
 - Two relaxation sessions for members, including Chair Yoga & Mindfulness & Breathing
 - More time on Friday for our meetings and breakfast
 - A member cocktail hour & social gathering on Friday before the featured masterclasses.
- Be an even more integral part of the conference by participating in four ways:
 - Perform in the regional Member Recital Thursday evening.
 - Lead a drop-in masterclass on Friday morning for non-semifinalists in one of the three categories: CL, MT, or CM.
 - Present a lecture presentation or lecture recital on Friday afternoon.

*Please refer to the attached **Call for Papers** for details regarding application requirements and deadlines for all the above opportunities. The **Call for Papers** will also be posted on the regional website.

We have such a vibrant and interesting region, and we are looking forward to an inspiring, educational, and engaging conference! Watch your email and our website for more conference information and communication. You'll hear from Candice Aipperspach soon, new Southern Region Development Liaison, about how we will fundraise for NSA Student Registration Scholarships this year and how you can be a part of this!

Non-Conference Related:

Our Southern Region Special Events Committee was planning a Member Retreat on September 7th, 2024. This event is postponed for the time being. We sincerely appreciate their efforts and look forward to what they have planned for our region in the future.

We are always here to answer your questions, so feel free to reach out to myself or any region officer. Our contact information is on the regional website.

All the Best,

Claire Vangelisti
NATS Southern Region Governor