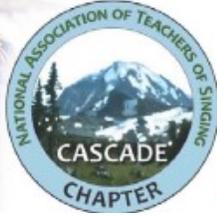




WINTER 2017



National Association of Teachers of Singing
**Cascade Chapter
Newsletter**
Serving Oregon and Southwest Washington



Issue 21

www.natscascade.org

Chapter Events

Student Auditions —Classical
Chapter Meeting—Jan. 28th—noon
January 28 & 29, 2017
Pacific University
2043 College Way, Forest Grove, OR
**ALL STUDENTS UNDER 18 MUST
COMPLETE THE ATTACHED WAIVER**

Regional

2017
Northwest Region of the National
Association of Teachers of Singing
Biennial Conference
21st Century Voice Pedagogy:
New and Improved Tools
for Teachers

Member Directory

The most recent Membership Directory can be found at the top of our "Members Only" page on our website: <http://natscascade.org/members-only/>. The password is NATS2017. If you have contact info that needs to be updated on this membership directory, please send corrections to our membership chair, Kay Joham. (kweenkj@gmail.com).

Have you paid your national and chapter dues?

It's easy. Just go to: www.nats.org

Your dues must be current to have students participate in festivals.

President's Notes:

Happy 2017!

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our Classical Auditions and Festival event on January 28-29, which this year will be held at the beautiful Pacific University campus in Forest Grove. In this newsletter you will find important information including changes to the Auditions schedule, which has been voted-on and approved by the board.

The Classical Auditions and Festival will still be a two-day event, although all singing categories will take place on Saturday. We have eliminated Friday auditions due to not having enough members willing to adjudicate. We have also found that Friday evening rush hour traffic is daunting for both student participants and their teachers.

We have moved the membership meeting and Honors Recital to Sunday. Both events will take place at Pacific University in the Taylor-Meade Performing Arts Center, with the membership meeting taking place at 1:00pm followed by the recital at 3:00pm. There will be an onsite collaborative pianist available to play for students whose accompanists are not able to attend Sunday. Rehearsals will begin at 1:00pm on a first come, first serve basis. I am happy that we will be able to have more time for our membership meeting, especially as we tend to run out of time for discussion when only having an hour during the noon lunch break on Saturday. This is an important meeting as we are voting on our 2017 Annual Budget.

Thank you to members that have donated to our new *Bel Canto Classical Art Song Award for Excellence in Singing*. We have met our goal by raising \$2,500, which has been matched by our generous anonymous donor!

The Swingle Scholarship Award has been brought up to \$5000 by the action of the Board in transferring \$1,208.60 from the General Savings to the Swingle savings making all three scholarship awards at a base value of \$5000. We invite anyone to contribute to any of the three awards as a tax deductible donation! If you are interested in contributing to this scholarship, please contact our treasurer, Bonnie Johnson. You will find a full description of the *Dagny Gustafson Scholarship Award for Young Singers*, the *Brian Vester Swingle Scholarship for Music Theatre Performance* and the *Bel Canto Classical Art Song Award for Excellence in Singing* below. We are grateful to be able to encourage our talented students with these awards!



Workshops At The Auditions

**Auditioning for Music Programs:
What the schools are looking for and
what you should consider.**

**Presented by Dr. Nicole Hanig
2pm**

Dr. Nicole Hanig from the University of Portland will provide insight on applying for university level music study and what to expect from different types of institutions. Dr. Hanig has taught voice within conservatory, liberal arts college and state university environments as well as within classical and music theater programs. She also worked as an admissions counselor for The New England Conservatory for 3 years following completion of her Master's Degree.

**"Yoga for Singers"
presented by Dr. Hsin Yi Lin.
3pm**

Dr. Lin received her doctorate from the U. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, prior to which she received dual master's degrees in Vocal Performance and Vocal Pedagogy from New England Conservatory of Music. Before relocating to Portland, Dr. Lin was a Voice Professor at the Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi. As a yoga practitioner, she completed her Teacher Training with HeartSong Yoga in Beaverton in 2014, and is passionate about bringing singing and yoga together towards healthier and more efficient singing technique.

As a recipient of the Grand Prize winner of the 2012 Metropolitan International Vocal Competition and 2011 Chi Mei Arts Award, Dr. Hsin Yi Lin has performed numerous roles.

If possible, wear clothing that is both comfortable and made from breathable fabric.

Finance Committee

The finance committee met and have made some small revisions in the chapter budget guidelines and will ask for approval for the 2017 annual budget. In the interest of teacher enhancement, we have added a \$500 item for leadership development to the budget. We have also increased the amount in the budget for student monetary awards at auditions to accommodate the increase in number of categories mandated by the national organization. This is the membership's budget so we hope for a good turn out the membership meeting on Sunday, January 29. The finance committee includes president, Lisa Actor-Leslie, Treasurer Bonnie Johnson, past president Sue McBerry, Linda Appert and Lisa Mooyman.

District Governor Report—*Marieka Schuurs*

The Conference steering committee (Nancy Bos, Lisa Actor-Leslie and myself), decided to capitalize on the skills and talents of our own members, so aside from two national level speakers, we hope that many of YOU will come forward with your area of expertise and offer a presentation, a class, or something in a format that is uniquely yours. Or, if you know an expert that you would like to bring in, as long as they are endorsed by a NATS member, they can submit a proposal. We are trying to keep the conference costs as low as possible for the attendees, so we won't be offering honorariums for presentations. A formal Call for Presentations will be sent out in the next few weeks, with specific information and proposal format details.

Since Cascade is the hosting chapter, I will be talking to many of you in the coming weeks about how you can help.. I will be sending out an email with detailed information on the various volunteer positions that we need to fill. Most of the prep time will be in the summer/early fall, and then at the conference itself. If you know already how you would like to help, please feel free to email me. I will also be at the Classical Auditions on January 28.

President's Notes Continued:

I would like to thank our Program Chair, Jill Soltero and her committee, Carl Halvorson, Linda Appert and Pamela South for putting together a successful Student Scholarship Benefit Recital in October as well as bringing nationally acclaimed Stephanie Samaras to give a fabulous student masterclass at our Musical Theater Auditions and Festival in November! Be on the lookout for an online survey asking what program topics you would like to attend in the future, be it at a social gathering, workshop or masterclass. We would like to focus on teacher enhancement for 2017!

Our chapter website should be up and running soon. Thank you for your continued patience! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or one of our board members.

Best,

Lisa Actor-Leslie
NATS Cascade Chapter President

"You are not a drop in the ocean. You are the entire ocean in a drop."

~Rumi

Student Auditions

Student Auditions

The 2017 Cascade Classical NATS Festival will be held at Pacific University on January 28/29. Many thanks to site host Anne McKee Reed for all of her preparatory work! By now you should have received an email with your student's audition and your own judging schedule. You may also access that information on www.natsauditions.com, or view a master adjudication schedule via the attached excel file. Please plan to attend the Adjudicator's Meeting at 8:15 am in the Taylor-Meade Performance Arts Building.

If you have students who are under 18, please make sure that they bring a signed parental waiver. This document is attached, and required by Pacific University. We will have blank copies available at the registration desk, but they do require a parent's signature.

Please refer to the attached Handbook for complete Festival Details. The Board recently voted in three significant changes, which are summarized below:

1 - SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 28:

- All student auditions, including possible Final Tie-Breaker Rounds, scheduled in the afternoon/early evening as needed.
- Catered lunch is available for purchase for Members and Collaborative Pianists, but will not take place at the same time as the Chapter Meeting.
- No Member's Reception. A list of food options on and near campus is included in the Handbook.

Sunday, January 29:

- 1 pm Chapter Meeting
- 3 pm Honor's Recital

While no schedule is perfect, the board adopted this change in an effort to decrease adjudication duties to one day for members, increase ease of audition scheduling for the Auditions Chair, create time on Saturday afternoon/evening for the new Tie-Breaker Round, allow members to socialize over the Saturday lunch hour, increase the length of the chapter meeting, and create more time for the Auditions staff to create and print the Honor's Recital program and winner's certificates.

2 - FINAL TIE-BREAKER ROUND

In the event of a tie for first place, all singers who tie will sing in a Final Round. The Final Round will be scheduled as

soon as possible on Saturday. **Read complete details about this new rule on page 9 of the Handbook.**

The Final Tie-Breaker Round is an effort by the board to eliminate the large number of ties we have experienced since we moved to the new National Scoring system. It offers the students who tie an additional opportunity to sing for comments, maintains the prestige of winning a category, and keeps the prize money awarded by the chapter to an expected and reasonable amount.

3 - ONE SET OF WINNERS PER 30 SINGERS

Previously, the Cascade Chapter selected one set of winners per 15 singers in a category. This meant that categories with 16 or more singers had two firsts, two seconds, and two thirds. Moving forward, there will be one first, second, and third place winner selected for every 30 singers in a category. This should help limit the total amount of award money the chapter spends as to keep within our annual budget, and decrease ties.

This is the board's effort to continue to provide the best experience for our students and members. Once you have read the handbook, questions are welcome: please contact Sarah Maines (themainestudio@gmail.com) or Beverly Park (beverly.park@comcast.net). We're looking forward to seeing you in January!



**Would your campus
like to host a
2017-2018
NATS Cascade Festival?
Contact
Sarah Maines
themainestudio@gmail.com**

NATS Cascade Chapter's Description of Scholarship Awards

Each of the three scholarships will be given annually at the Honors' recital for Cascade Chapter Auditions and Festival. At present, each award is \$250.

The **Dagny Gustafson Scholarship Award for Young Singers** was established in 1978 in memory of Dagny Gustafson who was one of the first members of the Cascade Chapter of NATS. She was a beloved teacher of students of all ages and talents. Before moving to Oregon she had a substantial performance career as a mezzo soprano. She taught on the faculties of Portland State University, Lewis and Clark College and University of Portland and had a full complement of students in her downtown studio in Portland for many years. Her students won awards on local and national levels, including several NW regional winners of the NATSAA. Many of the members of Cascade NATS were her voice students. She was also an advocate for collaborative pianists and nurtured their development.

The recipient of this annual award will be a high school singer who displays potential, technical advancement and artistry. The student must sing in the Honors' recital.

Criteria for this award are:

- Appropriate literature for the development of the singer
- Good breath management, posture, free tone production
- Language skills
- Ability to bring the song to life with understanding of style and text

The student will be selected by either the guest clinician during the Classical Festival or, in the year(s) no clinician is hired, elected board members (President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer) will select the student to be awarded the Gustafson Scholarship. Any board members with students in the Honors' recital will recuse themselves. If all executive board members are ineligible, the President will select judges (up to 3) from the rest of the board in attendance.

The **Brian Vester Swingle Scholarship Award for Music Theatre Performance** was established in 2015 in memory of Cascade member, Brian Swingle who was a long time member who taught and performed throughout Oregon and beyond. Many of his students were high school singers who learned classical techniques and sang both classical and music theatre under his tutelage. In addition to his many high school singers, Brian taught at the University of Oregon, Western Oregon University, Willamette University and Lewis and Clark College. He was not only a fine voice teacher and mentor and teacher of voice teachers, he was an excellent professional accompanist as well.

The recipient of this annual award will be a singer who excels vocally and has a great ability to embody the character of the music theatre song with polish. The award will not be based on age but the student must sing in the Honors' recital. (Recreational categories will not be eligible for this award.)

Criteria for this award:

- Appropriate literature for the singer (i.e. Range, style)
- Intonation, good breath management and posture
- Balance between chest and head voice
- Appropriate use of Belt
- Excellent diction
- Ability to entertain through the character of the song

The student will be selected by either the guest clinician during the Music Theatre Auditions and Festival or, in the year (s) no clinician is hired, elected board members (President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer) will select the student to be awarded the Swingle Scholarship. Any board members with students in the Honors recital will recuse themselves. If all executive board members are ineligible, the President will select judges (up to 3) from the rest of the board in attendance.

The **Bel Canto Art Song Award for Excellence in Singing** was established by the Board last April after having received a matching offer of \$2500 from an anonymous donor. Our generous donor has established this award to celebrate beautiful professional levels of singing and excellence in Art Song. The recipient of this annual award will be an advanced singer in the Lower College or Upper College Divisions who demonstrates excellent technique and vocal resonance and beauty. The student must sing in the Honors' recital.

Criteria for this award:

- Art Song in any language
- Balanced, vibrant resonance
- Excellent technique as demonstrated in breath management and posture
- Poised, polished performance
- Excellent diction in all languages
- Thorough understanding of style
- Artistic attention to vocal color, nuance and text

The student will be selected by either the guest clinician during the Classical Auditions and Festival or, in the year(s) no clinician is hired, elected board members (President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer) will select the student to be awarded The Bel Canto Art song Award. Any board members with students in the Honors' recital will recuse themselves. If all executive board members are ineligible, the President will select judges (up to 3) from the rest of the board in attendance.