

MDDC NATS



NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S LETTER



The holiday season is a special time of year for me. It is a joy to slow down and get together with family and friends. Bringing family favorites and new recipes to the table for a meal, talking with one another instead of sending a short text or e:mail gives us an opportunity to really stay connected as a family. The inflections in each voice, as we speak around the family table, often shines light on the true story of how things are going in our lives. On November 15, 2019, during the **Collaborative Voice Studio Class** at Peabody Towson, voice students and teachers were given a similar opportunity to share in the "Circle of Truth".

However, our focus was on singing, auditions and related topics. Adult, college and university voice students from Delaware State University, the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) and Peabody Institute of Music Johns Hopkins University, Adult and Continuing Education Program (ACE), took part in the class. Although food and performance were involved, sharing information about singing and auditions were key factors during the "Circle of Truth". The voice teachers also had an opportunity to explore best practices and changes in the audition process as a group. It was a pleasure to listen to these young performers sing art songs, operatic arias, Greek folk songs and oratorio. The "Circle of Truth" that followed the audition gave us a chance to breath, relax and talk with each other. What a great way to learn, grow and to continue our mission as an organization "to encourage the highest standard of vocal art and ethical principals in teaching, education and research. <https://www.nats.org/code-of-ethics.html>

As the host of this event, I would like to thank Professor Janice Jackson, voice faculty, UMBC/ Director of the UMBC Jubilee and Gospel Choirs, Dr. Derrick Thompson, Visiting Assistant Professor/Director of Choirs Delaware State University and Ethan Watermeier, Voice Instructor American University Department of Performing Arts and their students as well as Adam O'Dell, Collaborative Pianist for being a part of this class. I would also like to thank Peabody Institute of Music, Johns Hopkins University (Preparatory) for hosting this event. <https://peabody.jhu.edu/preparatory/>

Have a great holiday!



Left to right: Erika Rollins, Tara Kitchelt, James Markakis Uri Robinotitz, Michael Wingate, Howard Evans, Mozella Mathews, Eugenia Mathews.



Left to right: Dr. Derrick Thompson, Michael Wingate, Howard Evans, Jasmine Mays Robinson, Mozella Mathews, Erika Rollins Tara Kitchelt, Ethan Watermeier, Professor Janice Jackson.

Collaborative Voice Studio at Morgan State University

A Collaborative Studio Voice Class was also held at Morgan State University in the Carl J. Murphy Fine and Performing Arts Center on October 19, 2019. Auditions as well as a question and answer segment between voice teachers and students were a part of the event. The voice students received written and oral feedback as a result of the audition. MDDC NATS would like to thank Marquita Lister, Coordinator of the Vocal Studies Program and Director of the Opera Workshop at Morgan, for hosting the class as well as voice teachers, Diane Atherton, Ethan Watermeier, Rebecca Echols, John Wright and Silvia Twine for making this event possible.

<https://www.morgan.edu/cla/music>



MDDC NATS MEMBER Spotlight on

Brian Lee and his informative article, “Day Jobs-Expand Your Possibilities,” published in the November/December issue of The NATS Journal of Singing. “Brian is a voice teacher, writer, and singer. His book **Sane Singing: A Guide to Vocal Progress** (2018), has been

enthusiastically reviewed as a philosophy of voice study. He maintains an independent voice studio in Potomac, Maryland and New York”. Brian also works in the Information Technology (IT) field. He developed and maintains the MDDC Facebook page and serves on our Membership Team. (Brian Manternach, Associate Editor, *NATS Journal of Singing, The Independent Teacher, Nov/Dec 2019*).

Looking Ahead

MDDC District Auditions February 22, 2020 - Registration begins January 2, 2020
Student registration fee for each slot \$25.00

Morgan State University
Carl J. Murphy Fine and
Performing Arts Center
2201 Argonne Drive
Baltimore, MD 21218://
For more information visit <httpswww.mddcnats.org/>

**Mid Atlantic Regional NATS Student
Auditions** March 13-14, 2020

University of South Carolina
813 Assembly St
Columbia, SC 29208
Website https://sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/music/index.php

All Hands-on Deck

If you would like to volunteer to help with any of our events or to host a Collaborative Voice Studio Class, please contact us.

Welcome New MDDC Members: Debbie Grossman and Kimberly Barker.

Thank you to our Board of Directors and Membership Team Brian Lee (also Facebook), Ethan Watermeier Christine Thomas-O’Meally and web designer Katherine Riddle.

Stay Connected: We want to hear from you. Join the MDDC Facebook page. Connect on Twitter or Instagram.



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/marylandcnats/?ref=bookmarks>



<https://twitter.com/mddcnats>



<https://www.instagram.com/mddcnats/>