



# MDDC NATS Newsletter

March 2020



## District Governor's Letter March 23, 2020

Music and the arts can play a very important role during this time of change and uncertainty. While we are adjusting to a life being conducted online with a workspace at home for several people, zoom meetings, classes and lessons being taught on the internet and more, take time for yourself. Sing, breath, meditate or just enjoy listening to good music. Our lives have taken a drastic change within a short period of time. Exercise the safety precautions recommended by the CDC and state officials. Make efforts to maintain good physical and mental health. We want you to know that we are here to help you. I would like to thank Allen Henderson, Executive Director and Karen Brunssen, President of NATS as well as other team members for setting up several emergency NATS Chat webinars and video sessions addressing many of the challenges that we are facing as at this time. If you have not had the opportunity to be a part of these sessions, you can find them at [www.nats.org](http://www.nats.org). Our MDDC Facebook page is also a vital resource. If you have not joined please be sure to do so at this time. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/marylanddcnats/?ref=bookmarks>

**YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A NATS MEMBER TO REGISTER FOR NATS CHAT!**

ARCHIVES OF NATS CHATS ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE IF YOU CAN'T WATCH LIVE! NATS.ORG OR NATS YOUTUBE CHANNEL.

[https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2222949034272628236?fbclid=IwAR0oeYJ4ydeHvofrqhWUBvn3kc7155RGHCMGOBtRuuZjBCts3ZRBQ23Z\\_m](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2222949034272628236?fbclid=IwAR0oeYJ4ydeHvofrqhWUBvn3kc7155RGHCMGOBtRuuZjBCts3ZRBQ23Z_m)

**Regional Auditions online (deadline 11:59 pm, Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>).**

### **ACCOMPANIST ISSUES**

Those who are moving to online methods are experiencing a variety of issues relative to the ability to make videos with accompanists. The national NATS leadership team has discussed this and the following guidance and revisions to the accompanist policies are being allowed, only at this time, due to the unusual circumstances we are facing. We think the following is equitable and preserves the quality we expect in the best way possible.

A live pianist is best, but in this extreme instance the following will also be allowed in addition to the traditional recording methods.

A teacher may accompany a singer in the recording, but the teacher should not be visible in the recording directly or on any reflected surface (mirror, piano surface, etc.)

1. A pianist may make a recording for a singer and the singer may record using the piano recording.
2. Online applications such as, Appcompanionist (first month trial free), now available for iPhones and Androids or similar accompaniments will be allowed.

No orchestrated karaoke tracks will be allowed, piano only.

### **Suggestions and Comments from MDDC Members**

We certainly enjoy hearing from you. Your feedback and your suggestions help us to grow as an organization and to address your needs as members. At this time everyone is faced with issues regarding health, safety and wellbeing, however, please know that the MDDC NATS Board is here to address your suggestions and concerns. Thank you so much for your patience as we look forward with bright hopes for tomorrow.

May you have peace, good health and wellbeing in your lives and in the lives of your family members.

All the best.

Devonna B. Rowe  
District Governor  
MDDC NATS