



MDDC NATS

District Governor's Newsletter

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH THE POWER OF SINGING

It is my pleasure to welcome Carolyn Black Sotir, Samuel L. E. Barnes and Christine Thomas-O'Meally as new members to the MDDC NATS Board of Directors. They are joining Ethan Watermeier, President, Marquita Lister, Vice President, Deborah Thurlow, Treasure, Linda Allison, Past President as well as board members Rebecca Bell Echols, James Hampton, Richard Hartzell, Jennifer Randall and John Wesley Wright. Christine will step into the role of Secretary of the chapter. We look forward to working together to fulfill the vision of our organization "transforming lives through the power of singing".

As you know our vision is the result of many hours of planning to develop a NATS Strategic Plan. More than 50 NATS leaders and volunteers participated in an assessment to identify Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, Results (SOAR) for NATS as an organization. The results led to the development of A NATS Strategic Plan. A Strategic Plan Task Force was recruited from segments of our membership. Valuable resources of the SOAR

assessment and the Climate Survey provided essential input leading to the NATS mission, vision and value statements. The Strategic Plan was approved by the NATS Board of Directors during the mid - year national board meeting on February 16, 2020. **Our Vision:** Transforming lives through the power of singing, **Our Mission:** To advance excellence in singing through teaching, performance, scholarship, and research, **Our Values:** NATS will support voice professionals within the studio, classroom, clinic, and performance venue, provide committed leadership to achieve our mission and vision, advance ethical principles and practices within our profession, celebrate and recognize the value and efforts of all and encourage individual skills and creativity, **Our NATS Diversity and Inclusion Statement:** NATS strives to be a welcoming and a



supportive community of members and students who celebrate the unique identities, varied backgrounds, and experiences of all individuals. We are dedicated to ensuring that all voices are heard in an inclusive environment with equitable treatment for all.

I look forward to serving the MDDC NATS Chapter and to embracing our vision, mission, values and equity efforts.

Devonna B. Rowe
MDDC NATS
District Governor

MEMBERSHIP TEAM AND COVID-19

DANIEL NEER, LORI SEN, CHRISTINE THOMAS-O'MEALLY, BRIAN LEE
DEVONNA B. ROWE COORDINATOR

*THE PURPOSE OF THE MEMBERSHIP TEAM IS TO HIGHLIGHT THE NEEDS OF OUR MEMBERSHIP.
RECCRUITMENT, RETENTION, REINSTATEMENT AND BEING OPEN TO THE CONCERNS OF ALL
MEMBERS IS OUR GOAL.*

*THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE MEMBERSHIP TEAM SEVERAL "NEED BASED" REQUESTS FOR
ASSISTANCE DURING **COVID-19** HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED.*

NEW MEMERSHIP TEAM MENTORS

SAMUEL L. E. BARNES, BRIAN LEE, JANICE JACKSON, CHRISTINE THOMAS-O'MEALLY, MIRA YANG

*THIS GROUP IS A SUBDIVISION OF OUR MEMBERHIP TEAM. THE PURPOSE IS TO MENTOR NEW
MEMBERS THROUGH FRIENDSHIP AND GUIDANCE AS NEEDED.*

Thank you to All Who Volunteer their Services

MDDC NATS CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

NOVEMBER 15, 2020

Amber Iman Master Class

**MDDC NATS Virtual Student
Auditions**

FEBRUARY 20, 2021

Video Submission Deadline

February 27, 2021

Student Auditions/ Results

-membership.html

MID ATLANTIC REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

March 12 through 13, 2021

Regional NATS Virtual
Student Auditions and
Conference

For more information Visit
<http://midatlanticnats.org>

NATS NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

**OCTOBER 1, 2020 - JANUARY 1,
2021**

Open enrollment for Membership

NATS Member discounts on health
care
insurance, lodging and more



https://www.nats.org/Member_Benefits.html

**To Join NATS and renew
membership
visit**

<https://www.nats.org/nats>

Click on MDDC Chapter here also to
join our Chapter.

MDDC NATS Voice Master Class

November 15, 2020, 5:00 pm

Amber Iman

<http://www.amberiman.com/about-momentum>

Website



Amber made her Broadway debut as the High Priestess of Soul, Nina Simone, in **Soul Doctor**, earning rave reviews and a nomination for the prestigious Clive Barnes Award. She then tackled the role of Aldonza in **Man of la Mancha** at the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington, DC, receiving the Emery Battis Award for Acting Excellence & a Helen Hayes Award nomination for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Musical. In Spring of 2016, Amber returned to Broadway in **Shuffle Along, Or, The Making of the Musical Sensation of 1921 and All That Followed**. She played Peggy Schuyler/Maria Reynolds in the 11-time Tony Award winning smash hit **Hamilton**.

In 2018, Amber wrote, executive produced, and starred in her first, award-winning short film, Steve. Her proudest accomplishment to date, Steve has won Best Comedy, Best Short, and Best Actress at multiple film festivals across the country.

COVID - 19 RELIF GRANTS, FUNDING AND INFORMATION FOR ARTISTS

National Endowment for the Arts

<https://www.neh.gov/grants>

DC Commission on Arts and Humanities

<https://dcarts.dc.gov/service/grants>

Maryland State Arts Council Emergency Grants

<https://www.msac.org/grants/emergency-grant>

Artist Relief: artistrelief.org

COVID - 19 and Arts Funding: Update and Action Items

<https://www.giarts.org/blog/admin/covid-19-coronavirus-and-arts-funding-update-and-action-items>