



MDDC NATS



District Governor's Newsletter

MAY/JUNE 2021

The position of District Governor is a two-year term. As I end my second year of serving as District Governor of MDDC NATS, I am happy to have been able to assist our chapter as well as the National organization. I was a board member prior to being asked to serve in this position and I have been a member of NATS for over 30 years.

The District Governor is responsible for the recruitment, retention, renewal and inquiry into lapsed memberships. The duties also include assisting the chapter with events and other activities. This year, as many struggled with financial difficulties due to the Pandemic, we were able to assist several of our members with their chapter dues. I was proud of being a member of NATS this year as the needs and concerns of our members were addressed by the chapter, our Mid-Atlantic Region as well as the National organization. Videos and webinars on aspect of teaching voice online, the health and welfare of the body and the singing voice during the Pandemic continue to be topics explored by NATS. Conversations on diversity and inclusion as well as the formation of the "Diversity and Inclusion Committee" are just a few examples of efforts that NATS has made to responded to the challenges and needs of our membership. The MDDC Board of Directors approved a COVID Relief Fund that allowed several to retain their memberships. Our Mid-Atlantic Region also assisted several members with their NATS National dues during the Pandemic.

As I complete my term as District Governor, I would like to thank the members of our MDDC NATS Membership Team, Lori Sen, Christine Thomas-O'Meally, Brian Lee and Daniel Neer. I would also like to thank our Mentoring Team, Myra Yang, Samuel Bonds, Janice R. Jackson, Christine Thomas-O'Meally and Brian Lee.

Our lives will not be the same as we move forward to life after the Pandemic. Music and the arts will play a vital role in the healing process throughout the world. During my years of vocal study with Todd Duncan, he often spoke of the "miracle of the human voice," so continue to embrace the miracle that exists in the human voice and sing! sing! sing!

The Gift of Song, James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938)

Sometimes the mist overhangs my path, and blackening clouds about me cling; But, oh, I have a magic way. To turn the gloom to cheerful day— I softly sing.

And if the way grows darker still, Shadowed by Sorrow's somber wing, with glad defiance in my throat, I pierce the darkness with a note, and sing, and sing.

*I brood not over the broken past, nor dread whatever time may bring;
No nights are dark, no days are long, while in my heart there swells a song, and I can sing.*

Looking Ahead

2022 National Conference in Chicago - Deadline to Submit proposals for sessions. For more information visit https://www.nats.org/cgi/page.cgi/_evtcal.html?evt=959

June 1, 2021

Deadline is June 1 to submit your proposal.

NATS members and friends are invited to submit proposals for special sessions to be presented at the 57th National Conference in Chicago, IL, July 2-6, 2022. Proposals **MUST** be submitted online. E-mail and/or hard-copy proposals will not be accepted. Preference will be given to proposals with **two or more** presenters.

Proposals related to the following topics are particularly encouraged:

- Reframing and imagining the purpose and practice of singing
- Mini-recitals/Collaborations with an emphasis on living composers
- Opera, Music Theater, and CCM Repertoire and Technique
- Singing and Community/Social Impact
- Vocal Education for All
- Voice Pedagogy for All Styles
- Voice Science and Studio Technology

Grants and Funding for Artists

Maryland State Arts Council, Creativity Grant

<https://www.msac.org/programs/creativity-grants>

Maryland State Arts Council, Grants for Organizations

<https://www.msac.org/programs/grants-organizations>

Maryland State Arts Council, Maryland Touring Grant

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

Washington DC, Grant Watch

<https://washingtondc.grantwatch.com/cat/2/arts-and-culture-grants.html>

National Endowment for the Arts

<https://www.arts.gov/>

MDDC NATS Membership Team

Lori Sen, Christine Thomas-O'Meally, Brian Lee, Daniel Neer, Devonna B. Rowe

MDDC NATS Mentoring Team

Christine Thomas-O'Meally, Brian Lee, Myra Yang, Janice R. Jackson, Samuel Bonds

MDDC NATS Events Committee

Thank you to the MDDC NATS Board of Directors and the Events Committee for the events and activities presented by the organization.

MDDC NATS District Student Auditions

Thank you to Marquita Lister, Vice President for Auditions, Rebecca Bell Echols and the MDDC Board of Directors for making the student auditions possible.

MDDC NATS Facebook Page: Join our Facebook page. Stay connected. Let us know what is going on with you and your students.

