



## NATS Mid-Atlantic Region

### Regional Activities

The Mid-Atlantic Region currently is home to 602 active members, 15 Emeritus members, and 68 lapsed members. Each District's Boards made a huge effort this spring to contact all lapsed members to encourage them to re-join NATS. Many contacted did. Those that did not cited financial hardship, no longer teaching voice, retirement, and inability to attend District and Region events.

The Region's annual Conference and Student Auditions was held at UNC-Chapel Hill, NC March 17-18, 2017. 150 member teachers attended and adjudicated; 561 students auditioned; 80 pianists collaborated. Student auditions were up from 500 last year. This was a very full two-day event that incorporated ten additional Sing-off rounds (new to the Region), two clinician presentations, a banquet and an Honors Recital. Our Clinicians were Mark Moliterno, Founder of YogaVoice, who presented a three-hour demonstration, lecture and Master Class, and Louise Toppin who presented a lecture on Hall Johnson and his Spirituals culminating in a Master Class of same. National helped make these Master Classes possible by awarding our region a \$600 Discretionary Grant. UNC-Chapel Hill was a very gracious host, particularly since the university was on spring break while we were there – the only way UNC-Chapel Hill can host our event ☺. Posting scores on Facebook and Twitter helped generate plenty of 'buzz.'

The Executive Board of the Mid-Atlantic region held its annual meeting on Friday evening, March 17 at UNC-Chapel Hill. Fourteen officers from the region attended; a member colleague filled in for Alissa Deeter, Treasurer, who could not be present. Financially, our region remains healthy and stable. Wearing her Webmaster hat, Alissa relinquished PayPal and initiated SquareSpace, with which everyone is very happy. The Board continues to explore avenues to attract more on-site participation by member teachers. Among member concerns is the financial cost to attend and adjudicate both days. A survey has been distributed to the region for feedback; the results will be compiled, shortly. The AuditionWare software continues to be a learning curve for many members. Many Board members have requested that a progressive and automatic transfer of data to streamline all registration processes and assist with tallying such a large number of scores be made available. With AuditionWare's overhaul this summer, the learning curve is likely to continue. NC and SC hold two audition events per year: a MT/CCM event in the fall and a classical event in February. The CCM categories are still in infancy, but both these districts are making an effort to educate their members. MD-DC and VA hold one MT/Classical event per year in February and January, respectively. The Region's Handbook is undergoing edits to incorporate language to address the Sing-Off rounds. Officer slates are changing slightly in all four districts on July 1, 2017. All four annual district reports are attached.

Member Professional Development Opportunities. Per President Linda Snyder's request, here is a short list of what Districts and the Region are doing to share member and non-member resources. No districts have yet planned their Clinicians for the upcoming year.

Mid-Atlantic Region: NC-NATS member Louise Toppin, a Hall Johnson advocate and scholar, presented a lecture, demonstration and master class of Johnson's spirituals at Regionals in March. Mark Moliterno, YogaVoice founder, presented a lecture, demonstration and master class on how Yoga can enhance the singer's voice and performance. Clinicians for 2018 have not yet been finalized. For NATSAA, members from the Region are often tapped to adjudicate, offering their valuable written comments to these emerging artists.

MD/DC-NATS offers two workshops per year for its members. *Breath, Body, Sound: Educating and Empowering Through Music, Movement, and Yoga* was offered by MD/DC NATS member Madeline Miskie this past spring; Mary Saunders-Barton (Penn State) presented *Bel Canto Can Belto* last fall.

VA-NATS offers a clinician presentation during its annual conference and student auditions weekend. Damien Perkins, Broadway and TV performer, was their presenter last February. In prior years, VA has sponsored several member-led workshops during their weekend events (see last year's annual report).

NC-NATS offers a clinician at both its conferences and student auditions weekends. Last fall, NC-NATS member Louise Toppin lectured on Hall Johnson's spirituals, and gospel style. In February 2017, New York-based Mike Ruckles presented a Master Class in CCM styles. In prior years, NC-NATS has called upon its members to present, i.e., NC-NATS members Sharon Szymanski and Liz LaBelle have presented on operating a successful private studio.

SC-NATS offered a workshop during its fall conference and student auditions weekend. The classical and MT/CCM team: Ann Benson and David Bankston presented.

Mid-Atlantic NATSAA Preliminary and Semi-Final rounds will be held at UNC-Greensboro, October 7-8, 2017.

2018 NATS Mid-Atlantic Region Conference and Student Auditions will be held at Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA March 16-17, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara A. Peters  
Mid-Atlantic Regional Governor