

SFBAC NATS NEWSLETTER

FALL 2022

To advance excellence in singing through teaching, performance,
scholarship, and research



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
**TEACHERS
OF SINGING**

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

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THE DEADLINE SUBMISSIONS FOR THE WINTER NEWSLETTER is November 25, 2022

Please email your materials to newsletter@sfbacnats.com or alinailchuk@yahoo.com

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear SFBAC NATS Members,

Fall weather is on the horizon and we are excited to start a brand new year filled with LOTS of exciting events for our chapter as we begin to return to in person events. For those of you who don't know me my name is **Jacque (pronounced: [dzaeki]) Wilson Scharlach**, and it is my honor to be the president of this amazing chapter. Previously I have been involved in the chapter with the Singing Festival serving as Food Coordinator and Co-Vice President alongside both Katie Tupper and Dr. Phillip Harris. I look forward to serving the chapter in this new capacity and I hope to get to know each one of you better in the year to come.



I want to welcome our two newest board members: **Dr. Karine St.-Pierre** as Co-VP of Programs serving with Dr. Robin Fisher, and **Dr. Erin McOmber** as Co-VP of Student Auditions serving with Dr. Phillip Harris. I also want to thank **Dr. Lee Strawn** who has agreed to serve one more year as our chapter treasurer. He will be stepping down at the end of the year so we will be looking to replace him. If you have any background in finance or might be willing to learn about this position please reach out to me: jwilson1897@gmail.com

We are extremely excited to return to an IN PERSON Singing Festival/Student Auditions on November 5th, 2022- at CSU, East Bay under the direction of Dr. Phillip Harris and Dr. Erin McOmber. This festival will focus on Musical Theatre, Contemporary Music (CM) and Song-Writing. Additionally, make sure to save the date for our Classical Student Singing Festival/Auditions, also planned to be held in person at CSU East Bay: March 11, 2023. As a reminder, if you register students, you and your students must be prepared to be available all day long. Registered teachers are required to volunteer at the auditions and student audition schedules are usually assigned a week in advance. This all day event is truly a wonderful experience for both teacher and student and anyone who volunteers.

We will also be rolling out two programs in the spring- one online and one in person, along with at least one student recital. Please keep an eye out on our Facebook page and on our website for more details.

Looking forward to a wonderful year together!

Sincerely,

Jacque Wilson Scharlach
President, SFBAC NATS

MEET NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Montreal-born soprano **Dr. Karine St-Pierre (Co-Vice President of Programs)** completed a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Voice Performance and Vocal Pedagogy at the University of Toronto. She holds a Master of Music degree in Voice Performance and Vocal Pedagogy from the University of Toronto and a Bachelor of Music degree from the Université de Montréal.

Dr. Erin McOmer (Co-Vice President of Student Auditions) earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in voice performance from the University of Utah, a Master of Music degree in voice performance and pedagogy from Brigham Young University, and a Bachelor of Arts

degree, also in voice performance, from UC San Diego. She has maintained a private voice studio for over twenty years and has been an active member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing since 2001. As a singer, Erin has performed numerous operatic roles such as Mimì (*La bohème*), Fiordiligi (*Così fan tutte*), and Blanche de la Force (*Dialogues des Carmélites*), and has been the soprano soloist for Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Handel's *Messiah*, Mahler's *Symphony No. 4*, and more. She spent three years as a member of the Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square (formerly the Mormon Tabernacle Choir) and is a founding member and conductor of Mayfield Singers, a small mixed chamber choir based in



Palo Alto. She has loved her affiliation with iSing, which began in 2015. Erin grew up in Palo Alto and loves being back here, where she lives with her daughter, HD singer Lily Lochhead.

SFBAC NATS STUDENT AUDITIONS



2022 Fall SFBAC NATS Musical Theater, Commercial Music, & Singer-Songwriter Student Auditions & Singing Festival

We hope to see as many people as possible for our upcoming festival at California State University, East Bay on NOVEMBER 5, 2022.

Registration for the Fall Singing Festival

is now open on [nats.org!](https://www.nats.org/)

Follow the steps below if you are doing this for the first time.

1. Go to <https://www.nats.org/>.
2. Login using your email and password (top right corner).
3. Scroll down to NATS AUDITION REGISTRATION (Green Button).
4. You should see REGISTER FOR CONFERENCE/ AUDITION (Green).
5. Ensure it's set for San Francisco Bay Area Chapter Fall Singing Festival.

Deadlines:

Teachers complete all registrations; singers/parents do not register themselves.

Online registration is open from **Saturday, September 10, 2022, at 12:01 am through Saturday, October 8, 2022, at 11:59 pm.**

Late applications will not be accepted. Teachers complete registration at [nats.org!](https://www.nats.org/)

For urgent matters, please contact:

**Phillip Harris, pharrisnats@gmail.com
Erin McOmer, studio@erinmcomber.com**

Mission Statement:

1. Create a collegial and supportive atmosphere that encourages artistic singing excellence;
2. Provide constructive, written feedback from a panel of experienced and impartial professionals including, but not limited to NATS members in good standing;
3. Recognize and honor outstanding performances; and
4. Inspire and encourage students and teachers to continue their dedication to and growth in the art of singing.

CAL-WESTERN NATS AUDITIONS

2023 Cal-Western NATS Regional Conference and Auditions

www.calwestnats.org

Hello Cal-Western Region Teachers!

I hope your fall is off to a great start. On **October 6**, we will open registration for the **2023 Cal-Western NATS Regional Conference and Auditions**. These are our first hybrid auditions, with the first round being held virtually. The semi-finals and finals will take place **in person on January 14 and 15, 2023** at the 2023 Cal-Western Regional Conference at **California State University, Long Beach**. All places and prizes will be awarded after the finals on January 15.

Registration will be through the nats.org site and AuditionWare. For help with AuditionWare and technical questions, please contact Justin Plank at jplank.nats@gmail.com

Registration and Fees: Registration is for the entire audition process. There is one fee for the auditions, which includes all 3 rounds. Semi-finalists/finalists will either bring their own pianist or hire one from a list provided by NATS. More information will be provided when the semi-finalists are announced.

*** Registering for the preliminary auditions implies that the student is willing to participate in **all rounds** of the auditions, and that the teacher is willing to judge in all rounds of the auditions. All teachers with participating students must judge or provide a substitute judge, no exceptions. All teachers should expect to judge full categories, regardless of the number of students entered. If you are entering more than fifteen students, you will need to provide an extra judge. Judging will be due December 5.

The hard deadline for registration is **November 7**. We will be adhering to the following soft district deadlines to try to avoid overloading the AuditionWare system. They are as follows:

Nevada District Deadline: 11-2-22

Utah District Deadline: 11-3-22

Arizona District Deadline: 11-4-22

Northern California District Deadline: 11-5-22

Southern California Deadline: 11-6-22

Hawaii District: 11-7-22

Categories/Repertoire: Please look carefully at the category requirements and numbering, as they may differ from your chapter requirements. Also, please note that at the regional level, all high school Musical Theater and Classical categories require three pieces. If you have any doubt about whether a selection meets the category requirements, please contact me before registering.

*Because this has been a consistent source of confusion, please note that the category time limits are designed for in-person competitions. Judges reserve the right to stop listening after the time limit is reached in video auditions as well, and that should be taken into consideration in repertoire selection. However, teachers and students should not cut their selections to accommodate the time limits; this will result in students having to sing for comments only.

Video rules: Please read these rules carefully, and make sure that all videos are marked Unlisted and follow the title instructions. While we're still permitting recorded piano accompaniment in the YouTube round, only Commercial Music (CM) students are permitted to use instrumental tracks. Also, only CM students may use amplification. No videos should be edited or include panning or multiple camera angles.

After the preliminary round judging is completed on December 5, seven semi-finalists will be announced in alphabetical order in each category. These students will perform a full audition in the semi-finals on January 14 at Cal State Long Beach. The top three in each category will sing one selection in the finals on January 15.

Thank you all for all you do for our students and the NATS community. I'm really looking forward to hearing all of the wonderful talent in our Region!



All the best,
Emily Sinclair, DMA
Auditions Chair, Cal-Western Region NATS

MEMBERS ACTIVITY

Dr. Juanita Ulloa National NATS presentation in Chicago, 2022

On July 4th weekend three of our chapter NATS members celebrated with a presentation on Latin American Song Goddesses at the NATS Voice Convention in Chicago. They are **Katya Roemer**, **Dr. Juanita Ulloa**, and one of our newest 27-year-old chapter members, **Lidia Chávez**.



Lidia singing online in red and white Peruvian outfit

Lidia was a 2021/2022 winner in her category in NATS chapter and Cal/West Regional Competitions. All were grateful for SFBAC chapter members who attended in support.



Katya live singing

Juanita, a specialist in Latin American and Spanish Vocal Music, covered women from Mexico, Cuba, Peru, Argentina, and Chile.

She introduced songs and histories of women whose songs are traditionally performed in both classical and folkloric traditions. She sang some songs live at the piano and others pre-recorded with accompaniment ranging from solo classical harp or mariachi to Euterpe, flamenco fusion quartet. Katya sang two songs from Mexico and Cuba to the accompaniment of Bay Area pianist, Cesar Cancino. Lidia's two songs featured opposite ranges: high coloratura in Peruvian "Música criolla" style from Lima, Peru, to the darker middle range Mexican bolero.

This convention was the first to feature several presentations on Mexican and Latin American topics, a welcome change. Juanita will expand her teachings at Laney Community College in Spring semester of 2023 to include an online course in Latin American Vocal Music. Tuition is free at Laney!



Juanita with late bolero songwriter and mentor, Ema Elena Valdelamar, author of *Mucho corazón*, *Mil besos*, and *Cheque en blanco*. One of many female songwriters being covered in Juanita's August online webinar on Song Goddesses from Latin America. Participants have met and sung for Ema Elena's son from Mexico City, who is also in the music business.

IN MEMORIAM

We are very sad to share the news that our longtime SFBC NATS member, **Rachel Kessler**, passed away on September 5, 2022. She was a longstanding member of our chapter and will be greatly missed.

She taught choir in the Davis schools from 1970 until her retirement in 2001. Kessler came to Davis in 1967 when her husband, Don Kessler, took a faculty position at UC Davis. She immediately became a choir director at Davis Community Church. Her first teaching assignment in Davis schools was as a one-year replacement for Davis High School music director, Dick Brunelle, from 1970-71 when Brunelle took off for a year to finish his masters degree at S.F. State. Following his return, she continued with teaching assignments at Holmes and Emerson Junior High Schools. Kessler founded the Davis Chorale in 1978 and passed on directing duties to Allison Skinner when she retired from the group in 2010. She also founded the Davis Children's Chorale in 1995 and retired as director from that group in 2012. She continued to give voice lessons up until recently.



She received collegiate degrees in music from the University of Illinois and Indiana University and is a past member of the Robert Shaw Chorale and the Roger Wagner Master Chorale. (Obituary info taken from: https://localwiki.org/davis/Rachel_Kessler)

A graphic with the words "IN MEMORIAM" in a serif font, enclosed in a double-lined rectangular border. The background is a blue sky with white clouds and a sunburst effect at the top.

IN MEMORIAM

SFBAC NATS BOARD

Greetings dear NATS SFBAC members,

Thanks to your dedication and voting spirit our bylaw amendment and board election was passed unanimously with 110 votes. Please note the following officers and board titles for the next 2-year serving term (June 1st to May 31st):

President - Jacque Wilson Scharlach

Vice Presidents of Programs - Dr. Robin Fisher & Dr. Karine St-Pierre

Vice President of Recitals - Gayatri Venkatesan

Vice President of Student Auditions - Dr. Phillip Harris & Dr. Erin McOmber

Membership Chair (formerly Membership Secretary) - Jonathan Smucker

Communications Coordinator (formerly Correspondence Secretary) - Dr. Ryan Downey

Recording Secretary - Angelique Zuluaga

Treasurer - Dr. Lee Strawn

Newsletter Editor - Alina Ilchuk

Webmaster - Solmaaz Adeli

We also received 88 volunteer offers, and \$150 dollars in donations. THANK YOU for your generosity and kindness to our chapter.



Bylaw amendments can be read online here:
[SFBAC Bylaws 2022 For Review.pdf](#).

SFBAC NATS board meeting minutes
 may be obtained upon request:
sfbacnats@gmail.com

Best,
Angelique Zuluaga
Recording Secretary, SFBAC NATS

SFBAC NATS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A committee of three board-appointed SFBAC NATS members:
Wendy Hillhouse, Kathleen Ludowise, Dr. Juanita Ulloa

When called upon, the Advisory Committee provides council to the board, when advice is needed on questions regarding operational, ethical, and historical (such as interpreting the bylaws, etc.) matters.

MEMBERSHIP

Invitation to grow our membership

Do you know a newer voice teacher building a private voice studio, a colleague looking to increase their knowledge base, a teaching friend who is new to the Bay Area, or someone looking for additional student performance opportunities? NATS and SFBAC offer all this and more!

We welcome all to our community - help us to grow our ranks!

To maximize your SFBAC NATS membership and stay up-to-date on chapter news and events, be sure to:

- Join our members-only Facebook group, [SFBAC-NATS \(San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, Nat'l Assoc Teachers of Singing\)](#), where members can share information, promotions, and discuss topics of singing.
- Visit and bookmark our website at <https://sfbacnats.com/> and check out the “Members Only” section at sfbacnats.com/members-only, password **SFBACNATS2020** (case sensitive). The members only section is where you will find member exclusive information, including the SFBAC Online Member Directory.
- Submit your professional information to be listed on the [SFBAC Voice Teacher Directory](#), available to the public through the SFBAC website. Be sure to include your location, teaching modalities, and whether you are accepting new students!
- Follow our Facebook page, [San Francisco Bay Area NATS](#).
- Subscribe to our YouTube Channel, [SFBAC NATS](#).

NATS Code of Ethics

These ethical guidelines are established by the Association to outline Members’ ethical duties and obligations to students, colleagues and the general public, and to promote professional cooperation and productive relationships among its Members.

Download: https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/f558864f-b9e0-4ba4-b765-9502e1799a28/downloads/1cn50b369_827334.pdf?ver=1631843764783

NATS I.D.E.A.

I.D.E.A. Best Practices Guide

NATS takes the equitable treatment for all within our organization very seriously. Equitable treatment involves learning about **I.D.E.A.:** *Inclusion, Diversity, Equity*, and *Anti-Racism*. You may find NATS **I.D.E.A. Best Practices Guide** here:

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

This guide will help all NATS members gain a greater understanding of diversity in order to encourage enhanced awareness of inclusive practices for all identities.

INCLUSION

At the core of *inclusion* is diversity. Inclusion means that all members feel as if they genuinely *belong*— that they are valued and relied upon, empowered, and ultimately matter. Like diversity, inclusion is an outcome and often the actual experience of NATS membership, an experience that holds real potential or implications of equity.

DIVERSITY

The term *diversity* can be understood as: the presence of difference. It's that simple. Diversity can refer to people of various races, genders, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, religions, ethnicity, national origins, citizenship status, and mental or physical abilities. When applied to NATS, defining diversity should also include diversity of ideas and cultural diversity.

EQUITY

Equity is the norms, fundamentals, and policies in place that ensure everyone has access to the same opportunities.

ANTI-RACISM

Anti-racism is the active process of identifying, challenging, and changing the values, structures and behaviors that perpetuate individual and systemic racism. It does so by examining the power imbalances between racialized and non-racialized or differently racialized peoples.

SFBAC NATS DIVERSITY and INCLUSION COMMITTEE

On June 7, 2020, at our Annual General Meeting, our board presented a statement, a pledge, that our chapter will do everything in its power to condemn and reject systemic racism and anti-blackness at every turn possible, as well as encourage, seek, and welcome more Black, POC and LGBTQ+ voice teachers to our chapter, including other marginalized voices in our community. From this call to action, a **Diversity and Inclusion Committee** was formed, chaired by **Dr. Phillip Harris** and **Dr. Juanita Ulloa** along with many other members of our board and membership. Immediate action is currently being taken to work on implementing our pledge.

We can make an impact in our voice community and beyond!

Would you like to join our Diversity and Inclusion Committee?

Email our Chairs **Dr. Phillip Harris** and **Dr. Juanita Ulloa**:

diversityandinclusion@sfbacnats.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Fellow Singing Teachers,

Being reelected and serving our chapter as a Newsletter Editor is an honor for me. Thank you!

I genuinely believe that the SFBAC NATS Newsletter provides a unique platform for those of us interested in singing and vocal pedagogy to share our findings and ideas. It also keeps us, as a chapter, updated while informing us about the news related to the chapter's most important events.

I want to thank the colleagues who regularly submit their materials and encourage everyone to share their articles, research studies, concert reports, student achievements, honors, photos, etc. Let us celebrate your success together! Let's keep our Newsletter informative and fresh!

Our next Newsletter is scheduled for the second week of December.

Please email your materials to newsletter@sfbacnats.com or alinailchuk@yahoo.com by **November 25th, 2022.**



Sincerely,
Alina Ilchuk,
Newsletter Editor, SFBAC NATS

