



## Fall 2019 Newsletter

Welcome to a new school year and a new year with the Chicago NATS community. Being voice teachers, most of us likely worked just as hard over the summer, but there is something special about the magic of September in singing education. Younger students come back from summers of play and growth and are excited to return to lessons and see their choir friends. High school and college kids are fueled by the energy of anticipation and hopes of a musical casting, college application, competition result, the audition season, or professional life after graduation. Professional singers return home from YAPs and summer contracts. Chicago musical theater houses, the CSO, and Lyric are back in rehearsal, and adults are auditioning for volunteer choruses or preparing to sing in their first cabaret or showcase. Liturgical singers are starting to prepare for Christmas services and High Holy Day rehearsals are in full swing. September is an exciting time to be a voice teacher!

September is also an exciting time for Chicago Chapter NATS. We elected new officers and said goodbye to some deeply committed members. Please join me in extending gratitude to Jennifer Mather and Nadine Gomes, who have contributed steadfast work and positive energy to the chapter. We are better because they are a part of our community. We are also deeply indebted to Paul Thompson for his years of service to CCNATS and for his solid leadership as our President these past two years. Paul is a warm and generous colleague, devoted to this teaching community, so please stop and say hello and thank him for his service if you see him out and about this year at a CCNATS event. As Nadine and

### A Letter from the President...



**Do you have a program, promotion, performance or accomplishment you want us to know about?**

**Join our Facebook**

Jennifer have stepped down, we are joined by two new Board members and a Junior Board member respectively: Colette Todd (Loyola and private studio), Sam Handley (North Park and DePaul), and Rachel Klippel (Elk Grove, Rolling Meadows High Schools). We are delighted they have joined the leadership team!

We have big plans for the '19-'20 season with CCNATS and the theme is **community**. As voice teachers and singers, we are often heavily scheduled, on the run, and isolated from each other. Time is precious and schedules can be overwhelming. To respond to this, we will be unrolling a series of smaller informal social “pop up” events and mentorship opportunities throughout the year. The Chicago chapter is unique because it spans a staggeringly large geographic area, and it is not anchored by a single institution or small community of schools. There are over 34 colleges and universities in the Chicagoland area alone! We have representation as far north as Wisconsin, as far south as Champaign-Urbana, and farther west than Aurora. Because of this, we want to provide opportunities for you to better connect with us and with each other, in person and virtually. We will be making our workshops and teacher events accessible via Zoom when possible all year. We understand how busy you are, but we value each one of you and the difference you are making in your community. We want you to feel supported by what CCNATS has to offer, no matter how busy your teaching day has been or where you are located!

To start, we are hosting two informal member get-togethers in October. The first is a MEMBER SOCIAL on Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm at [The Twisted Hippo](#) near the Ravenswood/Albany Park/Irving Park neighborhoods in Chicago. The second is an “AFTER PARTY” following the COLLEGE AUDITION WORKSHOP on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 3-5pm in Oak Park. Stay tuned for more details on this event in the coming weeks, and please consider joining us!

Speaking of the COLLEGE AUDITION WORKSHOP, we understand that many college counselors do not specialize in the performing arts and you may want extra support to guide your students as they look beyond high school. CCNATS is here to help you! Even if you have a student on the fence about a performance program, this event can help provide clarity on the differences between a conservatory and liberal arts

**group! CCNATS members are welcome to post on our Facebook page [here](#).**

**Would you like to be listed on the CCNATS website in our future teacher directory? Are you interested in mentoring a teacher or being mentored yourself? Would you be interested in connecting with the other teachers who live close to you?**

**Keep your eyes open for a CCNATS survey in the coming weeks!**

education, or the wide variety of ways singers are currently pursuing training and education after high school. We are putting together a fantastic panel of college teachers and professionals across vocal styles to share information about the current college audition landscape. Please let your students and fellow teachers (even non-NATS members!) know about this FREE workshop.

Looking beyond the chapter, CCNATS is a part of the Central Region, which hosts its [annual conference](#) the beginning of November in Iowa City at the University of Iowa. If you have never been to a regional conference before, this is an excellent one to be your first. Our Central Region colleagues are kind, generous, and inspired teachers. Iowa City is one of America's finest college towns, and it is sure to be a wonderful weekend. I encourage you to join me in November if you are able!

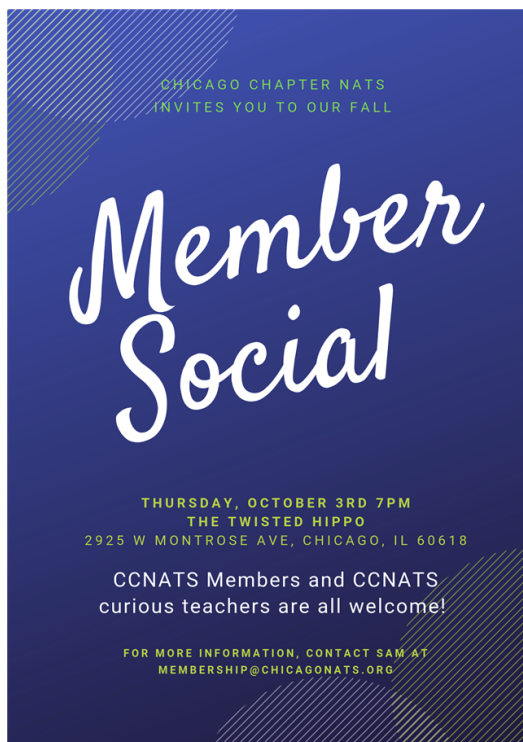
Finally, the [CCNATS website](#) has been updated. You will be able to find all you need on the website, and if you notice something missing, please reach out and let [me](#) or the [communications team](#) know! In addition to this fresh website, the [CCNATS Facebook page](#) is where you want to be for up-to-date information. We welcome each and every one of you to post information about your programs or accomplishments. The easiest and quickest way for you to reach the CCNATS community is through the Facebook page.

I look forward to seeing you this year and meeting those of you I don't know. It is an honor to serve the vibrant CCNATS community, and I wish you all a fulfilling year ahead!

Kind regards,

Rebecca S. Schorsch

President  
Chicago Chapter NATS  
[president@chicagonats.org](mailto:president@chicagonats.org).



## Member Social

Current CCNATS members and those curious about joining CCNATS are welcome to attend this casual after work gathering at The Twisted Hippo, a gastropub and tasting room. Enjoy a beverage of your choice (alcoholic and non-alcoholic available) or some food (a wide variety of vegetarian and vegan options available) meet new colleagues and see old friends. Join Board Members Sam Handley, Rebecca Schorsch, Amy Pickering, Sarah Wasserman, Matt Blanks, and Katherine Petersen for a relaxed, collegial evening. This is a "pay your own tab" event. Peruse the [menu](#), [beers](#) and [drinks](#) list.



## College Audition Workshop

Do you have students preparing for college music or musical theater programs? Do you have students unsure if they should pursue performing arts at the college level? This workshop is for you, your students and their families! The CCNATS annual College Audition Workshop is a 2 hour panel discussion and presentation for high school students of ALL AGES considering singing in their college years. Whether your student is preparing for a classical voice audition, musical theater BFA program, or an arts supplement for the common app, this workshop is a must-attend event. Hear from college teachers and professionals on subjects like selecting the best repertoire, pre-screen videos, how to communicate with a pianist, and "what if I can't belt yet?"

This event is **FREE** and open to the public!

## CHICAGO CHAPTER NATS

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