

Student nats newsletter

WWW.NATS.ORG/SNATS

SPRING 2020

Welcome, New Chapters!

New and reinstated chapters since Spring 2019

New SNATS Chapters

**New York University–
Steinhardt School**
New York, NY

Dr. Justin Moniz, Advisor
Ben Swanson, President

University of Hawaii–Manoa
Honolulu, HI

Dr. Martina Bingham, Advisor
Morgan Bernat, President

University of Louisiana at Monroe
Monroe, LA

Dr. Vangelisti, Advisor

Western Washington University
Bellingham, WA

Dr. Eric Rieger, Advisor
Ethyn McLaughlin, President

Reinstated SNATS Chapter

**University of Miami–
Frost School of Music**
Miami, FL

Frank Ragsdale, Advisor
Anna Park, President

About SNATS

The National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) fosters the formation of student chapters in order to advance knowledge about the Association and the professions of teaching and singing.

A Student NATS (SNATS) Chapter is an organization of students that can meet, hold events and discussions, participate, practice, and learn more about voice teaching as a profession.

MESSAGE FOR OUR SNATS CHAPTERS

Singing and Teaching in the era of COVID-19!

I write to you today from my home office where I am teaching voice lessons and Solo Vocal Literature II, most likely through the end of the spring term. I know you are all in the same situation and experiencing a mix of emotions as you try to adjust to a new norm, even if it is only temporary. The Governor of Minnesota extended the state's stay at home order until May 4th and with that came the announcement from the St. Olaf College President today that the on-campus Commencement celebration has been cancelled for this year. I suspect that has happened at your school, too, and you are grieving the many "lasts" you will not experience this spring. Oh, and it snowed here this morning!

You may remember there wasn't a fall newsletter due to a staff illness in the NATS office. Consequently, this newsletter contains chapter news from last fall as well as winter and spring activities. As you can see by the submissions, chapters have held some exciting, fun, interesting and informative events this year.



Alison Feldt
SNATS Coordinator;
NATS Vice President
for Outreach
feldt@stolaf.edu



The NATS leadership and staff have been closely monitoring the spread of COVID-19 and its impact on our lives. Based on a variety of factors that have been examined, it has become clear that we are unable to hold an on-site conference as planned in Knoxville, Tennessee. The good news is that we have been in conversation with many of our presenters, sponsors, and other supporters this week and we will convert our planned event to the 2020

NATS National Virtual Conference, June 24-30. Go to nats.org for the most recent information about the National Conference.

The names and email addresses of each chapter advisor and president are listed in the SNATS online directory. Please remember to notify me immediately via email to vpoutreach@nats.org anytime there is a change in your chapter's leadership. This is the only means the national office and I have of communicating with your chapter. If that information is not up-to-date, you may miss out on important announcements, miss out on receiving this newsletter, etc. Thank you to chapter advisors and presidents who regularly email their directory information to me. By the way, I encourage you to hold elections for new officers this spring. Gather your chapter members together over video conference and hold elections. This will allow your Chapter to have its leadership in place and they can begin to plan over the summer and have introductory activities in place the first day of classes.

The next SNATS Chat will feature Stacy Gerberich. She will present "Maintaining Creativity, Compassion, and Connection during the COVID-19 Pandemic." This on-line presentation/discussion will teach the basics of Mindful Self-Compassion (MSC) as a way to increase resilience while we practice social distancing. MSC is a research-based practice discovered by Dr. Kristen Neff and Dr. Christopher Germer for increasing well-being. In Stacy's work with musicians and artists, she has found that many are already quite comfortable with the fundamental aspects of mindfulness. However, although most are adept at showing compassion to their students, many artists and musicians struggle with extending compassion to themselves. According to research, self-compassion is a fundamental component to increasing resilience and staying connected to others during times of hardship. We will talk about the basics of Mindful Self-Compassion and discuss how to apply it during these exceptionally difficult times. In preparation for the discussion, Stacy invites you to watch Dr. Kristin Neff's 20-minute TedTalk at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvTZBUSplr4>

Please register for Student Nats (SNATS) Chat with guest Stacy Gerberich on Apr 26, 2020 9:00 PM EDT at this [link](#). After

registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Stacy Gerberich, Psy.D. is a psychology resident who joined Counseling and Psychological Services at Utah State University in the fall of 2019. Stacy is the liaison to the Utah State University Caine College of the Arts (CCA). Her clinical background includes a post-doctoral fellowship at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC). She completed her pre-doctoral internship at the University of Rochester with a concentration at the Eastman School of Music. Stacy earned her Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from Wheaton College near Chicago in 2018. Her bachelor's degree is from Messiah College in Pennsylvania.

Professor Errik Hood from Utah State University will again serve as moderator. I hope you will join Stacy and Errik April 26th at 9pm Eastern Time. Previous SNATS Chats are archived at [SNATS Webpage](#).

Finally, this will be my last SNATS Newsletter to you. Dr. Kimberly James from the University of Nevada Las Vegas will begin her first term as Vice President for Outreach when my term ends in June. I know that Dr. James will bring a new vitality to this position. I wish her and all of you the best. It has been a pleasure serving you and NATS in this position. I am happy to have met, and gotten to know better, so many enthusiastic, energetic, insightful and creative students and voice teachers from across the country over the past four years. I am grateful for the support I received from the Outreach Advisory Group: Professors Errik Hood, Brian Leeper, Debra Rentz, Deborah Popham, and Tara Warfield. There was so much more I wanted to accomplish, but I am happy that I was able to resurrect the SNATS Newsletter and institute the biannual SNATS Chats with the help of these devoted NATS members. I hope you have found these to be useful and instructive tools for your chapter.

Despite these challenging times, I hope you all finish the school year strong and with joy,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Feldt".

SNATS Chat April 26, 2020, featuring Dr. Stacy Gerberich

Spring 2020 Student Nats (SNATS) Chat featuring Dr. Stacy Gerberich. Topic: "Maintaining Creativity, Compassion, and Connection during the COVID-19 Pandemic."

Social SNATS

SNATS Members, share your photos on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook. Use hashtags #SNATS and #NATS. If your student chapter has a social media presence, or launches a new page, email the address(es) to Brian Leeper at leeperb@uww.edu and we will add your chapter to the list below. An Official SNATS page has been created to serve as a hub for communication among chapters. [Click, like and share.](#)

Facebook

- [SNATS Official Page](#)
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- [University of North Carolina-Greensboro SNATS](#)
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- [University of Northern Iowa \(UNI\) SNATS](#)

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- [University of Toronto SNATSUofT](#)
- [Utah State University USU SNATS](#)
- [Wilfred Laurier University #LaurierSNATS](#)

Reminder

List your SNATS chapter events at [nats.org](http://www.nats.org/snats_events.html). Click http://www.nats.org/snats_events.html and "Submit an Event".

Anytime there is a leadership change, send your updates to vpoutreach@nats.org or feldt@stolaf.edu.

Purchase an Annual Student Membership for just \$46.

Full-time students can become members of NATS and partake in benefits including FREE *Journal of Singing* digital access.

Mentoring and serving students is at the heart of the NATS mission. Lifelong learning begins at the student level, and it is in this spirit that NATS has a student membership category.

Enrollment is in progress and new membership is good through January 1, 2021.

Having a NATS Student Membership is not a requirement for belonging to a Student NATS (SNATS) Chapter. However, we encourage that you actively participate within a SNATS Chapter as a step toward purchasing a NATS Student Membership.

Must be a full-time student. (NATS may request a verification of full-time student status).



Drake University Des Moines, IA

Leanne Freeman-Miller, Advisor
Kate Broderick, President

On October 11th, Christine Blanner hosted an Acting Workshop. Students practiced leading centers, gestures, how to command a stage, and how to effectively portray a character given his or her background.

On November 14th, Ed Corpus hosted a Pants Role Workshop. The workshop involved a lecture on how to portray a pants role on stage, some group work and acting exercises, as well as a masterclass with a several singers performing pants-role arias.

Another big event is Drake's student-led opera and musical theater scenes program, held December 8th. This picture is from a past year's event of all the members that participated. This program allows students in the chapter to assume leadership roles, such as music and stage directing, as well as collaborating with students in other roles, such as performing and accompanying.



Masterclass from last year with Baritone, Craig Irvin.

The Drake SNATS Chapter meets twice per semester leading discussions on career advice, graduate school preparation,

YAPs, and other information that will prepare their members for the classical and musical theater world once they graduate.

Eastern Connecticut State University Windham, CT

Dr. Emily Riggs, Advisor
Fallon Michalski, President

Fall 2019

Eastern SNATS Health and Wellness Series: This semester Eastern SNATS started a new program to provide active ways for students here at Eastern to manage their health and wellness, as well as to be able to apply techniques like yoga, breath, and other physical activities to their voice studies!

SNATS Chats: This year they are trying to become more involved in the live SNATS Chats and are planning to register for the upcoming Chat on Nov. 3rd. They are going to host an event to go along with this where advisor Emily Riggs will give

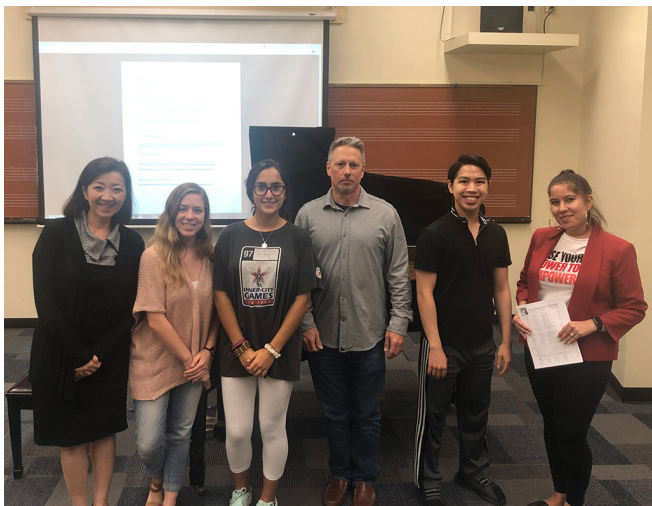


an introduction on voice anatomy in preparation for the Chat! There will also be food!

Annual Trip to the MET: They are already planning their annual Spring Trip to the Met! They encourage all who are interested to do some research and tell us which operas they would be most interested in seeing! This semester they are also hoping to book a tour for anyone who attends!

Florida State University Tallahassee, FL

*Dr. Marcia Porter and Dr. Wanda Brister, co-Advisors
Liliana Guerrero, President*



Workshop on How to Build a Voice Studio



Grapevine/Southlake Grapevine and Southlake, TX

*Kristen McKinley, Advisor
Emma Cave, President*

The Grapevine/Southlake SNATS chapter sponsored a panel discussion with music, musical theater, and voice over professionals, Colleen Mallette, Devin Berg, and Kate Bristol, about preparing for college, college programs, performing, and life and health in the arts after school. They invited choral and theater students from area schools to attend as well. The questions and conversation even continued after the panel ended.

Kansas State University Manhattan, KS

Cheryl Richt, Advisor
Samantha Williams, President

A Night at the Seraglio: On the evening of September 19th, Dr. Bryan Pinkall and a number of voice majors from all years at K-State were invited to watch a dress rehearsal of Mozart’s *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*. The glamorous performance was set in the style of Hollywood’s golden age, dotted with sultry lighting and a swanky nightclub. K-State’s attendees were most impressed by the creative staging to fit the modified setting, as well as Konstanze’s performance in the quartet at the end of Act II. They’re exceedingly grateful to the Kansas City Lyric Opera and to Kansas State’s SNATS chapter for the opportunity to see all aspects of the field and the possibility of networking.



New England Conservatory Boston, MA

Ian Howell, Advisor
Theodora Nestorova, President

The New England Conservatory SNATS kicked off the 2019-2020 year by co-sponsoring a “How to Adjudicate” panel with master voice teachers at the NATS Boston Student Regional Auditions in March. In February, NEC SNATS hosted a “Best Practices for Practice” workshop on effective voice practicing, an in-house event in conjunction with the robust NEC Vocal Pedagogy department. Members are planning future partnered events with the Boston Conservatory SNATS Chapter regarding musical theatre/classical crossover/CCM teaching, hosting interactive teaching master classes/workshops led by guest lecturers of all genres & styles, and creating & maintaining an ambassadorial program within NEC. Stay tuned for more to come on social media from the NEC SNATS: facebook.com/NECSNATS.



Ohio University Athens, OH

Debra Rentz, Advisor
Alexandra Taliani, President



Masterclass with Daniel Stein, who is a 2020 NATS intern this year.



Masterclass with Michael Harper.

The Ohio University SNATS chapter welcomed several new members this year! They hosted a watch party for their spring opera production “Little Women” last September, and several members sang at the Ohio NATS Fall Student Auditions in

Toledo last October. The chapter hosted a masterclass with new Ohio University faculty member Dr. Daniel Stein on October 22nd. The chapter performed their third annual “So This Is Love” Valentine’s Day recital on February 15th, with repertoire ranging from opera, jazz, art song and musical theatre. They accepted donations to support their travel to Bowling Green State University for the Great Lakes Regional NATS Auditions in March, where eleven members would be competing. On February 28th, the chapter hosted a masterclass with countertenor Michael Harper as part of his three-day residency at Ohio University.”

University of North Dakota Grand Forks, ND

Anne Christopherson, Advisor
Kalli Sonnenburg, President

The SNATS Chapter based at the University of North Dakota was founded in the Spring of 2015. In fact, they are the only chapter in the entire state! For the 2018 – 2019 school year, they were proud to sponsor many events including a collaborative artist residency with Dr. Laura Loewen from the University of Manitoba in which both vocal and piano students were coached on English Art Song. They went Christmas caroling at local nursing homes around the holiday time to spread holiday cheer. In the spring, they collaborated with the UND Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders to celebrate World Voice Day. This was a day-long event in which both departments created opportunities for people to learn about their voice through activities such as lectures, performances, and free voice screenings.

University of Toronto Toronto, ON, CA

Lorna Macdonald, Advisor
Katy Clark and Kevin Mulligan, Co-Advisors

SNATS at the University of Toronto reconvened in 2019-20 under the leadership of Prof. Lorna MacDonald who is also Head of Voice Pedagogy at U of T. The active group is led jointly by graduate students, Kevin Mulligan (voice pedagogy and composition) and Katy Clark (DMA - voice performance). They are

University of Missouri - Columbia Columbia, MO

Steven Jepson, Advisor
Connor Cochran, President

The University of Missouri – Columbia SNATS chapter, with help from the Mid-Missouri NATS Chapter and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia–Zeta Chapter, hosted tenor Brian Cheney for a master class on Thursday, November 7 at Whitmore Recital Hall on the Mizzou campus. Students from Mizzou and Columbia College took part in this fun and informative master class.

They began the 2019-2020 school year with an artist residency by Voltaire Verzosa, collaborative pianist and countertenor. Both vocal and piano students enjoyed master classes with Mr. Verzosa and were delighted by his patience and expertise. He and chapter advisor, Dr. Anne Christopherson, performed an evening of French art song. In fact, each of them accompanied each other!

They supported the ND-MB District Met Opera National Council Auditions as well as watch the talented young artists compete in the auditions. They hoped to make World Voice happen in the Spring by collaborating again with the Departments of Music and of Communication Sciences and Disorders to continue to cultivate awareness about the voice and vocal health. They also host Opera Club, a monthly get-together to watch professional opera productions, either livestreamed or pre-recorded. Their current board is working towards increasing their membership and reaching out to others on campus and in the community about the voice. It is a full year ahead, but they are excited to learn more about the voice and become better performers, teachers, and voice users!

pictured below “selling their wares” at the recent SNATS *Looks and Books* formal wear and book sale. Donations of gently-used formal wear, such as gowns, suits, tuxes, pants, jackets, shoes, concert blacks, accessories, and music and books, including signed copies of memorabilia proved to be a great way to help out the students, the environment, and SNATS at U of T! For every item donated to the sale, buyers received a half-price discount on any item of equal or lesser value.

The year had a great beginning with a lecture in Vocal Health with Dr. Jun Lin of St. Michael’s Hospital Voice Clinic, followed



SNATS Co-Presidents Kevin Mulligan and Katy Clark



SNATS Canadian Song Showcase



SNATS team and our reflux-conscious foods.



by edible treats inspired by Dr. Jamie Koufman’s “Dropping Acid – The Reflux Diet”. Featured are the SNATS team and our reflux-conscious foods.

Voice Instructor and NATS member, Mark Daboll, presented a seminar on *The Business of Running a Voice Studio* which was a wonderful opportunity to learn about the business side of operating an independent voice studio.

WHAT WORKS? was the *SNATS Canadian Song Showcase* held on February 11th. 8 singers and 8 composers shared 15 presentations on Canadian repertoire with a pedagogical viewpoint, and it was a wonderful venue for good dialogue

between composers and singers, accompanied by pianists from the Collaborative Piano program.

Coming up in May 2020 is the annual professional development workshop for NATS Ontario, and SNATS will be in full force assisting and learning. This will be a great event to close the SNATS season which opened with a fun class called *Cheating at the Piano!* This very helpful event helped us “cheat” just a bit with accompaniments to songs and reviewed some long-lost theory skills and chord progressions. Now we are cheating, eating and dressing better! Who knew? That is our report from “We, the North” – SNATS at the University of Toronto. Stay tuned for our 2020-21 season.

University of Tulsa Tulsa, OK

Judith Raiford, Advisor
Ariel Rodriguez, President

President, Ariel Rodriguez, and the other officers planned an exciting fall term for the chapter with various guest speakers and outings to local music events. The first official event took place October 4th. Music majors and non-music majors alike conversed about the school week over deli sandwiches and cookies. Dr. Aaron Wacker, Assistant Professor of Music Education, joined the students to share about his experiences and explain the process of researching and writing his dissertation on maximizing rehearsal timing through proper lesson planning. Finally, Professor Judith Raiford, faculty advisor for TU SNATS, opened up the conversation for questions to Dr. Wacker, and students were given the opportunity to further discuss the paths required to be a music educator and other related topics of interest. Other guest speakers to TU SNATS shared about the world of music from other perspectives, such as performing or composing. The group attended the Tulsa Opera's production of "Carmen". They are looking forward to a great semester of further learning about the world of music together at the University of Tulsa School of Music!



Dr. Aaron Wacker, Assistant Professor of Music Education, joined the students to share his experiences.

University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Oshkosh, WI

Anna Hersey, Advisor
Molly Hennig, President

Jamie Andrews, Chief Learning Officer of the Minnesota Opera, visited the Voice Department of UW Oshkosh in February 2019 to discuss the rapidly expanding field of Teaching Artistry within the world of vocal performance. Teaching Artistry involves an artist's outreach to a community in order to educate them about the art the artist takes part in. Jamie introduced them to the Minnesota Opera's Summer "Opera Artist +" program, and voice students were given the opportunity to discuss individual career paths with Jamie after his presentation.

Student nats chat

Let's Keep the Chat Going!

Do you have a topic you would like to learn about in an upcoming SNATS Chat? Email your topic ideas and/or potential presenters to vpoutreach@nats.org!

Utah State University Logan, UT

Errik Hood, Advisor
Abbigayle Welch, President



Members of the Utah State University SNATS Chapter ran student led acting workshops for an upcoming duets concert that will serve as a fundraiser for the chapter.

Western University London, ON, CA

Barbara Donn-Prosser, Advisor
Kelly Lin, President

SNATS Western was founded in 2015. The Western Chapter is dedicated to the promotion of vocal pedagogy, as well as career building and support for those interested in professional careers in teaching and performing.

Fall 2019 was exciting for SNATS Western. As students were preparing for Young Artist Program auditions in the fall, they hosted a lunch-time aria concert the last week of October. Singers practiced their audition pieces before staff, students, and faculty. In November, the chapter helped facilitate the NATS Ontario Vocal Showcase, which was hosted by their very own Don Wright Faculty of Music at Western University. Members of SNATS Western represented the chapter as they sang in the Vocal Showcase and gave presentations on their doctoral work throughout the two days of the event. Some of their members won first and second place in their categories! What a pleasure to welcome and connect with SNATS and NATS members throughout the province.

In February 2020, SNATS Western hosted an exciting Teaching Entrepreneurship workshop on Starting a Voice Studio with NATS and faculty member Bethany Hörst. What a wonderful



treat for the voice students. The event was so successful that they will host a follow-up workshop at the end of March 2020. The upcoming workshop will further equip SNATS members for the professional field, as they explore real-life journeys into the performance and teaching (and parenting!) world. They look forward to hearing from the expertise of NATS and faculty members, Chad Louwerse and Bethany Hörst.

It has been an exciting year for SNATS Western; may the following years be filled with increasing fervor and success!

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