



newsletter

WWW.NATS.ORG/SNATS

SPRING 2019

Welcome, New Chapters!

New chapters since Fall 2018

New SNATS Chapters

Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS
Cheryl Richter, advisor
Samantha Williams, president

Wayland Baptist University, Plainview, TX
Dr. Brian Kuhnert and Dr. Kenneth Freeman, co-advisors
Franchesca Fuentes, president

Reminder

List your SNATS chapter events at [nats.org](http://www.nats.org).

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.

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 Has Spring Sprung?

What a wild and crazy winter we had here in the upper Midwest. Snowfall total records were broken everywhere, and on top of that, we were consumed by a polar vortex. Does anyone even know what a polar vortex is? Now that April has arrived only small piles of snow remain where giant piles used to reside. We anxiously await warmer days, the first flowers of spring, and green grass. As you can see by chapter submissions for this newsletter, your fall, winter, and early spring activities have been many and fruitful.



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

I look forward to welcoming you to the St. Olaf College campus June 27-29 for the NATS Summer Workshop and National Student Auditions. My colleagues and I are excited to host this event on our campus and we look forward to welcoming you to St. Olaf, Northfield, and the surrounding area. Stay an extra day or two and experience all that the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul have to offer. *(continued on next page)*

This Happened - A Polar Vortex at St. Olaf



This won't happen at the Summer Workshop ... or will it?

The names and email addresses of each chapter advisor and president are listed in the SNATS online directory. Many of you have yet to update advisor and chapter president directory information. 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 have already emailed their directory information to me. By the way, I encourage you to hold elections for new officers this spring before everyone takes off for the summer. This will allow your Chapter to have its leadership in place. Your leadership can plan over the summer and have introductory activities in place the first day of classes.

The next SNATS Chat will feature Matthew Edwards. Professor Edwards will present "Crossing-Over from Classical

to CCM in the Voice Studio." Professor Errik Hood from Utah State University will again serve as moderator. **The next SNATS Chat will be held Sunday, May 19, beginning at 8:00 p.m. EDT.** This is a little late in the season, but our scheduled presenter in April found it necessary to cancel. I hope you will join Matthew and Errik on May 19th. Read about our presenter below. Previous SNATS Chats are archived at SNATS Webpage.

Finally, I am happy to visit your chapter as time allows. I had the pleasure of presenting master classes and meet with SNATS Chapters at Drake University and University of Northern Iowa spring 2018. I will be in touch early next fall to collect news copy and pictures for the Fall 2019 SNATS Newsletter.

I hope you all finish the school year strong and with joy,



SNATS CHAT, May 19, Featuring Matthew Edwards

We are happy to announce our [Spring 2019 SNATS Chat](#) on Sunday evening, May 19 at 8:00 p.m. EDT. Our guest will be **Matthew Edwards** (pictured, right), presenting "Crossing-Over from Classical to CCM in the Voice Studio." Registration is free. [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

In 2012, the NEA found that approximately 20.4 million adults in the U.S. practiced singing. They found that 89% of them are singing styles outside of the classical domain. Teachers who are not prepared to teach CCM styles may find themselves struggling to keep their studios full. Meanwhile, those teachers who have embraced CCM styles have extensive waiting lists. Everyone can learn to teach this music and the best part is it's fun. In this SNATS chat, Matt will be talking about "Crossing-Over from Classical to CCM in the Voice Studio." He will discuss registration, resonance, articulation, and how audio technology plays a role.

About our SNATS Chat presenter:

Matt Edwards is one of the leading voice teachers for commercial and musical theatre styles in the United States. He is currently an Associate Professor of Voice and Coordinator of Musical Theatre Voice at Shenandoah Conservatory in Winchester, VA. He is also Artistic Director of the Contemporary Commercial Music Vocal Pedagogy Institute and is a member of the education team at VoiceLessons.com.



In 2017, he was the recipient of the Van Lawrence Fellowship and in 2018 he was a master teacher for the NATS Intern program.

Edwards' vocal interests encompass many styles. He has performed numerous roles in plays, musicals, and operas. Former and current students have performed on American Idol, Broadway, off-Broadway, on national and international tours, and in bands touring throughout the United States. He has written numerous articles for *Journal of Singing*, *Journal of Voice*, *VoicePrints*, *American Music Teacher*, *The Voice*, *Southern Theatre*, and *Voice Council* magazine. He has contributed chapters to *A Dictionary for the Modern Singer*, *Vocal Athlete*, *Manual of Singing Voice Rehabilitation*, *Get the Callback*, *The Voice Teacher's Cookbook*, and the CCM, Sacred Music, Gospel, A Cappella, Music by Women, and Country editions of the *So You Want to Sing* book series.

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 and share.](#)

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- [Wilfred Laurier University #LaurierSNATS](#)

NATS Introduces a new national committee!

The NATS Advocacy Committee was newly formed at the 2018 National Conference last summer. The committee is working on defining the scope of initiatives to pursue from the directives of NATS president, Karen Brunssen:

- Advocacy that encourages music/singing in education.
- Advocacy that encourages diversity in our NATS activities and in the larger musical/singing community.
- Advocacy that encourages support of the arts, including music/singing, by government, businesses, and communities.
- Advocacy that encourages inclusion in our NATS activities and in the larger musical/singing community.

The committee has decided to begin with providing resources for our members to encourage the use of diverse repertoire for singers. Repertoire from underrepresented communities are being highlighted to help provide the NATS community with access to new repertoire and tools needed to incorporate it into one's study, and to learn about new perspectives of cultures and communities through the arts. In addition to featuring various culturally diverse composers, there is also a link to the [Composer Diversity Database](#). The committee is also constructing an Advocacy Calendar to help keep these ideas in the forefront throughout the year. **The committee seeks input from SNATS chapters on ideas or initiatives** as well as ways to promote initiatives through creative hashtags that capture the spirit of the movement and generate interest. Visit the website for more information on the Advocacy Initiatives: https://www.nats.org/Advocacy_Initiatives.html.

CHAPTER NEWS

Ohio University SNATS ATHENS, OH

*Debra Rentz, advisor
Lena Daitz, president*

The Ohio University Student NATS Chapter performed their 2nd Annual "So This is Love: An Evening of Love Songs" for Valentine's Day on February 14th, 2019. Members were excited to present this event for a second straight year and chose selections ranging from new-found love from musical theater shows to poetic love in art song. Donations were accepted to help support the chapter's travel to the Great Lakes Regional NATS Auditions in March.



University of Mobile Mobile, AL

*Kathryn Hedlund, advisor
Antonio Williams, president*

On March 25th, University of Mobile SNATS hosted Dr. Loraine Sims from Louisiana State University for a mini recital and masterclass. She presented some of her humorous art songs, then worked with several of their undergraduate and graduate voice students. They also invited friends and colleagues from University of South Alabama to attend.

Purchase an Annual NATS 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, 2020.

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).



University of Northern Iowa

Cedar Falls, IA

Mitra Sadeghpour and Michelle Monroe, co-advisors
Mason Sealock, president

UNI SNATS has been busy this spring semester! Some highlights included a presentation on Vocal Hygiene by Dr. Katherine Osborne of the UNI voice faculty, an opera movie night viewing of Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, and an upcoming trip to Minnesota Opera to see Verdi's *La Traviata* in May.



Members of UNI SNATS after yoga with Greg (Yoga G) on March 9, 2019.

Additionally, six Chapter members attended a yoga class at a local studio, where they learned about the connection of body and breath, and also had a great time! They celebrated the senior recital of their treasurer, Nicole Lengemann, who will be student teaching in the fall. They are grateful for her dedication to SNATS and know she's going to be a great teacher. Members are very heavily involved in the opera program, American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), and many other organizations, and they are very proud of their hard work and dedication to SNATS.



The 2018-19 SNATS officers celebrating the senior recital of treasurer, Nicole Lengemann.

University of Southern California

Los Angeles, CA

Lynn Holding, advisor

Melissa Treinkman, president

SNATS at USC hosted an event on March 1st called "Studio Singing and Sight-Singing Bootcamp".

Session singer **Baraka May** (*pictured, right*) presented her insights into the studio session singing world and helped students hone their sight-singing skills.



University of Texas-San Antonio San Antonio, TX

John Nix, advisor

Paul Patinka, president

In January, members of the UTSA SNATS Chapter assisted with and attended the Colorado Pedagogy Tradition Workshop, which brought together students of the late Barbara Doscher and Berton Coffin in a series of lectures, discussions, informal lessons, singing, and meals. The workshop was led by Dr. Patti Peterson, retired faculty, University of Colorado-Boulder, and Prof. John Nix, UTSA voice faculty and chapter advisor. Some sessions were streamed live on Facebook.

On February 6th, SNATS at the University of Texas at San Antonio heard a presentation from student member **Jonny Espinoza** (pictured, right). Jonny has been working with professor John Nix, UTSA SNATS chapter advisor, to better understand the history of falsetto, its production, its use, and methods of teaching throughout history. Based on his research, Jonny arrived on defining falsetto as "the register of the male voice characterized by dominance of the cricothyroid and negligible activation of the thyroarytenoid, leading to stretched vocal folds which vibrate easily with minimal contact at low breath pressure, producing a higher fundamental frequency on average than in other voice registers, and by a perceptible difference from the other registers." The entire chapter was very excited to have an undergraduate student present such compelling independent research on an interesting and often under evaluated topic. Other events this semester have included workshops on recital preparation and vocal health. UTSA SNATS actively participated in World Voice Day activities and singing at a donated body memorial ceremony at the UT health center to honor the people who have donated their bodies to the cadaver lab in the past year.

On April 16, Chapter members partnered with the UT Voice Center staff (laryngologists Blake Simpson and Laura Dominguez, and speech pathologist Rachelle Speer) for a brown bag luncheon lecture in celebration of World Voice Day. SNATS Chapter President Paul Patinka spoke about vocal styles in Chinese opera, its training, and its long traditions in Chinese culture. SNATS Member Amanda Ronquillo discussed the female belt in Mariachi singing, and how aesthetic preferences are largely based on the emotion of the text. SNATS Member Jasmine Fernandez explored the use of chant and singing in African traditional culture, and how singing plays a large part in ceremonial situations in these cultures. Chapter Vice-President Rachel Stern talked about the use of singing in South American cultures.



Heeere's Jonny!

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!

Student nats chat

University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Oshkosh, WI

Anna Hersey, advisor

Molly Hennig, president

In November, UW-Oshkosh SNATS hosted a pilates workshop led by **Courtney Holcomb** (pictured, below) of Waveforms Pilates. Holcomb led participants through an hour of exercises designed to free the ribcage with breath, align the skeleton, improve posture, and open the chest/shoulders. The event was generously funded by a SNATS grant and UWO student fees.



[NATS 2019 Summer Workshop](#)

Sponsored by the RCM Certificate Program

Join us at St. Olaf College for a wide-ranging workshop on diction for the university and studio teacher!

June 27-29 - St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota

Take part in diction and repertoire workshops and master classes in Russian, French, German, and Scandinavian repertoire, as well as comparative and practical solutions for teaching the standard languages in the private or university studio. Opportunities abound for singing in master classes and immersing yourselves in new repertoire!

REDUCED RATE FOR STUDENTS: \$100

[CLICK HERE](#) FOR REGISTRATION.

[Read about the workshop presenters.](#)

(See ad on next page.)

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Anna Hersey presents Scandinavian repertoire you'll love to learn

Scandinavian diction specialist **Anna Hersey** (pictured, below) brings the gorgeous singing repertoire of Scandinavia to an accessible level at the NATS 2019 Summer Workshop, sponsored by the RCM Certificate Program. [CLICK HERE](#) for an overview of what to expect from Anna's sessions. We invite you to take part and branch out to new areas of language study.



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Amanda Johnston

Assoc. Professor, University of Mississippi

Collaborative pianist Amanda Johnston makes singing in German more approachable for singers of all ages through a comparative language lecture and master classes.



Anna Hersey

Asst. Professor, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh

Scandinavian diction specialist Anna Hersey brings the gorgeous singing repertoire of Scandinavia to a more accessible level.



Anton Belov

Assoc. Professor, Linfield College

Russian native Anton Belov, author of *Singing in Russian* as well as several Russian opera libretti, explores both Russian diction and repertoire.



Cheri Montgomery

Lecturer, Vanderbilt University

Diction guru Cheri Montgomery, author of the *Lyric Diction Workbook Series*, solves teaching concerns for those in and outside the university setting.

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University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Whitewater, WI

Brian Leeper, advisor
Carmen Wells, president

UW-Whitewater Student NATS has had a busy year thus far! They hosted their **3rd annual Voice Day** on campus on Saturday, February 9th. For this event, they invited singers from the area to campus to enjoy a day of singing together! Invitees got a chance to participate in classes (like diction and improvisation) and take a short lesson with UW-Whitewater voice faculty. At the end of the day and after lessons were completed, the staff chose students to participate in a masterclass or perform in an honors recital. While results were being determined for the evening program, UW-Whitewater Chamber Singers and Vocal Jazz presented a special performance.

Guest artist **Dr. Marquese Carter** (*pictured, right*) joined the Chapter for a residency the last weekend of February. Dr. Carter, a tenor and faculty member at Southern Georgia University, performed a recital, presented a masterclass with select students, and worked with the Chamber Singers preparing their spiritual pieces.

Upcoming events include a first annual Cabaret night where students perform musical theater pieces, and a "lock-in" type of event where they have a potluck and social activities, such as watching a Broadway show or having a dance class.



Dr. Marquese Carter (left) working with Chamber Singers during a residency in February.



Dr. Marquese Carter (left) working with Darius Sanders (right) during a masterclass in February.



Ice breaker activity during lunch time at Voice Day.



Brian Leeper (right) working with student at Voice Day during the Voice Day masterclass.

Utah State University
Logan, UT
Errik Hood, advisor

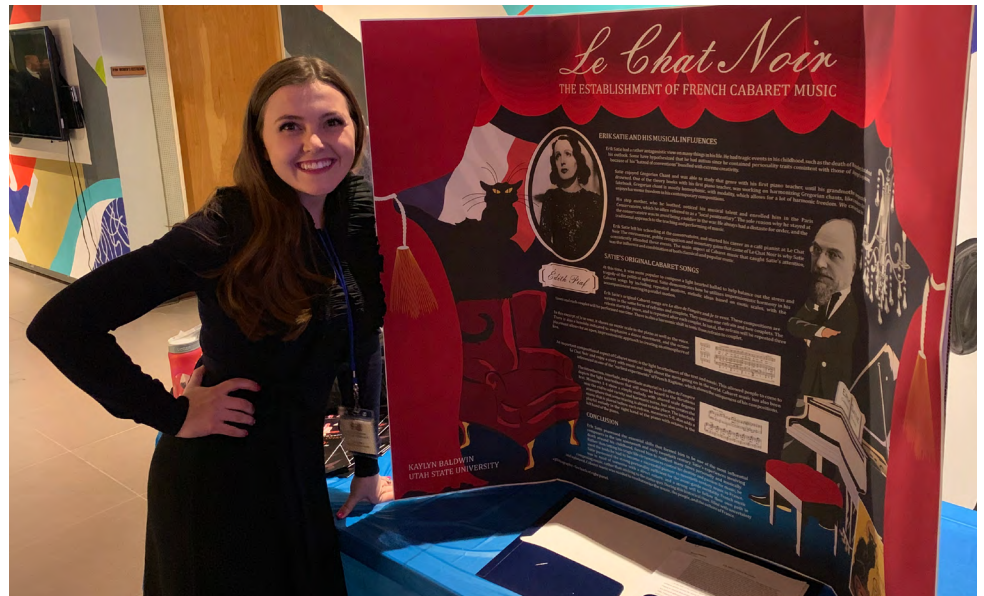
Fifteen USU SNATS Members competed and two prepared poster paper presentations for the Cal-Western regional auditions in Reno, NV. They are looking forward to this semester's upcoming events which include a masterclass on Riffing in CCM, a Yoga Workshop, and USU Opera's production of Engelbert Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*.

"Presenting my research was great! It gave me an opportunity to prepare for education beyond my undergraduate degree. I've always been interested in how composers connect with their audiences, so this was a great opportunity for me to research on how I as a performer can connect with my audiences." – *Kylie Evans*

"Being able to study French Cabaret music was a great experience because I was able to discuss my thoughts with a professor at USU, Dr. Sara Chiesa, who did her doctoral dissertation on French Cabaret music. It helped me more fully understand the genre and how influential it was to 20th century music. Dr. Chiesa and I were able to perform two of the songs I researched at my recital in December of 2018. I loved doing a poster presentation because I discovered that a lot of students don't know anything about Erik Satie or French Cabaret Music, and I was able to get students excited about this new discovery." – *Kaylyn Baldwin*



Kylie Evans (above) and Kaylyn Baldwin (below) offered poster paper presentations for the Cal-Western regional auditions in Reno, NV.



Washington State University
Pullman, WA

Julie Wieck, advisor

Kristina Gaumnitz, president

The large room with a group of WSU SNATS members standing on the balcony is from the Inland Empire NATS auditions at Whitman College in Walla Walla, WA, November 10, 2018. Twelve singers from WSU participated in this event. Five out of the twelve placed in the finals. Jared Peterson - 1st place, Theo Mynka and Clare Sullivan - 2nd Place, and Katherine Berndt - 3rd place.



The photo of the food in bags (*above*) is from the Chapter's community outreach program called "Trick or Soup." Around Halloween chapter members canvass the neighborhood with flyers asking for non-perishable food donations. Community members are quite generous and all food collected is donated to the Community Action Center in Pullman.

SNATS, partnering with another student group, Allegro, brought Professor Max Mendez from North Idaho College for a three-day residency February 7–9th. Professor Mendez presented a workshop on Body Mapping, a recital, and a vocal masterclass.



Spencer Knudson (left) participating in a Body Mapping workshop led by Max Mendez (right).

**Wilfrid Laurier University
Waterloo, ON**

*Amanda Brunk, advisor
Michael Fan, president*

Laurier SNATS at WLU in Waterloo, ON, kicked 2019 off with a fun "Karaoke in the Concourse" event! The event attracted all kinds of students who were keen to find out more about Laurier SNATS and the events we were holding later in the year. Last November they were honored to welcome the ever-knowledgeable Dr. Shannon Coates, NATS Ontario Chapter President, for a Teaching Masterclass, where some of their SNATS members

had the chance to try their hand at teaching their young guests! In 2019 Laurier SNATS also hosted a SNATS Chat on Teaching Lingo in February with WLU SNATS advisor Amanda Brunk, and closed the year off with a SNATS Social at Wilfs Pub in March! The SNATS Social gave members the opportunity to ask questions and discuss how to successfully teach private voice with NATS members Marnie Kersten and Natalie Spurrell. WLU Students' Union Club funding provided appetizers and drinks! This was a great way to wrap up the year and bid farewell and good luck to 2018-19 Laurier SNATS President Mike Fan (*standing, on right*), who is graduating Laurier and pursuing a Master's in Opera Performance, fall 2019!



The WLU "Fan" Club, bidding farewell to graduating SNATS Chapter President Mike Fan (right).

Confused on what terms to use when teaching voice?

WLU SNATS PRESENTS...

A circular graphic with a green and white striped background. At the top is the "Student Snats" logo. Below it, the text "Chat! Teaching Lingo" is written in a large, blue, serif font. At the bottom left, the "Clubs & Associations" logo is visible.

Fri, Feb 8th @ 12 noon

AIRD 106 (beside the Recital Hall!)
with SNATS advisor Amanda Brunk!

A dark blue poster with white text. At the top, it says "WILFRID LAURIER SNATS INVITES YOU TO OUR". Below that, "SNATS SOCIAL" is written in a large, white, serif font. Underneath, "TEACHER NETWORKING" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. There are two logos: "Student Snats" and "CLUBS & ASSOCIATIONS". At the bottom, it says "END OF THE YEAR WITH SPECIAL GUESTS MARNIE KERSTEN AND NATALIE SPURRELL" and "JOIN US AT WILF'S ON FRIDAY, MARCH 15TH 2:30-4PM". A small line of text at the very bottom reads "THE FIRST STEP TO STARTING YOUR OWN PRIVATE STUDIO WHILE ENJOYING SOME APPS FROM WILF'S!".

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