



SFBAC NATS NEWSLETTER

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



Table of Contents

President's Letter - P.2
2023 Cal-Western NATS Regional Conference and Auditions - P.3-4
Musical Theatre Workshop with Meredith Pyle - P.5-6
2022 SFBAC MT, CCM, Songwriting Photo Gallery - P.7
Membership Info - P.8
SFBAC NATS Committees - P.9
Board Members - P.10

THE DEADLINE SUBMISSIONS FOR THE SPRING NEWSLETTER is March 25, 2023

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

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello to all of you amazing chapter members,

I hope all of you are enjoying the early winter weather that has arrived. I am so thankful for the rain in the middle of the drought. It was wonderful seeing so many of you at our Fall Singing Festival/Auditions. We had around 200 singers, and many teachers and volunteers helping to make this return to live singing a fantastic experience for all involved. I would like to especially thank **Dr. Phillip Harris** and **Dr. Erin McOmber** for their amazing work as Co-Vice President's of the festival. Also special thanks to our three finals judges: **Dr. Michael Mohammed, Marcus McCauley, and Michelle Markwart Devaux.**



In the next couple of months we have some amazing opportunities for you to connect with other chapter members and for your students to perform. Some of them include:

January 13-15th - Cal-West Regional Conference at CSU, Long Beach: <https://calwestnats.org/general-information> Presenters from our chapter include: Emily Bender, Chelsea Hollow, Dr. Julia Hunt Nielsen, Dr. Phillip Harris, Dr. Michael Mohammed, and Sheila Townsend!

January 29th - Musical Theatre Workshop with Meredith Pyle in Oakland. Registration is located at: www.sfbacnats.com/workshops

February 4th - Student Recital at the home of Rachel Michelberg. Reach out to Gayatri Venkatesan at: gayatri.venkatesan@gmail.com for more information.

March 11th - Classical Singing Festival/Auditions at CSU, East Bay. More information can be found at: www.sfbacnats.com shortly.

Be on the lookout for more details on all these events and more chapter happenings on our Facebook page or in this newsletter.

Have a wonderful holiday season and I look forward to seeing many of you in January!

Jacquie Wilson Scharlach
Chapter President- SFBAC NATS

UPCOMING EVENTS

2023 Cal-Western NATS Regional Conference and Auditions



January 13-15, 2023
California State University Long Beach
www.calwestnats.org

Hello Cal-Western Region!

Thank you to the 431 students and 70 voice teachers who participated in the first round of the 2022-23 Cal-Western NATS Regional Hybrid Auditions. Your singing, teaching, and volunteer judging make our organization possible, and are inspirational to us all.

The lists of the Semi-finalists who will perform on January 14 in Long Beach can be found on our website, www.calwestnats.org. A few clarifying points: Students are listed in alphabetical order by category; categories with fewer than 7 semi-finalists had fewer than 7 entries; and some large categories have multiple sections (eg MT 3B) with multiple sets of semi-finalists. Teachers should be able to access first-round judging forms on AuditionWare immediately; please let us know if you have any difficulty.

Special thanks to **Justin Plank**, for making this new hybrid adventure technically possible, and **Allison Houston** for keeping us all up-to-date with the website. And of

course, to **Governor Katie Tupper** and **Governor Emerita Ruth Ellis**, for all your hard work and support.

CWR NATS Semi-finalist registration information:

Please fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/uhDEKMdMzxHPQJNx6> by **Thursday, December 15** at the latest, preferably sooner. We can't schedule until we have pianist information, so it's really important that you get this to me as soon as possible. Our wonderful **pianist coordinator, Susan Wong**, will be working to ensure we have great staff pianists.

For those of you opting for the staff pianist: For categories with 2 or 3 songs, the fee for the staff pianist is \$40; for 4 or 5 songs, the fee is \$50. This covers both the semi-final and final, and must be paid in advance via PayPal. We will bill you from the CWR account; this will come from **Jenny Erickson, our fearless Treasurer**.

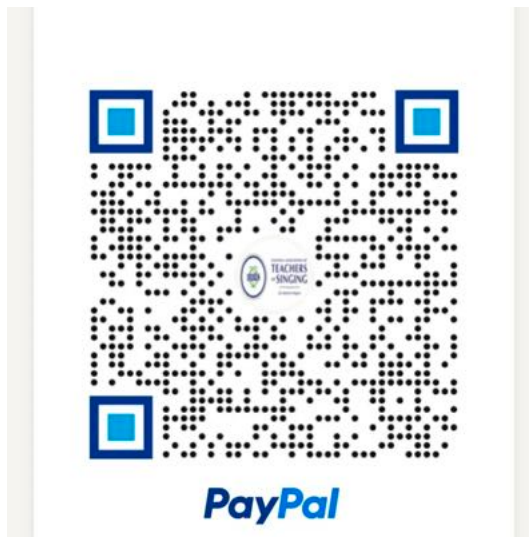
Rehearsals are arranged privately and are at the discretion of the pianist; we cannot guarantee their availability to rehearse, and they determine their rehearsal fees.

As a reminder, all teachers with students in the semi-finals/finals are expected to judge in Long Beach or provide a substitute. No exceptions. Please expect to judge multiple categories throughout the day on Saturday, January 14.

More information about the semi-finals and finals can be found at <https://calwestnats.org/2023-semi-finals%2Ffinals> If, after reading this info, you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. Thanks for all you do for our students, and I'll look forward to hearing from you all soon!



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



WORKSHOP

“Don’t Sing It If You Don’t Mean It!” SFBAC NATS Musical Theatre Workshop with Meredith Pyle

Sunday, January 29, 2023
1:30pm - 5:00pm
Montclair Presbyterian Church, Oakland, CA

“She not only taught me to sing technically, but taught me to sing from the soul, about what a song actually means. Don't sing it if ya can't mean it!”- Kristin Chenoweth on her teacher, Dr. Florence Birdwell.

MUSICAL THEATRE WORKSHOP

MEREDITH PYLE

January 29, 2023
1:30pm - 5:00pm

Montclair Presbyterian Church
5701 Thornhill Dr, Oakland, CA

“Don’t Sing It, If You Don’t Mean It!”

Experience methods used by famed teacher Florence Birdwell—teacher of Meredith Pyle and Kristin Chenoweth! Learn to...

- transform a singer into a **star**
- **connect** both with one's self and with an audience
- cultivate **bravery** in the voice studio
- turn emotionless and perfectionist singers into **artists** who have something **meaningful to say**

Afternoon workshop for voice teachers and singers with **Meredith Pyle**, professional singer-actress, and faculty at Pepperdine University.

	Early Bird	
SFBAC NATS Member	\$40	\$45
Non-SFBAC NATS Member	\$50	\$55
Student	\$20	\$25

Register at www.sfbacnats.org/workshops

Join us for a workshop-style presentation where we employ the same methodology that Florence Birdwell used to transform her students (like Kristin Chenoweth and Kelli O’Hara) from singers into stars. We will apply tools and strategies for communicating song through the art of connection both with one’s self and with an audience. The presentation will include examination of the current state of our students, the relationship between communication and connection, and most importantly, class participation with actionable tools to cultivate bravery in the voice studio in an effort to turn emotionless and perfectionistic singers into artists who have something meaningful to say.

For more information, please visit <https://sfbacnats.com/workshops>

Meredith Pyle Pedley is a Los Angeles based professional singer, teacher, on-camera actress, and vocal contractor. Originally from Houston, TX, Meredith grew up performing from a very young age. She received her Bachelors of Music in Vocal Performance from Baylor University and Masters from Oklahoma City University's prestigious Music Theatre program. While at OCU, Meredith thrived as a standout performer starring in several musicals and operas. She was a student of legendary voice teacher Dr. Florence Birdwell and received high praise and mentorship from Broadway, Opera, and TV stars Kristin Chenoweth and Kelli O'Hara. Meredith has performed all over the country on a variety of stages including film and TV, musicals, live cabarets, and concert halls.

After ten years, Meredith now calls LA home where she works primarily as a SAG-AFTRA session singer and is known for her "vocal chameleon" versatility, clear communicative style, comedic tendencies, and strong musicianship. She can be seen or heard on projects such as *Hocus Pocus 2*, *Doctor Strange*, *Frozen 2*, *Sing 2*, and (a personal favorite) belting out "Memory" on *The Ellen*

Show just to name a few. For full list of credits, check out her IMDb page [here](#).

On stage, recent performances include Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* at Greenway Court, Kurt Weill's *Lost in the Stars* directed by Anne Bogart, and Rockwell Table & Stage's *Jagged Little Pill*. Meredith has performed with the LA Phil, LA Master Chorale, and is currently a member of the choral ensemble Tonicity using the art of choral music to promote social justice. In addition to her singing work, Meredith teaches at Pepperdine University, Harvard-Westlake School, and Westside Children's Theater. She is an active member of the National Association for Teachers of Singing (NATS) and has a thriving private voice studio where she promotes the balance between function and artistry allowing the voice to conquer a wide range of styles. Recently, Meredith was chosen for the prestigious NATS Intern Program and both presented and performed at the NATS national conference in Chicago, IL. She now serves as adjudicator and board member for the NATS National Music Theatre competition.

For more visit MeredithPyle.com.

SFBAC NATS Scholarship/Work Study Application

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1uw4NbEylfR-BZa7FS0VsIRHWsr3tCrXB4FfnwDWzoIQ/viewform?edit_requested=true&gxids=7628

A scholarship waives the fee for a specific SFBAC NATS event, program, workshop, student auditions, or concert. It may also be a monetary amount that will help toward vocal and/or continuing education goals.

A work study program will allow for no-entry fees to SFBAC NATS events, programs, workshops (most), concerts, student auditions, NATS National and/or Regional conference fees in exchange for a mutually-agreed upon set of hours of work.

PAST EVENTS

2022 Fall Musical Theatre, CCM & Original Songwriting SFBAC NATS Student Auditions

**Congratulations to all teachers and students
who entered this Fall and Final Awards Winners!**

All winners list can be found:

<https://sfbacnats.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/SanFranciscoBayAreaChapterNATS>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/128214488537>

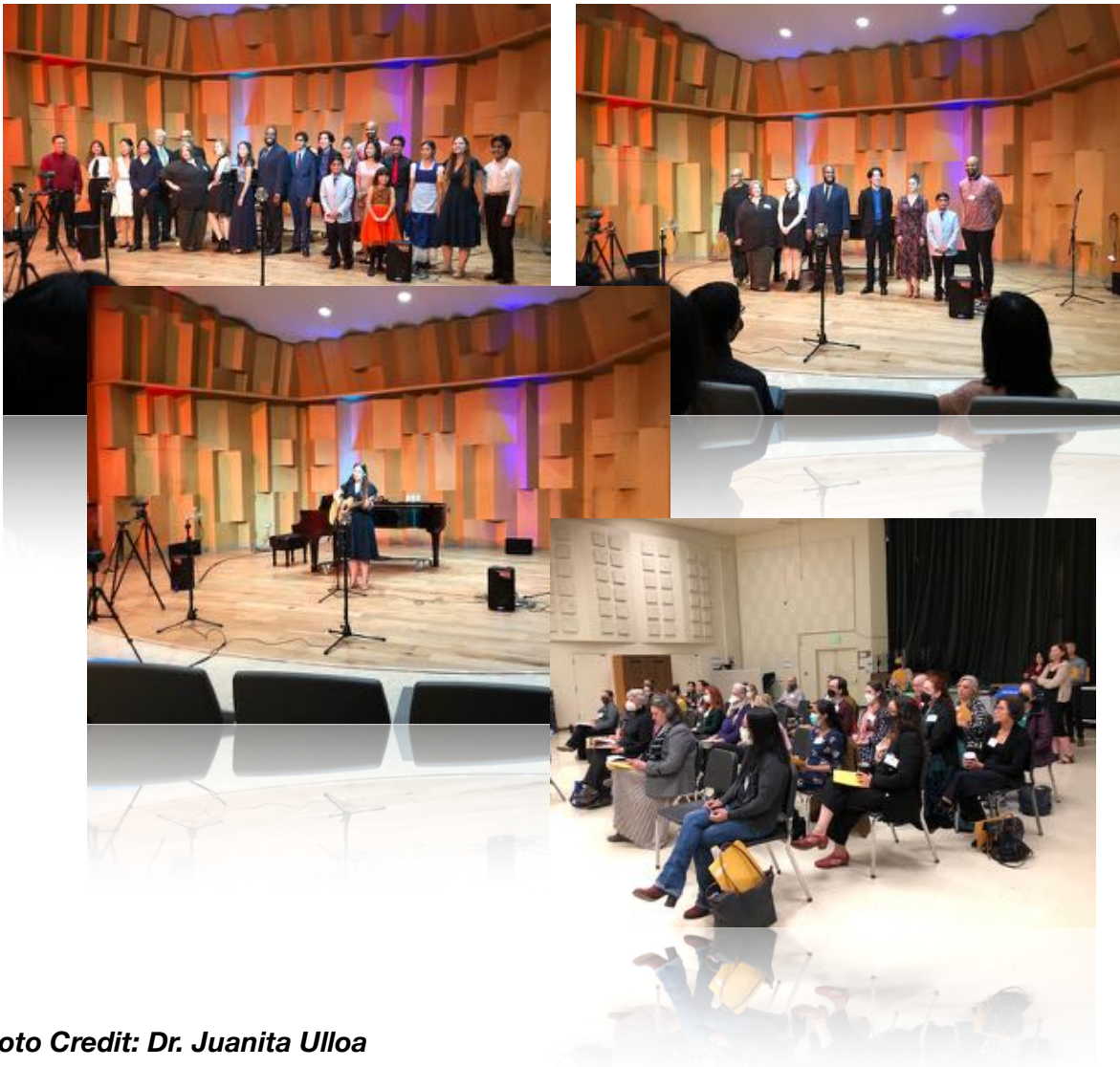


Photo Credit: Dr. Juanita Ulloa

MEMBERSHIP

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 Renewal period ends 12/31/2022- don't miss out on the benefits of membership!

Be sure to renew your NATS membership and to pay your chapter dues before the 1st of the year. NATS membership can be renewed online at **nats.org** in the Member Home section of the website.

Add SFBAC Chapter dues to stay current with SFBAC NATS in the new year! Thank you for your membership!

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**

COMMITTEES

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

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.

**SFBAC NATS bylaws and board meeting minutes
may be obtained upon request:**

sfbacnats@gmail.com

BOARD



Jacquie Wilson Scharlach
President



Ryan Downey
Communications
Coordinator



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



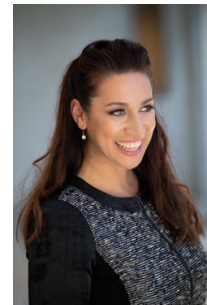
Angelique Zuluaga
Recording Secretary



**Dr. Erin McOmber &
Dr. Phillip Harris**
Vice Presidents of Student
Auditions



Gayatri Venkatesan
Vice President of Recitals



Solmaaz Adeli
Webmaster



Jonathan Smucker
Membership Chair



Lee Strawn
Treasurer



Alina Ilchuk
Newsletter Editor

Contact us: sfbacnats@gmail.com