

Dear Colleagues,

Registration is open for the SERNATS Annual Conference and Student Auditions, to be held at Georgia Southern University, March 12-14. Please carefully read the attached letter from our Registrar, Jennifer D'Agostino. It is full of great information about student auditions, including upcoming deadlines and registration instructions. You will also find contact information for the SERNATS Auditions Team. Please reach out if you have questions that are not addressed in this letter—we are all happy to help!

Below, I have highlighted a few details from the attached letter as well as information on the business dinner, master class, and Scholar and Artist Series. Hotel and Dining suggestions will be posted on SERNATS.org very soon.

I look forward to seeing all of you at Georgia Southern University in March!

Sincerely,

Becky Salter, Southeastern Region Governor

#### **Highlights from Jennifer's Registration Instructions:**

- **Registration will be open from now until 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday, February 23, 2026.**
- **Repertoire:** Please consult the NSA guidelines for category and repertoire requirements (see pp. 9-14 for the complete table):  
[https://www.nats.org/Library/NSA\\_Files/2025-26\\_NSA\\_Categories\\_of\\_Entry.pdf](https://www.nats.org/Library/NSA_Files/2025-26_NSA_Categories_of_Entry.pdf)
- Please note: **Age** is determined by each student's age on the first day of each NSA annual cycle (September 1, 2025).
- **Each teacher registering students is required to be present at the auditions and available for adjudication assignments on both days of the event** (even if only registering students for one day of the auditions).
- **If a teacher registering students cannot attend the conference, it is that teacher's responsibility to provide a substitute judge (current NATS members only) for each day they cannot attend.** See the complete list of substitute judge guidelines in the attached letter.
- Teachers are expected to attend the **mandatory Adjudicators Meeting on Friday, March 13th, at 8 am.** There will also be a mandatory adjudicator meeting via Zoom

the week of March 2nd. Those who cannot attend will be required to watch the recorded meeting.

- Each day of auditions will culminate with a concert featuring the First-Place winners from that day's auditions. **Please refer to the attached letter for a breakdown of categories and respective audition dates.**
- If you are using a **staff pianist**, you will contact & pay the pianist directly. Please make arrangements with staff pianists early, as they need to be secured prior to registration. ***You must name a pianist at the time of registration and may not select "staff."***
- A list of pianists (who agree to the staff pianist rate of \$45 for up to three songs and \$60 for 4 or more songs) is attached.

### **Adjudication:**

Please note: **Teachers who enter students in the SERNATS student auditions must be present and available to judge on BOTH audition days (March 13 AND 14). Teachers who need to miss one or both days must provide a substitute judge (who is a current NATS member) at the time of registration for each missed day.** The two-day audition schedule is tight, and the logistics are such that it is impossible to operate the auditions without every teacher fully available to adjudicate.

### **Hospitality Room:**

The audition schedule is compact, sometimes with little time to leave for meals. Substantial food and beverage offerings will be available for adjudicators and pianists in the hospitality room.

### **Business Dinner:**

The annual business dinner will be held on Thursday, March 12, from 5:30-7:00, and the cost is \$28 per person.

### **Master Class Applications are Open Until February 6:**

Our guest master class clinician is **Raymond Sage**, Head of Musical Theatre Voice and Musical Theatre Pedagogy at Indiana University Bloomington. Applications for this class are now open and will remain open until 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday, February 6, 2026. Singers will need to submit one video recording of a full song from the musical theatre repertory, following the NSA guidelines for the musical theatre categories.

Mr. Sage is a wonderful musical theatre technician and pedagogue, with an impressive performing resume. This promises to be an exceptional evening of learning and growth. I encourage you to submit your high school, collegiate, advanced, and adult students for consideration to sing, as well as make plans to attend the class on Thursday, March 12, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Please see Mr. Sage's Bio and the application link, below:

### **About Raymond Sage:**

Raymond Sage received a bachelor's degree in vocal performance from Baylor University and a master's degree in vocal performance from the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music (CCM), followed by doctoral and post-graduate work also at CCM. Before joining the musical theatre faculty at Indiana, Sage is on theatre faculties of Penn State University, where he is Prof Emeritus of Voice for Musical Theatre, Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, The American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City, and New York University's Tisch School of the Arts' Collaborative Arts Project 21, Inc. (CAP 21). Prof. Sage was also instrumental in forming the first graduate degree in musical theatre voice pedagogy. Raymond's students have been seen in many Broadway productions, such as Gypsy, Hair, West Side Story, Follies, Titanic, Beauty and the Beast, Steel Pier, High Society, Cats, Scarlet Pimpernel, The Lion King, Kinky Boots, Beautiful, Cinderella, Aladdin, Tuck Everlasting, Finding Neverland, Six, Sweeny Todd, Shucks! and many more.

As a performer, Sage appeared in the Broadway and national touring productions of Camelot, Beauty and the Beast, and Titanic, as well as in regional theatres across the country, such as Pennsylvania Center Stage, Paper Mill Playhouse, Sacramento Theatre Company, and Dallas Summer Musicals. In 2011, Raymond starred as Ludie in the European premiere of the Horton Foote classic Trip to Bountiful at the Courtyard Theatre and in 2012 at the Old Vic Tunnels as Olsen in the O'Neill Sea Plays. He has made television appearances on Late Night with David Letterman, The Howie Mandel Show, and the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Sage performed his one-person show Seeking Flight, based on the works of the great American playwright Eugene O'Neill throughout North America, it premiered at Her Majesty's Theatre on the West End in January of 2016. Prof. Sage is currently working on a new musical based on the R.A Dick novel, The Ghost and Mrs. Muir which will premiere in London 2025.

### **Master Class Application Link:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfHPKw37SCultF40cv1YM8I43EStzvoJ\\_TOfGI8mEyg5Qwl1A/viewform?usp=sharing&oid=110846464483245820750](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfHPKw37SCultF40cv1YM8I43EStzvoJ_TOfGI8mEyg5Qwl1A/viewform?usp=sharing&oid=110846464483245820750)

### **Scholar and Artist Series:**

Scholar and Artist Presentation and Student Poster Presentation applicants will be notified today. Selected presenters will be featured on social media over the next few months. During the conference, one Scholar and Artist Presentation and one Student Poster Presentation will be chosen to receive a \$150 award, and YOU will select the winners. Attendees of presentations will receive a QR code to vote on their favorite presentations.

### **Time to Renew:**

If you have not done so already, please renew your NATS dues so you do not miss any important auditions-related emails between now and March.

### **Leadership Opportunities:**

Have you been wondering how to get involved in NATS leadership at the Chapter or Region levels? Please reach out to me if you would like to serve!

### **Personal Note about Allen Henderson:**

We have been and continue to be lucky to have had NATS Executive Director, Allen Henderson, in our Region. As you all know by now, Allen is retiring as Executive Director, and Melissa Greenblatt will join NATS as our incoming Executive Director at the end of January. Please join me in thanking Allen for so many years of excellent service. He has expertly led us through a multitude of changes as we have grown into the organization we are today. In celebration of his retirement as Executive Director, Allen deserves a long vacation, but instead, he volunteered to serve as our upcoming SERNATS Annual Conference and Student Auditions Site Host at Georgia Southern University! Please go out of your way to find him in March and tell him how much his leadership has meant to you and your students. Allen, I feel incredibly lucky to have had the privilege of serving our region with you at the helm. THANK YOU for being an incredible servant leader!!!