



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
**TEACHERS
OF SINGING**

Central Region

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August 1, 2023

Dear colleagues,

This letter contains a great deal of information about the Central Region 2023 NATS conference.

Website: <https://centralregionnats.org/> is regularly updated and contains links to all things conference related. We will communicate with you by email, on our Facebook page, and through the website.

Location: Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois

Dates:

Thursday, October 26: NATSAA competition is the sole event this day

Friday, October 27: Conference begins, National Student Auditions (NSA) rounds, headliner performance classes, interest sessions, E. C. Schirmer recital

Saturday, October 28: Teacher topical breakfast, NSA rounds continue, interest sessions, finals recital, announcement of winners in all categories

Lifetime Achievement Awardee: [Ollie Watts Davis](#), University of Illinois

Interest sessions:

- David Clark and Jennifer Townsley - "LGBTQIA+ Inclusion in Collegiate Singing Instruction"
- Chuck Chandler - "New and Diverse Operatic Literature"
- Jessica Saunders - "Composer Collaboration in the Independent Studio"
- Rachel Velarde - "Somatic Explorations in the Voice Studio"
- Jeffrey Carter - "Searching for New Musical Theatre Literature"
- Alexis Davis-Hazell - "Uncommon Gems: Classically Arranged American Negro Spirituals"

We will soon be posting information about a **poster session** for student members.

Central Region Leadership

Jeffrey Richard Carter
Governor

Mark Crayton
Treasurer

Jessica Saunders
Auditions Chair

Deborah Gover
Conference Chair

Emily Truckenbrod
Illinois District Governor

Catherine Lyon
Iowa District Governor

Amy Johns
Missouri District Governor

Thomas Hueber
Immediate Past Governor

Suzanne Hendrix-Case
S-NATS Liaison

Jaqui Giltner
Independent Studio Liaison

Past Governors

Thomas Hueber
Carol Chapman
Karen Brunssen
Mary Jane Wilder
Ann Petrie
Sarah Holman

Headliners at performance classes:

- Alexis Davis-Hazell (University of Alabama, NATS President-Elect) for the classical class
- Alisa Belflower (University of Nebraska - Omaha, NATS VP Auditions) for the musical theatre class

These performance classes will run concurrently on Friday night. We will post information in September about submitting students for performance.

Topical breakfast for teachers information will be posted in September.

Hotel information will be posted later this month. We have room blocks at four different hotels with four different price points. We are told that this will be a very full weekend in Quad Cities, so you'll want to make hotel reservations early.

NATS ARTIST AWARDS (NATSAA) is open to singers age 21-30, with registration closing on September 11. See <https://www.nats.org/nats-artist-awards.html>.

NSA registration will open in early September. We will run [Classical](#), [Musical Theatre](#), Commercial Music, and [American Negro Spiritual](#) genres, with all NATS age-group categories included! (See [this list](#) of categories advancing to the national level of auditions, and [this list](#) of non-advancing categories where the region auditions is the final stop.)

We will soon be posting more information about the new [Commercial Music](#) genre requirements. We currently await some details from the national office.

Student auditions registration fee is \$42/student through September 30, then \$50 from October 1. Students entering an additional genre pay \$27 for second and third (and even fourth!) events through September 30, then \$50 each from October 1.

Teacher registration for the conference is \$42 thru September 30, then \$50 from October 1. The fee for teachers not attending, but sending students, is \$100, in addition to the registration fee.

Adjudication in all sessions except the Finals round will be on tablet or laptop, typing your comments and scores into your device, just as you have done previously for virtual auditions. This will save so much time and effort and headache in the tabulation room, and also have comments available to teachers quickly after each room closes. We will of course offer the paper/pencil option for those teachers who are adjudicating but do not have the necessary hardware available to bring to the conference. *Please consider this a heads-up that we are taking this step forward?*

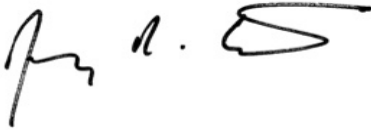
Many thanks to volunteers who have guided the conference so far, including Deborah Gover (conference chair), Alfonzo Cooper (assistant conference chair), Jessica Saunders (auditions chair), Michelle Allen McIntire (assistant auditions chair), Yvonne Gonzales Redman (interest session chair), Sarah Holman (Lifetime Achievement Award chair), Carol Chapman (classical performance class coordinator), Alyssa Becker (musical theatre performance class coordinator), Elisabeth Pluth (topical breakfast chair), Nollie Moore (NATSAA coordinator), Amy Johns (poster session chair), Nathan Windt (E. C. Schirmer recital coordinator), Rae-Myra Hilliard (finals round adjudicators coordinator) and Sangeetha Rayapati (site chair). Region leadership (treasurer, various liaisons to

teacher affinity groups, district governors, and chapter presidents) is also meeting regularly, and deserve our gratitude.

So there's the tease about the Central Region conference. We'll let you know as registration and submissions for events open, and send reminders about deadlines.

I look forward to seeing many colleagues in Rock Island in October!

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.R. Carter". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Jeffrey Richard Carter, D.M.A.
Governor

Central Region Conference, October 26-28, 2023
Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois

<https://www.centralregionnats.org/>