



August 20th, 2025

Warm Greetings to All Southern Region NATS Members!

Best wishes to you all as we begin the 2025-2026 academic and performance seasons! May the strength and repose we gathered from this summer's professional activities, time with family and, hopefully, time resting, carry us through another great year of teaching, performing, directing, training, and mentoring young artists.

I'm so honored to have been re-elected Southern Region NATS Governor last Spring! Many thanks for your confidence and support as I embark on another 2 years of service to our region. I have an "open door" or "open email" policy: if you have concerns, ideas, want to participate, etc., please reach out. I'm always here to listen and do my best to help.

I know we are all looking forward to the **50th Annual Southern Region Conference and Student Auditions on November 13th-15th, 2025, at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, Louisiana**, and I have exciting updates for you on the amazing and creative conference planning that's been taking place since last spring for our region's **Golden Anniversary!** We hope to see all of you there, especially long-time members and new members. You can attend the conference without student registered in the student auditions; we *always* need more skilled adjudicators! The Southern Region Conference Planning Committee and our SELU hosts are working hard to make this an extra special event!

Here are some highlights:

- Guest Artist and Clinician Matthew Anchel, bass:
 - <https://www.matthewanchel.com>
- Member Poster Sessions
- Member presentations and lecture recitals
- Member led non-semifinalist master classes

- Region and chapter meetings
- A special reception for long-time region members on the 50th anniversary of our region
- A SNATS Chapter gathering
- Presentations on social media branding for all student participants

See attached “tentative” schedule for more details. Please be advised this is a draft for your viewing and preparation. Venues will be added, and some details may change in the next few weeks.

Reminders and Conference News

- This is a NATSAA year! The 2025 Southern Region NATSAA competition will take place during our conference on *Friday, November 14th, 7:00pm*.
 - Please inform your students of the registration deadline: *September 8th, 2025*.
 - You can find information and can apply here: <https://www.nats.org/nats-artist-awards.html>
- This is a Hall Johnson year in the NSA cycle!
 - Please choose your participating students’ repertoire from this list: https://www.nats.org/Hall_Johnson_Spirituals_Competition.html
- A new NSA award is available to NSA qualifiers:
 - The Gerald Ginsburg Repertoire Prize, in honor of composer Gerald Ginsburg, will award \$1,000 to a student in the Post High School Classical categories who performs at least one of Ginsburg’s compositions in the YouTube, semifinal or final rounds in the NATS National Student Auditions.
 - To qualify for this award, a Ginsburg piece needs to be included in a student’s CL region repertoire, and chosen from the list on this page: <https://www.nats.org/ginsburg.html>
- I will send a formal call for proposals in the next week for the poster presentation session, presentations and lecture-recitals, and non-semifinalist master class clinicians. ***Proposal submissions will be accepted September 1st, 2025-October 1st, 2025.*** We’d love you to share your past and current research at the conference!
- ***Southern Region Conference and Student Audition Registration will run October 6th–November 3rd, 2025***, through your “Member Home” page at NATS.org on Auditionware. There is a built-in link toward the bottom of the page.

Please review the attached updated and stream-lined **2025-2026 NSA Full Regulations**, which includes categories of entry and all related information. A link to this document will also be posted on our region website. Since our region student auditions are an NSA event and part of the NSA cycle, we will follow all the same rules and regulations.

Check our region conference page regularly – we will be posting conference information in the next few weeks including a list of hotels with NATS group rates, maps & parking at SELU, final conference schedule, meeting agendas, audition schedules, etc. As these documents are posted to the conference webpage, I will email to inform you of the additional information.

The fabulous Adam Philley is our Region Auditions Coordinator, and he will be sending you emails also. Please feel free to reach out to either of us with questions and thanks for your patience as we post conference information the next few weeks:

Claire Vangelisti - cvangelisti@gmail.com

Adam Philley - southernauditions@gmail.com

Throughout this process, please email us at the above addresses vs. our university email addresses. It helps us both greatly (especially Adam), to keep conference email separate.

All My Best,

Claire Vangelisti
Southern Region NATS Governor