



Old Dominion University February 24-25, 2023

The Virginia Chapter Board has many exciting announcements to make about our upcoming spring conference. We are thrilled to finally plan an in-person conference for Spring 2023! We appreciate everyone's patience and commitment to VANATS over the past two years as we've met virtually.

Please note that we must follow masking guidelines of our host institution. While we don't anticipate requiring masks, the last few years have taught us to be prepared. If ODU requires masks at the time of the conference, we will be required to comply. If masking becomes required, we will alert membership as soon as we can.

Conference Updates

Comments Only (Online)

Submissions: December 15 - January 29

This year, we are introducing a new online Comments Only category. Singers of all genres and ages who want the value of feedback, but are unable to participate in the auditions, are invited to register and submit recordings for comments only.

The Comments Only category will not be considered for advancement to regionals or financial awards.

Submissions can include up to 2 songs for children/youth, 3 songs for high school, and 4 songs for college and adults. However, since singers are not eligible to advance, they do not need to meet any category or song requirements to participate. Submitting less than the max number of songs is acceptable. Each song can be from any category or genre.

Comments will be returned on a rolling basis from December 15 - February 15.

Backing tracks and accompaniments are permissible.

\$25 registration fee to participate.

Returning Categories

American Negro Spiritual
Youth MT
Youth Classical

See <https://www.nats.org/nsaresources.html> for category and requirement details.

Adult CCM (18+)

Friday, February 24

The Spring 2023 conference will include a new Adult CCM category. Auditions for this category will be held on Friday, February 24 in the late afternoon.

This category (CM) is for singers ages 18+. The time limit will be 10 minutes for three contrasting full songs. Only one song may be an original song instead of a cover. Only one song may be self-accompanied on an acoustic instrument instead of with an instrumental track or live collaborative pianist.

This category is eligible to advance to regionals, but not nationals.

For more details, see the NSA Resource Center on the NATS website listed below. The time limit and repertoire requirements match Category CM 5, but do not pertain to the listed length of study and age limit. Age requirements for VANATS and Regionals are 18+.

<https://www.nats.org/nsaresources.html>

Staff Accompanists

This year, we are excited to announce that staff accompanists will be provided in each room for all High School and Youth categories. This is to ensure that everyone has access to an accompanist and that audition expenses are consistent for all young singers.

To accommodate this, the audition fee for High School and Youth categories will increase to \$45/singer.

Singers are still welcome to bring their own accompanists, but the registration fee will not be reduced.

Membership Opportunities

Mentorship

NATS has teaching mentorship opportunities available at both the national and state level.

NATIONAL

The NATS National Mentoring Collaborative was launched in Fall of 2019 for teachers wanting to level up their teaching. This is a great opportunity for teachers to improve their skills and learn from NATS Mentor Teachers.

Mentee applications are due on October 1 for fall enrollment and March 1 for spring enrollment.

For more information on the National Mentoring Collaborative, check out the website:
https://www.nats.org/national_mentoring_initiative.html

VIRGINIA CHAPTER

Additional mentorship opportunities are offered within the state of Virginia. Chapter mentorship is great for teachers who are new to teaching, as well as teachers who are new to the Virginia Chapter and seeking connections and learn more about VANATS.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor or mentee, or want more information about the VANATS mentorship program, contact our Membership Coordinator Kerry Wilkerson at kerry.wilkerson@gmail.com.

Conference Information

Registration: December 15 - January 29
Teacher Conference Registration Fee: \$40
College & Adult Audition Fee: \$25
High School Audition Fee: \$45
Substitute Judge Fee: \$100

Chapter Dues: \$25
Paid through NATS National
Make sure to renew your membership by January 1, 2023

Lodging information will be available on our website later this year.

Susan Randolph Braden Memorial Fund

This past summer, we celebrated the generous gift given by former VANATS President Susan Randolph Braden. Her vision was to encourage Musical Theater singers to participate in NATS by supporting singers financially as they advance to nationals.

Thanks to her legacy, VANATS provided scholarships to three of our musical theater category singers who advanced to the National Student Auditions in Chicago. Congratulations to Gavin Falwell, Keenan Friberg, and Samuel Milton!

We are incredibly proud of how these, and all, singers represented us at the national level, and are honored to be a part of that journey.

If your musical theater singer advances to nationals and needs financial assistance, reach out to us at virginianats@gmail.com so we can consider them for scholarship.

For more information and to donate to the Susan Randolph Braden Memorial Fund, check out the donation page on our website:
<https://www.vanats.org/donate>

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MEMBERS AT LARGE

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