



San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of NATS

NEWSLETTER

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



Table of Contents

President's Letter - page 2
SFBAC Fall Student Auditions & CWR Auditions - page 3
Past Workshop - page 4
Member Activities/Advertisement - page 5
Membership - Page 6
Committees/Board/Newsletter Submission Deadline - page 7

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello SFBAC-NATS Colleagues,

I'd like to thank Jacque Wilson Scharlach for her service as president of our chapter and wish her continued success in her new role as District Membership Director.

A special thank you to Dr. Juanita Ulloa for her recent presentation and masterclass of [The Mariachi Voice](#) at California State University, East Bay as well as Dr. Robin Fisher and Dr. Karine St.-Pierre for their work in organizing this program for our chapter.



Saturday, November 2 is the day of our Fall Classical Festival at California State University East Bay. We are still looking for volunteers to assist as a backstage manager for the festival, a final round signup coordinator, and someone to learn some of AuditionWare for the next festival- this role may receive a stipend. Please email me, pharrisnats@gmail.com or our audition co-chairs, Dr. Erin McOmber, ErinNATS@erinmcomber.com and Ben Liupago, liupaogo@stanford.edu.

Looking ahead, our Cal-Western Regional Conference is in Phoenix, Arizona in January. In the future, I would love to hear professional and personal updates you feel comfortable sharing so that we might inform our chapter in the newsletters. Thank you for your service.

Phillip Harris
President - SFBAC NATS

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/>

STUDENT AUDITIONS



**2024
SFBAC NATS
Fall Classical
Student
Auditions &
Singing
Festival**

Date: Saturday,
November 2, 2024

Location:
California State
University, East Bay
25800 Carlos Bee Blvd
Music Building
Hayward, CA 94542

**Teachers' Required
Adjudication Meeting:**
9:00 am

Auditions:
10:00 am–5:00 pm

Awards Concert:
6:30–8:00 pm

Registration for the 2025 Cal-Western Auditions opens on Monday, October 7.

CWR NATS website <http://www.calwestnats.org> is updated with the most current information.

- You can access registration on AuditionWare by logging into your [NATS account](#). On your member page, scroll down to the bottom, where you'll find the AuditionWare button. Please make sure that the email address you have used to register for NATS is one that you check regularly.
- All teachers are expected to judge multiple categories in each round they have students participating. This is not dependent upon the number of students entered by each teacher. There are no exceptions to this rule.
- Please read the full [video](#) for more instructions.
- Deadlines: All entries must be submitted by 11:59 pm on November 7. The following suggested district deadlines will help us not overload AuditionWare:
 - Northern California District Deadline: 11-5-24
- Fees: Teachers pay their registration fee and the fees for all of their students at the time of registration. The student and teacher fees include all rounds of the auditions, as well as conference admission. The fees this year are as follows:
 - Teacher registration: \$55
 - Student registration (one category): \$45
 - Each additional category: \$30
 - Substitute judge fee: \$50

If you have any questions, please email
Dr. Emily Sinclair:
auditions@calwestnats.org.

Bylaws & Board Meeting Minutes
SFBAC NATS bylaws and board meeting minutes
may be obtained upon request:
sfbacnats@gmail.com

PAST WORKSHOP

The Mariachi Voice Workshop presented by Dr. Juanita Ulloa

On September 22nd, SFBAC NATS members, voice students, and members of the public gathered at the recital hall of California State University, East Bay, for “The Mariachi Voice” workshop presented by Dr. Juanita Ulloa.



A valued member of our chapter, Dr. Ulloa is an accomplished *Operachi* singer, voice teacher, pianist, songwriter, linguist, and author, who champions underrepresented vocal works and folk music from Mexico, Spain, and Latin America. She teaches at San Joaquin Delta College and Laney Community College, and maintains a private voice studio. Dr. Ulloa holds music degrees from Yale University, UC Berkeley, and the University of Northern Colorado, and she recently published *The Mariachi Voice* with Oxford University Press.



In the first part of the workshop, Dr. Ulloa defined mariachi music, and explained the characteristics of rancheras, a type of

song associated with this genre. Through two repertoire examples, “Cuando canto” and “La Barca de oro”, she guided attendees in experiencing the transition between heavy chest voice and *falsette*, as well as a reduced vibrato—hallmarks of ranchera singing. Dr. Ulloa also discussed the differences between singing mariachi and classical repertoire, emphasizing that in mariachi, music serves as a guide, there is freedom to improvise from what is written on the sheet of music, especially given that this genre stems from a folk-oral tradition.

In the second part of the workshop, Dr. Ulloa worked with four talented singers: Alfredo Aguayo Garcia, Jimi Bonds, Ivan Jielma, and Beatriz Figueroa, who was accompanied by guitarist Ednan Zacarias. Dr. Ulloa focused on tempo, style, vocal technique, and diction, resulting in immediate vocal improvements. All singers benefited from her extensive expertise in this repertoire.

At the workshop's conclusion, attendees expressed their gratitude to SFBAC NATS, CSUEB, and Dr. Ulloa for making space for mariachi repertoire, which is often overlooked in traditional voice programs and institutions. Voice teachers noted the similarities between the vocal characteristics



of rancheras and other genres, such as commercial music and Ukrainian folk songs. The workshop not only introduced singers and voice teachers to a rich, underrepresented repertoire, but also demonstrated that the power of song and music is truly universal.

Photo: Andriy Yarmolovych

MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Vienna Intensive

was a huge success and we were thrilled to have our very own NATS Cal-Western Regional Winner, **soprano Sasha Southwick** (Category CL 5-1: Lower College Classical Treble Voice, Group 1, **student of Beatrice Bergér-Gee**) participate this year!

SAVE THE DATE:

June 21 - 28, 2026

[Vienna Intensive](#) is a curated musical and cultural program that takes place in Austria hosted by **Solmaaz Adeli**, mezzo-soprano and Founder of [Voice Academy SOL LLC](#).



SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY is adding to its pool of on-call voice instructors and collaborative pianists. Master degree required, many styles of music including jazz and musical theater in addition to traditional classical. \$90/hour instructors, \$50/hour accompanists. There is an audition/interview process. Please send CV/letter of interest to Debra Lambert, Director of Musical Performance, dllambert@scu.edu.

Debra Lambert
MM, MBA, BFA, AGMA, AEA
Director Musical Performance
Applied Instruction: Voice
Santa Clara University

Stanford Jazz Workshop is an excellent summer program for high school students interested in deepening their understanding of jazz through singing and learning jazz theory. The program provides young musicians with the opportunity to perform with a live combo, enhancing their practical experience and improvisational skills. Participants work on solo and ensemble pieces, gaining valuable experience in both individual and group settings.

This summer, my students Sofiya Tselishchev (voice), Sofiia Dorozhkina (voice), and Kate Dorozhkina (alto sax) took part in the program. Their participation not only showcased their talent but also demonstrated the high level of learning and growth that the Stanford Jazz Workshop camp fosters. As a voice teacher, I highly recommend this program to educators seeking an immersive, performance-focused summer experience for their students. It's a fantastic opportunity to elevate young musicians' skills and passion for jazz.

Alina Ilchuk
Sacramento Academy of Musical Arts,
Founder
SFBAC NATS, Board Member

<https://stanfordjazz.org/programs/summer-programs/>



Please visit the **NATS Member Directory** at www.sfbacnats.com > About Us > Members Only > SFBAC NATS Membership Directory
Password: SFBACNATS2020

MEMBERSHIP

Please join us in welcoming our newest Chapter members:

- Joshua Bailey, Rohnert Park
- Loryn Barbeau, San Francisco
- Layna Chianakas, San Jose
- Ruby Cook-Fernandes, Aptos
- Daniel Ebbers, Stockton
- Mary Evelyn Hangley, El Cerrito
- Shannon Hoffman, San Ramon
- Ru Huang, San Jose
- Erica Maier D'Ambrosio, Berkeley
- Luis Orozco, San Jose
- Rachel Brooke Rothman, San Francisco
- Kayla Wilfong, San Francisco
- Robin Williams, Pacific Grove

Invitation to grow our membership

Do you know a newer voice teacher building a private voice studio, a colleague looking to increase their knowledge base, a teaching friend who is new to the Bay Area, or someone looking for additional student performance opportunities? NATS and SFBAC offer all this and more!

We welcome all to our community- help us to grow our ranks!

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.

Click [here](#) to view **Diverse Vocal Offerings**.

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

COMMITTEES

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 Scholarship/Work Study Application

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1uw4NbEylfR-BZa7FS0VsIRHWsr3tCrXB4FfnwDWzolQ/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.

SFBAC NATS BOARD

Dr. Phillip Harris, President
Dr. Erin McOmer & Dr. Ben Liupago,
Vice Presidents of Student Auditions
Jonathan Smucker, Membership Chair
Dr. Robin Fisher & Dr. Karine St-Pierre, Vice Presidents of Programs
Gayatri Venkatesan, Vice President of Recitals
Jacque Wilson Scharlach, Treasurer
Mary Evelyn Hanglely, Communications Coordinator
Angelique Zuluaga, Recording Secretary
Solmaaz Adeli, Webmaster
Alina Ilchuk, Newsletter Editor

Contact us: sfbacnats@gmail.com

The Deadline Submission for the WINTER Newsletter is DECEMBER 1, 2024
Please email your materials to alinailchuk@yahoo.com