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March 9, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

On Saturday, March 29, 2025, the Ohio Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing will hold its annual Spring Meeting at Capital University. This year we will feature our own members! The Board reviewed proposals in December and has assembled a diverse and interesting collection of presentations and discussions. You will be sure to glean some invaluable information and leave inspired and renewed!

Capital University - Map Attached

Location - 1 College and Main, Columbus, Ohio 43209.

On the map notice that the Conservatory is located off on College Avenue.

Entry to the Conservatory will be through the glass doors on the South side of the Building. Parking - F3, F4 and F7 are the closest parking lots. Closest Accessible parking is F5 and F3.

### **Agenda**

8:15 Check and light breakfast

9:00 Chapter Business Meeting and election of new board.

- Approval of minutes from October 19, 2024 meeting (minutes are available at [ohionats.org](http://ohionats.org))
- Treasurer's Report
- Great Lakes NATS Report
- Upcoming student auditions – The Ohio State University on Oct. 18, 2025
- NATSAA Fall 2025 and Great Lakes 2026 info
- Election of new Board members (see below for more information)

9:45 Presentations, Full schedule attached

12:30 Lunch

1:30 Lightning Lectures

2:40 Presentations

4:15 Adjourn

## Full Schedule is listed below

### Proposed Slate of Officers for 2025 Ohio Board Elections

In January, a Nominating Committee was created to consider Ohio NATS members in good standing for Board positions which will expire this spring. The committee was composed of Dr. Laurie Lashbrook (University of Akron) as chair, Tammi Regensburger (Capital University) and Hannah Flower (Kent State and Independent Voice Teacher). On March 10, 2025, they presented their nominations of the following individuals (*bios below*):

- Andrea Chenoweth Wells – President (2-year term)
- Joanne Uniatowski – Vice President (2-year term)
- Tracy Grady – Secretary/Treasurer (2-year term)
- Alexandria Hanhold– Board Member (2-year term)
- Chad Payton– Board Member (2-year term)
- Justen Seay– Board Member (2-year term)
- Justin Swain– Board Member (2-year term)
- David Sievers - Board member is completing his last year of a 3-year Board Member position

**Dr. Alexandria** (Alex) Hanhold currently serves as Adjunct Professor of Voice at the University of Toledo where she teaches applied voice, pedagogy, literature, and diction. Alex also maintains a private voice studio and is active in the theater community as both a performer and music director. Recently, Alex was selected as one of sixteen early-career voice teachers for the 2025 NATS Intern Program. In May, she will travel to Louisville, Kentucky for this exciting, immersive opportunity. Alex received her DMA in Vocal Performance and Singing Health Specialization from The Ohio State University, her MM from the University of Akron, and her BM from BGSU.

**Dr. Chad R. Payton**, countertenor, made his Carnegie Hall and Kennedy Center debuts in Michael Ching's opera, Corps of Discovery: A Musical Journey. Internationally, he sang his Brazilian debut in Carmina Burana, and Italian debut with his professional ensemble, Payton and the Pipes, which has also presented at numerous conferences throughout the United States. He serves as Associate Dean for Student Success, Associate Professor of Voice, and Voice Area Head at Capital University's Conservatory of Music, where he teaches voice and vocal pedagogy. Previous to Capital University, he taught at Delta State University in Cleveland, MS. Payton has presented audition masterclasses and career development workshops at programs such as The Boston Conservatory at Berklee, Westminster Choir College, University of Alabama – Birmingham, and Utah State University. His university students are leading their own choral programs and private studios, and are continuing their education in graduate programs of note across the country. He is honored to have received The Praestantia Award for Outstanding Teaching in 2022 and the Cotterman Award for Faculty Service to Students in 2023 from Capital University. Payton was a 2014 NATS Intern Program participant. During the summers, Dr. Payton teaches in New York on the voice faculty at Seagle Festival, the nation's oldest training program for opera and musical theatre. Since 2016, his Seagle artists and his New York City private studio artists have placed in various levels of the

Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, and are singing with Merola Opera Program, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Wolf Trap Opera Company, Chautauqua Opera Company, Sarasota Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, Central City Opera, Opera Saratoga, Opera Theatre St. Louis, Opera Philadelphia, Opera Delaware, Middlebury Opera, and have received Career Blueprint Awards from Opera America.

**Dr. Justen V. Seay, Sr.** is a native of Detroit, MI. He attended Detroit Public Schools and was a member of the award-winning Commerce High School Choir under the direction of Ms. Sylvia Greenwood. After high school, he furthered his education at Central State University, where he sang in the internationally acclaimed Central State University Chorus, directed by Professor William Henry Caldwell. During his time in the CSU Chorus, he served as a student conductor and administrative assistant to the conductor, which deepened his passion for conducting and guided him toward a career in music education.

In 2008, Dr. Seay began his career as the music teacher and choir director at Columbus Humanities, Arts and Technology Academy, where his middle school choir earned 1st place at the Music in the Park Festival in Mason, OH. He subsequently conducted choral groups at Bogan Elementary School in Oxford, OH, Fairview PK-8 School in Dayton, OH, and Dunbar Early College High School in Dayton, OH. Beginning in 2018, he served as the Academic Coordinator for Fine and Performing Arts in Dayton Public Schools and is currently the Director of Choral and Vocal Activities at Wilberforce University.

A classically trained tenor, Dr. Seay has performed with the Knox County Symphony (2nd Place Young Artist Competition), the MVNU Choral Union, The Columbus Symphony Chorus, and the Classical Roots Community Choir of Cincinnati. He has also appeared as a soloist with the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra and has undertaken various operatic roles, including "Aeneas" in Purcell's Dido and Aeneas and "Balthazar" in Menotti's Amahl and the Night Visitors with the MVNU Opera Workshop. His repertoire spans a range from classical to gospel.

Dr. Seay earned his Bachelor's in Music Education and his Master's in Curriculum and Instruction from Mount Vernon Nazarene University, and he holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Walden University. He is currently pursuing an additional Master's Degree in Music Education from Boston University.

Dr. Seay attributes his success as a musician and educator to the unwavering support of his loving wife, Mrs. Tia Seay, and his sons, Deacon and Justen Jr. He has benefited from exceptional training and mentorship from renowned educators, including Prof. William H. Caldwell (Central State University), Dr. James A. Williams (Wilberforce University), and Ms. Sylvia Greenwood (Commerce High School). As he embarks on his 17th year in education, Dr. Seay is enthusiastic about leading the Wilberforce University Choral Program and looks forward to many years of creating beautiful music at this historic institution.

**Justin T. Swain** has most recently served as Assistant Professor of Instruction in Voice & Lyric Diction and Coordinator of Musical Theater and Commercial Vocal Studies at the Ohio University School of Music. Now pursuing his Doctor of Musical Arts in Vocal Pedagogy at the Shenandoah Conservatory, he is returning to Columbus full-time to build his private studio business at the conclusion of the academic year. Swain previously attended The Ohio State University where he earned his BM/MM in Vocal Performance and MA in Vocal Pedagogy under Dr. Scott McCoy and Dr. Robin Rice, and has earned certificates in Vocal Pedagogy through the University of Wales Voice Study Centre, Boston Conservatory at Berklee VPPW, and Vocology from New York University.

Swain was recognized by the National Association of Teachers of Singing and was privileged to serve as a NATS Intern (2023-2024) at Florida State University where he worked with Master Teacher Mike Ruckles. He specializes in the teaching of cross-over voice, belt for musical theater and pop/rock, and entrepreneurship for early private teachers.

A Columbus native, Swain has served as a teaching artist for Opera Columbus, as a faculty fellow at Ohio University, advised several student organizations, and regularly visits area choral programs as a guest clinician. Swain has performed in productions/performance with Opera Columbus, the Columbus Italian Festival, Harmony Project Columbus, New Albany Symphony Orchestra, Opera Project Columbus, Capriccio Chorus, Denison University Wind Ensemble, The Ohio State University Symphonic Band, Worthington Chamber Orchestra, and the Ohio University Chorus & Orchestra.

**Joanne Uniatowski**, Professor at Baldwin Wallace University, holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from The Cleveland Institute of Music where she studied with George Vassos. She received a Master of Music degree from the University of Alabama and a Bachelor of Music from the University of Akron. She also holds a language diploma from Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. Dr. Uniatowski has performed operatic roles with Lyric Opera Cleveland, Cleveland Concert Opera and Opera Circle. Equally at home as a soloist, Dr. Uniatowski has performed with The Cleveland Orchestra Educational Programs, Mansfield Symphony, PAND (Cleveland), Suburban Symphony, MasterSingers, Inc, Summit Choral Society, The Singer's Club of Cleveland, Choral Arts Society, Heights Chamber Orchestra, Western Reserve Choral and various local choral organizations including Chagrin Valley Choral Union, Western Reserve Chorale and Medina County Chorus. She continues as a cantor for the Diocese of Cleveland at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. Dr. Uniatowski also taught at Ashland University and The Cleveland Institute of Music. She was the Executive Director of the Art Song Festival (Cleveland Institute of Music/Baldwin Wallace University) for 15 years. Dr. Uniatowski has become a sought after clinician for master classes in "Cantoring for Roman Catholic Liturgies". Her voice students have been heard on Broadway, network television, national tours, and in major graduate programs. In addition to teaching voice, Dr. Uniatowski has also taught Phonetics (for all voice primaries), English Diction and Literature (for vocal performance majors), Italian Diction and Literature (for vocal performance majors) and Vocal Pedagogy.

**Tracy Grady** has served as the Ohio NATS secretary-treasurer since June 2012. She plans to go down in the NATS hall of fame as the longest serving person in any one position in the history of the organization. Tracy teaches at Baldwin Wallace University where she is part of the Voice and Theatre faculties, as well as the Music Theatre Program Coordinator. She's been there forever, too....21 years.

#notafraidtocommit

All the best,

Susan Wallin

President, NATS, Ohio Chapter

Professor of Voice, Baldwin Wallace Conservatory

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# **OHIO NATS Spring 2025 Meeting Agenda**

## **Crist Room**

**8:15 am Check in and light breakfast refreshments**

**9:00 am Chapter Business Meeting, New Officers Elected**

**9:45-10:40 Tracy Grady - Working with Transgender Voices**

**5 min break**

**10:45- 11:40 Andrea Chenoweth Wells - Building Consent in the Voice Studio**

**5 min break**

**11:45-12:30 Justin DeLong- Amplifying Pedagogy: Understanding and Integrating Microphones in the Voice Studio”**

**12:30-1:15 Lunch - Mees Hall Lobby**

**1:15-1:30 Mindful Movement Moment with Katharine Jolly**

**1:30-2:30 Lightning Lectures!**

**1:30-1:50 Heidi Skok - Vocal Journey from Soprano to Contralto**

**1:50-2:10 Carrie Vail - Roles that females can portray**

**2:10-2:30 Sarah Luebke - Pauline Viardot: An Artistic and Pedagogical exploration**

**10 min break**

**2:40-3:30 Caroline Bergan- Diversifying Repertoire: Norwegian Diction and the Creative Process of Writing a Phonetics Book**

**3:30-4:15 Chad Payton - Strategies for incorporating student-centered practices**