

November 30, 2008

Dear NATS Tahoma Chapter Members,

I hope your fall has been a fun and productive one. This fall has been extremely busy for our chapter. We've already had a wildly successful workshop with Marvin Keenze, the launch of our new chapter website (www.tahomanats.org) and our fall student recital and chapter meeting. We hope you have enjoyed the hard work that has gone into the success of each one.

Our next major event will be our Student Adjudications. Our High School Adjudications are on January 24 and the College/Adult Adjudications are on April 18 at Highline Community College. Our adjudications have grown substantially in the past few years and it was necessary to expand to a second day to accommodate all the singers that are registering. At the same time, our early January date is a substantial hurdle for many of our local colleges that are just beginning their winter term. This new format will create some new challenges but will hopefully alleviate others.

At the same time, the long-hoped for Online Registration program for our adjudications became available to us and we will be using this for the first time this fall. We will also be accepting paper registrations as in the past while we make this transition (I apologize for the contradictory information sent via email. Paper applications will still be accepted this year however you will not receive a paper packet by mail except upon request. All forms are currently available on the chapter website for printout). We encourage members to use the online registration format when possible.

The online registration process is considerably different from past registrations in that some of the responsibility can be placed upon the students. Students will type in their info to the website and then bring a print out of the confirmation copy for you to proofread with their check. You would send the teacher master form along with a check for all student registrations to Cherry Van Overstraeten by December 15th. This will hopefully make your job a little easier and certainly lighten the load for our adjudications chair. Due to the new format, I personally recommend that you register your students before December 15th to allow time for any adjustments.

Just as a reminder, our adjudications guidelines have also changed this year. I encourage you to review all those guidelines carefully, particularly for Musical Theatre. Cherry has written a wonderful essay about the eras of Musical Theatre which you will be receiving soon. The rules committee made a compelling case for these changes which reflect our roles as music educators and the value in teaching our students to perform a wide spectrum of music. As always, we can not make these adjudications work without your willingness to adjudicate. **As a reminder, teachers can not enter students in the adjudications if they are not available to adjudicate or assist.**

I realize that this is an awful lot of change for one year and apologize for the challenges that are coming with these changes. Some of these changes had been in the

works for years (our online registration) and others were of logistical necessity. We appreciate your patience as we adapt to these changes which will hopefully make our adjudications run even more successfully. We are trying to make these changes as painless as possible and welcome questions and constructive input on how to improve this transition.

On a final note, you should have received an email from Linda Ellingson with details of this year's Scholarship. As with all forms, the application is available on the chapter website (You will need to print out and mail it in). If you need a paper copy, please contact Linda. The Scholarship deadline is January 15th.

I hope your upcoming holidays are filled with joy. I look forward to seeing most of you in January.

Sincerely,

Erin Guinup
Tahoma Chapter President