



Thursday, September 24, 2020

Dear SCNATS members,

As promised, here is some information about the Special Awards that will be presented during the SCNATS Fall 2020 Music Theater/CCM Student Auditions. There is a separate application process for these awards. Please take a moment to look at the guidelines to nominate either an exceptional pianist or singer. The deadline for application is Thursday, October 22, 2020 at the end of the day. May thanks to our generous members who have made these awards possible!

The Spotlight on Woman Composers Award

The Spotlight on Woman Composers Award is made possible by a generous donation by SCNATS member and MAR region governor Jill Terhaar Lewis. The award is given for the best performance of a song by a woman composer. To be eligible, singers must choose to use a song by a woman composer in the current SCNATS Fall 2020 auditions. A panel of judges will adjudicate and one winner from the high school categories and a second for all college and adult categories (including CCM) will be selected.

Nomination Guidelines for this award:

- You may submit ONE YouTube (unlisted or public) NATS audition link per singer for consideration. The performance link that you submit must have also been used in a current SCNATS Fall 2020 auditions. You will need the audition category number in which it is being used to complete the application.
- Please use this [Google form](#) to nominate a singer for The Spotlight on Woman Composers Award.

Fran McMillan Pinson Collaborative Pianist Award

An award to honor a SC NATS collaborative pianist has been established in memory of Fran McMillan Pinson, beloved staff accompanist for The South Carolina School of the Arts at Anderson University. “Mrs. P” was such a dedicated collaborative pianist for AU students not only in NATS Student Auditions and but in every musical endeavor. This award has been established by Deirdre Welborn Francis to honor Fran’s generous, feisty spirit and tireless dedication to her craft and her beloved students. Fran passed away on June 19, 2020 after a courageous 3-year battle with cancer. To be considered for the Fran McMillan Pinson Collaborative Pianist Award, SC NATS teachers who are submitting students in the SC NATS Student Auditions may enter their collaborative pianists for the award, selecting and submitting one video per pianist. A panel of SC NATS teachers and collaborative pianists will review the entries to select a winner in both SC NATS Musical Theater and Classical audition. For the Fall MT auditions, teachers will submit the link to one video audition for their collaborative pianist to be considered for the award. Please read below for more information about this beloved pianist.

Nomination Guidelines for this award:

- You may submit ONE YouTube (unlisted or public) NATS audition link per pianist for consideration. The performance link that you submit must have also been used in a current SCNATS Fall 2020 audition. You will need the audition category number in which it is being used to complete the application.
- Please use this [Google form](#) to nominate a pianist for the Fran McMillan Pinson Collaborative Pianist Award.

Fran McMillan Pinson, a lifelong music educator, musician, mother, and loving wife died June 19, 2020 at home. She was born in Colleton County, South Carolina and graduated from Bells High School, Ruffin, SC and from Furman University in 1964 with a BA in Arts. Fran studied at Virginia Commonwealth University in the Masters of Piano Pedagogy program 1984-1986. Fran was a lifetime member of the Music Teachers National Association and taught privately from 1964 to May 2020 teaching hundreds of aspiring pianists and quite a few organists. As a point of great pride, several of her students are on their way to or have established careers in full-time music. While in Virginia, she chaired the Virginia State Spring/Fall Music Festivals for 9 years. She chaired the National Guild of Piano Teachers, Colonial Heights branch, VA. Upon returning to Honea Path South Carolina, she held several leadership roles including 32 years as Chair, Anderson Area National Guild of Piano, Anderson branch, SC Music Teachers state treasurer for several years, and 41 years as Chair, Anderson area Lower Piedmont Music Teachers Fallfest Auditions. Fran served as organist at St. John's United Methodist Church in Anderson, SC from October 1989 until June 2020. Fran also served as Chair of the Anderson College Academy of Music from 1987-1994. She served as a staff accompanist at Anderson University for over 10 years, accompanying students, staff recitals and university choirs.

This is a wonderful opportunity for us all to celebrate the work of our collaborative pianists and the art of woman composers. Please let me know if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Serena Hill-LaRoche
SCNATS Vice President and Auditions Coordinator
University of South Carolina School of Music
813 Assembly Street
Columbia, SC 29208
(803) 467-1069
shilllaroche@mozart.sc.edu