



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
TEACHERS
OF **SINGING**

South Carolina Chapter

January 31, 2022

Dear SCNATS members,

Again this year during our Spring 2022 SCNATS Classical/Spiritual Auditions, we are pleased to be presenting two Special Awards. There is a separate application process for these awards. Please take a moment to look at the guidelines below for information on how to nominate either an exceptional pianist or singer. The deadline for application is Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at the end of the day. Many thanks to our generous members who have made these awards possible!

The Spotlight on African American Composers Award

The Spotlight on African American 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 an African American composer. To be eligible, singers must choose to use a song by an African American composer in the current SCNATS Spring 2022 auditions. A panel of judges will adjudicate and one winner from the high school categories and a second for all college and adult categories 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 Spring 2022 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 singer for The Spotlight on African American Composers Award.

Fran McMillan Pinson Collaborative Pianist Award

An award to honor SCNATS collaborative pianists 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 to honor Fran’s generous, feisty spirit and tireless dedication to her craft and her beloved students. Mr. Jim Pinson has established an endowment to ensure that the award continues to be given for many years to come. 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, SCNATS teachers who are submitting students in the SCNATS Student Auditions may enter their collaborative pianists for the award, selecting and submitting one video per pianist. A panel of SCNATS teachers and collaborative pianists will review the entries to select a winner in SCNATS Classical/Spiritual auditions this spring, as they did in the SCNATS Musical Theatre/Commercial Music auditions this past fall. For the Spring 2022 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 the nomination guidelines and 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 Spring 2022 audition. You will need the audition category number in which it is being used to complete the application.
- Previous recipients will be allowed to receive the award more than once.
- 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 African American composers. Please let me know if you have questions.

Sincerely,

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