



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
**TEACHERS  
OF SINGING**  
\*\*\*  
South Carolina Chapter

January 9, 2023

Dear SCNATS members,

Again this year during our Spring 2023 SCNATS Classical/Spiritual Auditions, we will 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. Many thanks to our generous members who have made these awards possible!

Submissions for these awards will be done via video as in the past two years. These awards will be adjudicated online before our in-person audition event, and results will be announced at our judges meeting on February 11, posted online at that time, and announced at the Honors Recital. All winners of special awards will be invited to sing on the Honors Recital on February 11<sup>th</sup> at Converse University. In order to truly spotlight the African American composers and compositions that are submitted for this award, EVERY video that is submitted for the Spotlight on African American Composers award will be shared on the SCNATS Facebook page. The deadline for completing the google form AND uploading the submission video to the form to submit for our special awards is: **Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at end of day.**

### **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 2023 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) link per singer for consideration. The piece chosen and performed must also be part of the repertoire list for that student at the SCNATS Spring 2023 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. You will have to upload a link to the video of the song performance for the nomination to be complete.

### **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 the SCNATS Classical/Spiritual auditions. For the Spring 2023 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) video link per pianist for consideration. The song you submit must have also been submitted as part of the repertoire list in a current SCNATS Spring 2023 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. You will have to upload a link to the video of the song performance for the nomination to be complete.

*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,

Dr. Lisa Sain Odom, SCNATS Vice President and Auditions Coordinator  
Clemson University, Brooks Center for the Performing Arts  
141 Jersey Lane, Clemson, SC 29634  
[odom@clemson.edu](mailto:odom@clemson.edu)