

# NATS-NYC MENTORSHIP PROGRAM GUIDELINES

2023 -2024

## **Purpose and goals for the program**

During the Fall and Spring of 2023-2024, NATS-NYC will continue to offer a Mentorship program focused on offering young teachers an opportunity to observe and discuss with teachers and a group of vocal educators the teaching of specific styles to enhance, develop, and advance their teaching skills.

**Experienced teachers may also enroll to broaden their teaching experience and receive feedback.**

## **Program Dates/Times**

**Our program is offering THREE steps for mentoring.**

1. Connection with TWO mentoring teachers for observations to allow for different approaches and pedagogical practices. The participant is allowed TWO hours with EACH teacher. Follow-up discussions for any questions will be posted on Google Classroom so that all participants can benefit from the discussion. Days/times of observations are scheduled between the Participant and Mentor Teachers. Meetings with mentor teachers should be scheduled from the beginning of November through the end of March. Mentor observations can be conducted online or in the Mentor teacher studio. (There is also a possibility of the mentor teacher observing the mentee in their studio setting.) This should be mutually agreed upon. There will be a Google spreadsheet stored on Google Classroom where participants will be asked to record their meeting times.
2. Group meeting dates will be Monday, October 23, 2023 at 7:00 pm (via Zoom), Sunday, January 28, 2024 at 2:00 pm (Hybrid), and Monday, April 1, 2024 at 7:00 pm (Hybrid).
3. Video review: Using Google Classroom, we request that you upload at least two videos of your teaching to share with our group of mentors, NATS-NYC Board members, and other participants. We ask that you share at least one video of an area where you would like to receive feedback from our peer cohort and one video of student specific pedagogical vocalizations. Observations will take place during the months of November through March.

Once the applicant is accepted into the program, and the tuition is received, the program administrator will provide the contact information for the mentor teachers. The first time an apprentice enrolls in the mentorship program they will enter Level I. Apprentices may enroll a second time for Level II observations and may be facilitators in the workshops.

**We strongly encourage participants to choose to observe teachers who teach in completely different styles.**

## Participant Guidelines

Participants must fill out the application form requiring the following information.

- Repertoire/Style Preference: Classical, Musical Theatre or CCM (pop, rock, etc.)
- Preferred Pronouns
- Videos for feedback
- Personal information including name, address, phone number, email address and educational information

The applicant must answer the following questions (see application).

- In which area do you have the most experience? Singing? Teaching? Other?
- What is your voice type? What is your range?
- Describe your teaching philosophy.
- Describe your top three artistic goals for this program.

The following items should be included with the application:

- Headshot and Resume/CV
- One reference whom we may contact.
- A link to a video of a sample lesson and a link to a video of student specific pedagogical vocalization.

## Tuition

Tuition for the mentorship program is \$225. Payment is due no later than the first meeting which is **October 23, 2023**. *Mentors will not be assigned until receipt of payment.* This fee allows the apprentice teacher to observe two teachers up to two times (two times for one hour each or once for two hours) during the two-month period. If the student is unable to complete the number of observations during the observation period, the teacher and the apprentice may choose dates beyond the two-month window to finish the observations. The teacher is under no obligation to provide additional dates beyond the scheduled period unless the applicant provides specific reasons.

## Guidelines for observing teachers.

Participants who are accepted into the program must adhere to the following guidelines.

1. Participants must contact the teacher 24 hours in advance if they are unable to attend the scheduled observation session.
2. The participant must be on time for the lesson. If you are unable to arrive on time, you must contact the teacher for permission to enter the lesson late.

3. The participant must respect the rules of the teacher's studio. Those rules should be agreed upon prior to the start of the observation period.
4. Participants must receive permission from the teacher and the singer being observed before making an audio recording of the session. Any audio recordings of observation lessons must remain confidential. Absolutely no posting online of audio clips or discussion of observations on any social media site or outlet. **Violations of the privacy of the lesson will result in immediate dismissal from the program and possible termination of membership eligibility for NATS-NYC.**
5. During the observation session, there cannot be any interruption from cell phones or other disruptions. Phones must be turned off prior to the start of the session. You may be asked to mute your computer while in the lesson.
6. Mentor teachers are under no obligation to explain concepts to the apprentice teacher during the session. Any questions about concepts must be discussed outside of the lesson.
7. **If a participant has a question regarding concepts during the lesson being observed, we request that the participants post their questions on Google Classroom so that all may benefit from the topic.** The participants may, however, schedule and pay for a session to have concepts explained.
8. The mentor teacher has the right to limit the number of participants who will observe them.

Any problems or concerns should be addressed with the program administrator Hope Hudson at [composersdream04@gmail.com](mailto:composersdream04@gmail.com).

#### **Mentor teacher responsibilities to applicant:**

1. The participant teacher agrees to provide two hours of observation during the spring term.
2. The participant will sign up for a specific time. Once the applicant is accepted, the program administrator will contact the teacher for availability.
3. Each participant will be assigned two mentor teachers to observe.

#### **Feedback Form**

The applicant will also be asked to complete a program evaluation. The feedback on this form will help the administrators continually improve the program.

**The current roster of Mentor Teachers can be found at [www.natsnyc.org](http://www.natsnyc.org).**

**To register for the Mentorship Program, click here: <https://forms.gle/pLK3FSxFMy3qJ4ne6>.**