



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
**TEACHERS
OF SINGING**

Kansas Chapter

Kansas NATS 2023 Winter Workshop

Contemporary Commercial Singing with Matt Edwards

Friday, February 17 – Saturday, February 18,
McCain Auditorium, Kansas State University

Friday Morning 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

- **10:00-11:15: How the Voice Works:** In this interactive presentation, participants will create an accurate map of their instrument while learning about technical differences between amplified and unamplified styles. Animations, videos of laryngeal stroboscopy, real-time MRI videos, and cadaver photos will be used to bring vocal anatomy to life and connect the dots between vocal function and output. This information can help singers of all styles adopt a growth mindset and enhance their training by increasing specificity.
- **11:15-11:30: Break**
- **11:30-12:30 Masterclass:** In this masterclass, two singers will work through exercises that demonstrate how to develop the mix and belt voice using information from the morning presentation.

Lunch On Your Own 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

Friday Afternoon 2:30-5:30 pm

- **2:30-4:00: Working with Audio Technology:** In this presentation, participants will learn how microphones, equalization, compression, reverb, and auto-tune are used to manufacture perfection in live and recorded performances. This will change how participants listen to recorded and live performances and help them decipher between technology and the singer.
- **4:00-4:15: Break**
- **4:15-5:30: Masterclass:** In this masterclass we will have four CCM singers working with a microphone while coaching a 60-90 second cut.

Friday Evening 6:00pm – 8:00pm

- **Dinner and Kansas NATS State Auditions Planning Meeting**
– Little Apple Brewery

Saturday Morning 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

- **10:00-11:30: How to Sing Any Style:** While vocal technique is a critical part of our work as voice teachers, technique alone will not bring CCM singers success. This workshop explores common vocal and musical ingredients of CCM styles and tips and tricks to bring songs to life. We will explore registration, onsets and releases, phrase weighting, resonance, vowel morphing, consonant delivery, use of rhythm, and discuss how variations of these simple tools can help you analyze and teach any style.
- **11:30-11:45: Break**
- **11:45-1:00: Masterclass:** In this masterclass, two musical theatre and two CCM singers will perform a 60-90 second cut and apply the info from the morning presentation.

Saturday Lunch 1:00 pm -2:30pm

Saturday Afternoon 2:30-5:30 pm

- **2:30-4:00: Adjudicating Musical Theatre and CCM Styles:** Musical theatre and CCM producers, agents, and casting directors are not looking for cookie cutter performers. They are looking for individuals with unique points of view. When we align our feedback with industry expectations, we can offer CCM artists comments that inspire them to grow and expand in new ways. This requires us to rethink stereotypes and cultivate individuality to help our students find success. In this session, we will review the categories most commonly found on NATS adjudication rubrics, discuss things to look for in performances of CCM and musical theatre rep, and offer tips for providing growth-oriented feedback.
- **4:00-4:15: Break**
- **4:15-5:30: Masterclass:** In this masterclass, two musical theatre and two CCM singers will work on fine-tuning their performances to enhance their preparation for an adjudicated event.



Matt Edwards is one of the leading voice teachers for commercial and musical theatre styles in the United States. He is currently Associate Professor and Coordinator of Musical Theatre Voice at Shenandoah University, Artistic Director of the Contemporary Commercial Music Vocal Pedagogy Institute, past Secretary for both the Pan-American Vocology Association and the Musical Theatre Educator's Alliance, a Voice Foundation/NATS Van L. Lawrence Fellow (2017), and NATS Intern Program Master Teacher (2018).

Edwards' vocal interests encompass many styles. He has performed numerous roles in plays, musicals, and operas with companies including Tri-Cities Opera, Ash Lawn Opera Festival, New Jersey Opera, Atlantic Coast Opera Festival, Bay View Music Festival, the Acadiana Symphony Orchestra, Dayton Philharmonic Pops, Hudson Valley Symphony, the Miami Valley Symphony, Cincinnati Opera Outreach, Lyric Opera Cleveland Outreach, Theatre Lab, KNOW Theatre, and many others. He has also performed as a solo artist and with numerous bands, and received awards from the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, Dayton Opera Guild Competition, The National Association of Teachers of Singing, Southern-Tier Opportunity Coalition, and the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges.

Former and current students have performed on American Idol, Broadway, off-Broadway, on national and international tours, on national television, cruise ships, at theme parks and in bands touring throughout the United States. He has written articles for the Journal of Singing, Journal of Voice, VoicePrints, American Music Teacher, The Voice, Southern Theatre, and has been a Vocal Coach in Residence for Voice Council magazine. He has contributed to books including "A Dictionary for the Modern Singer" by Dr. Matthew Hoch, "Vocal Athlete" by Dr. Wendy LeBorgne and Marci Rosenberg, The "Manual of Singing Voice Rehabilitation" by Leda Searce, "Get the Callback, 2nd edition" by Jonathan Flom, and the Sacred Music, Gospel, and Country editions of the "So You Want to Sing" book series. His book "So You Want to Sing Rock 'N' Roll?" is published by Rowman and Littlefield Publishing and was called "an authoritative text on rock 'n' roll singing" by Classical Singer magazine.

In high demand for his presentations and master classes on commercial and musical theatre voice, he has presented at the National Association of Teachers of Singing National Conference and Summer Workshop, Voice Foundation Annual Symposium, Acoustical Society of America, Association for Popular Music Education, Southeastern Theatre Conference, Musical Theatre Educators Alliance, Pan-American Vocology Association, United States Air Force Singing Sergeants, Carolina Voices, Duke Voice Care Center, Arts Bridge, at universities including Penn State, Brigham Young, Toronto, Wright State, Alabama, Georgia Southern, Otterbein, Illinois Wesleyan, Mary-Hardin Baylor, Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Ohio Northern, Northern Colorado, Missouri State, Texas Woman's University, DeSales, Bårdar Academy (Oslo, Norway), and for NATS Chapters in Toronto, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Georgia, North Carolina, Missouri, and Arizona.

Online at CCMinstitute.com, EdwardsVoice.com, AuditioningForCollege.com, and EdwardsVoice.Wordpress.com.