



National Society of Arts and Letters

Supporting young talent in the performing, literary, and visual arts since 1944.



Happy Holidays!

Dear NSAL Members,

I hope you are taking time to enjoy the peace and beauty of the holiday season. Before we hit the 'pause button' on our busy schedules to celebrate the holidays, I'd like to share the latest news.

Contestant News

We recently received an inspiring career update from our national second-place winner, Alison Fierst:

I wanted to send a quick email to NSAL thanking you all again for the wonderful opportunities provided to me. The national competition in Chautauqua was so much fun. I continue to keep in touch with the friends that I made during that time and will definitely be a supporter of NSAL for the rest of my musical life.

Since the competition, I began graduate studies at the Manhattan School of Music studying with principal flutist of the New York Philharmonic, Robert Langevin. Then I won the second flute position at the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, where I am currently. It's been such a dream diving into the professional world, something that doesn't normally happen to musicians as young as I am, but I have been working so hard. I am delighted to share that I will begin playing with the New York Philharmonic as a substitute player in January.

The Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra is wonderful, and I know that it is only the start of my career. Because of all my recent achievements, including NSAL, I was invited to two very prestigious auditions occurring the end of January and early March: Associate Principal Flute positions in both the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic.

I am incredibly ecstatic to be considered and will try my absolute best for these auditions, as this would be the next step in my career. These are both opportunities that are impossible to pass up. [] NSAL has opened so many doors for me, and I can honestly say that I wouldn't be where I am today if weren't for the competition. NSAL will always be highlighted at the very beginning of my growing biography and, as I said earlier, I will definitely be a supporter for the rest of my musical life.

In Memoriam

Earlier this month, we received sad news from Mr. Norman Young, a longtime friend of Mr. Omer (Jack) Masters, Jr. Following a brief illness, Mr. Masters passed away at the age of 97 on December 10, 2018. For those of you who are new members, Mr. Masters was a past national president (1996-1998). He was originally a member of the Jacksonville, Florida Chapter, which was later absorbed by the Florida East Coast Chapter. Mr. Masters was a devoted supporter of the arts, with a particular passion for the dramatic arts. He was presented with a certificate of appreciation by the national office of NSAL for his distinguished service while national president.

Current Business

As I have mentioned in prior newsletters, our strategic planning committee has been busy developing exciting proposals for the future of our organization. We anticipate announcing those details in January.

Our 2019 conference chair, Bea Hessick, and her team have been working diligently to create an elegant conference in Washington DC, May 28 to June 2, 2019. Last month's newsletter included a copy of Bea's e-mail where she listed additional off-site events that will be available for all members to attend. Visiting the former home of heiress and NSAL member Marjorie Merriweather Post and the National Museum of Women in the Arts, as well as exploring the city where the National Society of Arts and Letters was first chartered, will be a wonderful way to celebrate the 75th Anniversary.

We will be sending all members a formal **75Fund** request in January, but I would like to remind each of you who pledged \$75.00 a year to send your 2018 donation to Judy Park (**3135 RFD, Long Grove, IL 60047**). Many of you have generously donated in the past and we welcome any amount you are comfortable donating again. If you have never made a 75Fund donation, now is the perfect time to do so, in honor of the 75th Anniversary.

Looking Toward 2019

As the year draws to a close, we look back and review what we have done well, what needs improvement, and what we hope to accomplish in the coming year. I hope you will congratulate yourselves on all the wonderful work you do for NSAL, happily sacrificing your time and resources to fulfill our great mission of supporting extraordinary young talent. Thank you for all that you have done and will continue to do in the future. I wish each of you a very happy holiday and best wishes for a wonderful new year.

Warm Regards,
Margaret Johnson