

NATS Central Region Conference



TOPICAL BREAKFAST

Cultivating Community Outreach Programs

Discussion Leader: Chad Sonka

ABSTRACT:

In today's musical climate, outreach programs at universities and young artist programs are vital for community engagement and ultimately the perpetuation of opera. Chad Sonka has cultivated several different successful programs at Iowa State University and the Savannah VOICE Festival, of which he's the Education and Outreach Coordinator. In this discussion, Chad will expound on the paths he took to curate creative approaches to community and local school outreach partnerships. May this serve as a launching pad to cultivate cost effective, diverse, and interdisciplinary outreach programs so that we may more effectively deepen people's love of the trained human voice.

PRESENTER BIO:

Chad Sonka is an establishing himself as a versatile American baritone - singing, teaching, and directing. Most recently, he performed as the baritone soloist in Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem* at Carnegie Hall with Iowa State University choirs and orchestra and Mahler's *Kindertotenlieder* with Oneota Valley Community Orchestra. Previous performing credits: *Tosca* (Scarpia - cover) with Central City Opera; *Gianni Schicchi* (Marco) with Savannah Music Festival; *Man of La Mancha* (Don Quixote) and *Carmen* (Danciro) with Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre; *The Mother of Us All* (Virgil T.), *The Rape of Lucretia* (Junius), *Faust* (Wagner), *Elijah* (Elijah) with Manhattan School of Music; and *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (King Melchior) with Nevada Opera. He was the first-place winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions - Iowa District in 2017. In addition to performing, Chad serves as an artist and the Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Savannah VOICE Festival, led by artistic director, Sherrill Milnes. Chad is also an active voice teacher and currently serves on faculty at Iowa State University.