

NATS Central Region Conference



TOPICAL BREAKFAST

Quality Music Preparation that Preserves the Voice: Practicing techniques, for the busy teacher or student, that preserve the voice and foster confident performances.

Discussion Leader: Dr. Penelope Shumate

ABSTRACT:

Learning and preparing music for performances is challenging within voice students' and voice teachers' busy schedules. Learning music well takes concentration, time, and voice use. If the singer is talking for a large part of their day, keeping their voice fresh for practicing and performing is an added challenge. The solution is a clear practicing plan, time management skills, and moderation. Further, by rotating a variety of singing and non-singing practicing and polishing exercises and techniques, an artist can effectively learn and prepare music with excellence, while still conserving the voice. A customized and flexible daily practicing schedule can also help a singer to prepare either a single work, or multiple works simultaneously, while keeping their voice fresh for performing.

PRESENTER BIO:

Dr. Penelope Shumate is a soprano and teaches Applied Voice, Lyric Diction, and Vocal Pedagogy at Western Illinois University, where she was selected as the winner of the 2018 University Provost's Award for Excellence in Scholarly/Creative/Performance/Professional Activities. She was also selected as the winner of the College of Fine Arts and Communication Dean's Award for Excellence in Creative/Performing Activity for 2018 & 2017. Dr. Shumate holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Louisiana State University, a Master of Music degree in Voice Performance from Temple University, and Bachelor of Science degrees in Voice Performance and Radio and T.V. Communication from Radford University. Praised by *The New York Times* for singing with "bell-like clarity and surpassing sweetness," and complimented by *The New York Concert Review* for "her sparkling coloratura perfection," her recent engagements include soloist appearances at Carnegie Hall and David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center in New York, and her debut with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London for a recording at historic Abbey Road Studios. A recent First Place winner of both The American Prize and the Chicago Oratorio Award, she has also performed with opera companies and orchestras across the country. Visit www.penelopeshumate.com to learn more about her professional performance and teaching career.