

## NATS Central Region Conference



### TOPICAL BREAKFAST

## Considering Songs by Charles Ives for Undergraduate Voice Study

Discussion Leader: Ricardo Sepúlveda

### **ABSTRACT:**

We can argue that any new skill could be better learned by taking advantage of the knowledge already possessed. This could be the case of vocal instruction at the undergraduate level. The presenter believes that American art song can play an important role in further developing our young American students' vocal and artistic talents. In addition to the repertoire by Bernstein, Barber, Copland and other well represented 20th-century American composers, a variety of songs by Charles Ives (1874-1954) provide a good canvas for voice study, artistic development and to explore important changes in the American musical landscape during the early part of the 20th-century. This is the subject of Sepúlveda's Doctor of Musical Arts degree project, "Selected Songs by Charles Ives for Undergraduate Voice Study" (in progress). Its purpose is to analyze selected songs by Ives from a pedagogical perspective, specifically categorizing the songs based on identifiable technical and aesthetic challenges they present to the student and teacher of voice.

### **PRESENTER BIO:**

Baritone **Ricardo Sepúlveda** has performed with the Puerto Rico Opera, New Jersey Opera, Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra, Eastern Symphony Orchestra and other companies in the United States and in his native Puerto Rico. Credits include Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Polyphemus in *Acis and Galatea*, Papageno in *Die Zauberflöte*, Marcello in *La bohème*, and Émile de Becque in *South Pacific*. Mr. Sepúlveda holds degrees from the Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico and from the University of Illinois, where he is a candidate for the doctorate in musical arts with a cognate area in the science of the singing voice. Additionally, he is a graduate from the Summer Vocology Institute at the National Center for Voice and Speech at the University of Utah, and a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, The Voice Foundation, and the Pan-American Vocology Association. The baritone joined the community of Western Illinois University as Assistant Professor of Voice and Opera in 2017, after seven years in the faculty of Millikin University. Upcoming engagements include stage direction for WIU Opera Theatre's production of *Venus and Adonis* (Blow) and *Der bekehrte Trunkenbold* (Gluck). For more information visit <http://bit.ly/2Hy9SxL>