

## NATS Central Region Conference



### TOPICAL BREAKFAST

## **The Science of a Healthy Belt and Mixed Register**

Discussion Leader: Wendy Marck

### **ABSTRACT:**

This presentation will look at the science behind healthy belting and how we can help our students achieve it. After a quick review of general acoustics, we will explore the acoustic differences of “head,” “mix”, and “belt” as they are perceived by the listener. Then we will see exactly how those differences are created both at the source (vocal folds) and filter (vocal tract) of the sound. This will help us identify why certain belting techniques lead to fatigue and injury and how to avoid them. With this knowledge we can then identify various exercises and techniques to teach the necessary coordination for mixed voice and belting. Many teachers and clinicians around the globe have found that with these exercises and a good ear, students are able to eliminate their break and find the seamless belt they’ve always wanted.

### **PRESENTER BIO:**

WENDY MARCK received her BM from the University of Illinois with a full scholarship. While there, she worked toward a computer science degree and sparked her interest in the physics of sound and acoustic analysis software. She performed the role of Johanna in the Broadway National Tour of Sweeney Todd and traveled to over 50 countries while performing in the “Show Room at Sea” for Holland America Line. She has also performed leading roles with esteemed companies such as Music By The Lake and Ohio Light Opera. As a soloist, she has sung with the CU Symphony, Lynchburg Symphony, and appeared as a guest artist for Liberty University. As a teacher, she has devoted herself to the study of voice science. Her focus is the study of the vocal mechanism as it relates to various styles of singing. While touring with Sweeney Todd she gave master classes in High Schools around the country and has given belting master classes at Liberty University. She performs and teaches privately in Champaign, IL where she lives with her husband and three children.