

# National Association of Teachers of Singing

## Artist Awards

THE GENESIS OF WHAT IS TODAY NATSAA BEGAN IN 1955 with the first NATS Singer of the Year (SOTY) Competition. Repertoire for the first competition included an opera aria, oratorio aria, song cycle, and two full recital programs. The first winner, Richard Rivers received \$500 plus auditions with the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, and Chicago Lyric Opera, and concert engagements. Throughout its history the purpose of this competition has been to select, through a series of elimination rounds on the district, regional, and national levels, singers whose artistry indicates that they are ready for a professional career and to encourage them towards that goal with a cash prize and the opportunity for performance engagements. By 1968 it had become apparent that the number of accomplishments of the contestants had reached the level that recognition of more than one winner was appropriate. Accordingly, the name of the competition was changed to the National Association of Teachers of Singing Artist Awards. For sixteen years two or three prizes were awarded.

A significant trend was established in 1984 with the endowment of the Mary Wolfman Award. Since that year additional prizes have been endowed through the NATS Foundation so that since 1989 all semifinalists have received an award. The American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz offered a scholarship to the first place winner for many years.

Today, thanks to the generous support of NATS and the NATS Foundation, a total of over \$40,000 in prizes is awarded. The winner receives a significant cash award and a New York Solo Recital Debut in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall due to the generosity of MidAmerica Productions.

### NATSAA Award Winners

1955 Richard Rivers	1976 Peggy Pruett
1956 Alice Riley	1978 Jo Ann Pickens
1957 Beth Ann Hood	1980 Jonathon Mack
1958 Calvin Dash	1981 Andrea Matthews
1959 Barbara Faulkner	1983 Karen Smith
1960 Ray Griffel	1984 Wendy Hillhouse
1961 Teresa Ornanates	1986 Debra Kay Fitzgibbon
1962 Robert Hale	1987 Bonita Hyman
1963 Sylvia Friedrich	1989 Lauren Wagner
1964 no award	1990 Stephen Morscheck
1965 Richard Allen	1992 Lorie Gratis
1966 Marilyn Burns	1993 Elizabeth Smith
1967 Linda Matousek	1995 Norah Amsellen
1968 Rose Wild	1996 Lynda Keith McKnight
1969 Kathleen Mott	1998 Debra Wilkie
1970 William Parker	2000 Vanessa Salaz
1971 Paul Benningfield	2002 Kara Guggenmos
1972 Linda Zoghby	2004 Marcia Porter
1973 Margaret Eaves	2006 Danielle Talamantes
1974 Cynthia Karnstadt	

