

NATS National Student Auditions

Regulations: Mid-South Region

1. There are two functional leaders at the Student Auditions. The Site Host is the person who arranges for physical space, judges' assignments and all other logistical matters. The Governor/Auditions Coordinator has the authority to enforce all the regulations governing the auditions, to see that scores are tabulated accurately and to resolve any problems arising from infringements of age and repertoire requirements.

2. EACH INDIVIDUAL TEACHER IS RESPONSIBLE TO SEE THAT HIS/HER PARTICIPATING STUDENTS CONFORM TO THE NATIONAL STUDENT AUDITION REGULATIONS BELOW.

3. CATEGORIES:

Category	Age on Audition Date	Length of Study
III High School Women*	14-19 maximum	No limit
IV High School Men*	14-19 maximum	No limit
VIIA Freshman Women/First Year College/Independent Studio Women*	20 maximum	1-2 college semesters/1 year post high school
VIIIA Freshman Men/First Year College/Independent Studio Men*	20 maximum	1-2 college semesters/1 year post high school
VIIIB Sophomore Women/Second Year College/Independent Studio Women*	22 maximum	3-4 college semesters/2 years post high school
VIIIB Sophomore Men/Second Year College/Independent Studio Men*	22 maximum	3-4 college semesters/2 years post high school
Adult Beginner	22 minimum	1-4 college semesters
XIA Junior Women/Third Year College/Independent Studio Women*	23 maximum	5-6 college semesters/3 years post high school
XIIA Junior Men/Third Year College/Independent Studio Men*	23 maximum	5-6 college semesters/3 years post high school
XIB Senior Women/Fourth/Fifth Year College/Independent Studio Women*	25 maximum	7+ college semesters/4-5 years post high school all as undergraduate
XIIB Senior Men/Fourth/Fifth Year College/Independent Studio Men*	25 maximum	7+ college semesters/4-5 years post high school all as undergraduate
Adult Intermediate	24 minimum	5-8 college semesters
XIIIA Advanced Women/Lower Advanced College/Independent Studio Women*	22-30 maximum	Over 8 college semesters/5-7 years post high school
XIVA Advanced Men/Lower Advanced College/Independent Studio Men*	22-30 maximum	Over 8 college semesters/5-7 years post high school
XIIIB Post-Advanced/Upper Advanced College/Independent Studio Women*	25-30 maximum	Over 8 college semesters/7 or more years post high school
XIVB Post-Advanced/Upper Advanced College/Independent Studio Men*		

Music Theater Category	Age on Audition Date	Length of Study
I High School Music Theater Women and Men*	14-19 maximum	No limit
V Freshmen/Sophomore/Lower College Music Theater Women*	22 maximum	1-4 college semesters/0-2 years post high school
VI Freshman/Sophomore/Lower College Music Theater Men*	22 maximum	1-4 college semesters/0-2 years post high school
IX Junior/Senior/Upper College Music Theater Women*	25 maximum	5-8 college semesters/3-5 years post high school all as an undergraduate
X Junior/Senior/Upper College Music Theater Men*	25 maximum	5-8 college semesters/3-5 years post high school all as an undergraduate
Advanced Music Theater Women and Men	22 minimum	Over 8 college semesters

Hall Johnson Spiritual Category*	17-23 Undergraduate/Independent Studio Women and Men	No limit
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***NSA CATEGORY**

4. REPERTOIRE

CLASSICAL

High School:

Three contrasting selections from classical repertoire including:

1. *One art song in English.*
2. *One art song in a foreign language.*
3. *One additional art song or aria.*

Classical repertoire includes: art songs, folk songs, early Italian arias (before 1800), and spirituals.

Lower College/Independent Studio (Freshman, Sophomores, Adult Beginners):

Three contrasting selections from classical repertoire including:

1. *A foreign language art song in the original language.*
2. *An art song in English.*
3. *A third song or aria of choice. See CLARIFICATION OF ARIA*

Upper College/Independent Studio (Juniors, Seniors, Adult Intermediate):

Four songs including:

1. *A foreign language art song in the original language.*
2. *An art song in English.*
3. *An aria in the original key. See CLARIFICATION OF ARIA*
4. *A fourth song or aria of choice.*

**At least three languages must be represented.*

Advanced College/Independent Studio:

Five selections as follows:

1. *One operatic aria in the original key, in the original language or translation.*
2. *One oratorio/cantata/mass aria in the original key, in the original language or translation*
3. *Two art songs in different foreign languages*
4. *An art song in English.*

**At least three languages must be represented.*

MUSIC THEATER

High School:

Three Contrasting Music Theater Selections from Staged Broadway or Off-Broadway productions. An aria from an operetta may be used if it meets the criteria of being in a staged Broadway or Off-Broadway production.

Lower College (Freshmen, Sophomores):

Three Contrasting Music Theater Selections from Staged Broadway or Off-Broadway productions. An aria from an operetta may be used if it meets the criteria of being in a staged Broadway or Off-Broadway production.

Upper College (Juniors, Seniors, Advanced):

Four Contrasting Music Theater Selections from Staged Broadway or Off-Broadway productions. An aria from an operetta may be used if it meets the criteria of being in a staged Broadway or Off-Broadway production.

HALL JOHNSON SPIRITUAL CATEGORY

This category is available for participation in each national conference year (even years) for conferences from 2016-2036.

Women and Men, (undergraduate ages 17-23):

Three contrasting selections from the Hall Johnson spiritual repertoire. The repertoire list is available on www.nats.org under the Competitions tab. Choose Hal Johnson Spiritual Category on the left side of the screen.

CLARIFICATION OF “ARIA”

- a). An aria written after 1750 is not considered an art song.
- b). For the Advanced contestant, distinguish between “opera arias” and aria from oratorio/cantata/mass.

Audition Terminology

Aria	An aria is a solo taken from an opera, oratorio, mass, cantata, operetta, or works titled “concert aria”. Oxford Online definitions will be used for the purposes of this audition. For example, Purcell’s selections from the semi- operas and masques are considered songs.
24/26/28 Italian Art Songs and Arias	The repertoire found in the 24/26/28 Italian Art Songs and Arias collections may be counted as an aria or an art song in the high school and lower college classical categories. For the singers in the upper college categories and beyond, these pieces may count as an art song ONLY, regardless of origin. Any repertoire found outside of these collections will be considered only as the composer intended, as an art song OR aria.
Memorization Original Languages	All repertoire, including oratorio, must be sung from memory. Selections should be sung in original language or in translation if warranted by common performance practice.
Transposition	All arias from opera, oratorio, mass, cantata, operetta, works titled “concert aria,” or music theater selections must be sung in the original key or an alternate key based on common performance practice.
Classical Repertoire/Categories	The word “classical” in this context refers to art songs and arias from the “classical” genre, not limited to the “Classical” period of Mozart and Haydn. In other words, no music theater, pop, soul, jazz, rhythm and blues, etc. Folk song arrangements are widely accepted as a part of the classical genre and would be acceptable and appropriate audition repertoire for students in classical categories.
Judicious Cuts	Piano introductions, piano interludes, piano music after the vocal solo is completed, and internal cuts of opera arias and music theater selections are allowed as in common performance practice. Cuts of verse or verses of selections are not allowed. In the case of strophic pieces, all verses should remain that are traditionally included.

Music Theater Selections	All repertoire must be from staged Broadway and Off-Broadway productions. The production may be a musical, revue, or song cycle but MUST have been staged AND Broadway or Off-Broadway. Various online resources are available to confirm such status and teachers are encouraged to confirm them when selecting repertoire. Singers should ensure that contrasting selections represent the spectrum of their vocal and dramatic abilities. For example, this may be exhibited by selecting pieces of varying style periods (pop/rock, contemporary, Golden Age) and employing a variety of vocalism (belt, mix, legit).
Comment Only	Any student may register to sing for comments only and participate in the preliminary audition round.

5. TIME LIMITS

CLASSICAL DIVISIONS:

- a.) **Preliminary Round:** High School and Lower College Divisions: 7 minutes.
All others: 9 minutes.
- b) **Semi-Final Round:** High School and Lower College Divisions: 5 minutes.
All others: 7 minutes.
- c) **Final Round:** High School through Third Year College: 4 minutes.
Fourth Year College, Lower Advanced, and Upper Advanced: 5 minutes.

MUSIC THEATER DIVISIONS:

- a). **Preliminary:** High School and Lower College Divisions: 7 minutes. All others: 9 minutes.
- b). **Semi-Final Round:** High School and Upper College Divisions: 5 minutes.
All others: 7 minutes.
- c.). **Final Round:** High School and Lower College Divisions: 4 minutes. All others: 5 minutes.
Cuts are encouraged.

6. SEMI-FINAL ROUNDS

In Semi-Final Rounds where there are fewer than six contestants, the number of finalists chosen will be as follows:

1-3 Semi-Finalists	= 1 Finalist
4-5 Semi-Finalists	= 2 Finalists
6 or more Semi-Finalists	= 3 Finalists

The selection of Finalists will be by score. There will be no consultation between judges. Each judge will rank order all singers in the Semi-Final Round numerically (1, 2, 3, 4, etc.... with the best singer as #1). These numerical rankings will be averaged by the Site Host and/or Governor/Auditions Coordinator. The singers with the lowest total points will be Finalists.

7. LAWFUL EDITIONS

Accompanists must play from lawful editions.

8. CONTESTANT NUMBERS

Contestants will be known only by a number assigned to them by a Site Host. No name should be written on the adjudication sheets. Public postings/mailings should be by contest numbers only. A master list including contestant numbers and names must be retained by the Host.

9. NON-REFUND OF FEES

Prize award amounts are determined in advance by income from registration fees. Therefore, registration fees are non-refundable.

10. TEACHER ATTENDANCE

If the NATS member enters students to the auditions, he or she must attend the auditions as well. If this is not possible, the NATS member must secure a substitute judge who is a NATS member in good standing, and who will not be entering any students in the competition.