

Casey L. Carter Vision Statement

Candidate for Vice President of Auditions | National Association of Teachers of Singing

At the heart of the National Association of Teachers of Singing lies a powerful tradition: the National Student Auditions (NSA). For decades, these auditions have offered far more than a stage—they've provided students a space to grow, to be seen, and to be supported. In a world often driven by individualism, the National Student Auditions stand as a beacon of collaboration, reflection, and community.

The National Student Auditions are not simply contests. They are celebrations of growth, laboratories of learning, and most importantly, *gatherings of community*. Feedback here is not given to rank or separate, but to uplift and unify. This spirit of connection is the foundation of my vision.

If elected Vice President of Auditions, I will dedicate myself to building a community reflective of our diversity and cultural heritages, while promoting inclusivity across all levels of the audition process—chapter, district, region, and international. While each region serves a unique population of teachers and students, our true strength lies in our ability to function as a connected, cohesive whole.

My vision prioritizes:

1. **Building Community Through Collaboration.** Auditions are about people—not just the performance. From first-time children and youth participants to our advanced performers, NSA auditions offer transformative experiences. My vision is to make each round—from chapter to nationals—an *intentional act of community-building*. We can deepen the bonds that connect our organization by:
 - a. Connecting our members, collaborative pianists, students and their parents or guardians to materials that are uniform and concise, increase equity, and promote familiarity at every step of the auditions process from the chapter to NSA final rounds.
 - b. Advocating for hybrid audition models that allow students in rural, underserved areas, and International Chapters to participate equitably—without compromising artistic standards.
 - i. Exploring opportunities to make the NSA process more personal for our International Chapter teachers and singers, while being sensitive to exchange rates striving to provide both accessibility and affordability to our growing and diverse membership.
 - c. Hosting quarterly virtual meetups for auditions personnel to share challenges, celebrate successes, and strengthen connections. When we lead collaboratively, we lead more effectively.
2. **Expanding the Toolkit for Success.** To reduce confusion and increase cohesion, sharing audition support materials—including email templates, meeting agendas, editable forms, and standardized communication tools—by offering audition teams an expanded toolkit to support their auditions.
 - a. During the 2024/2025 season, I created tools for the Texoma Region and DFW Chapter Auditions with materials designed to allow adjudicators move seamlessly

through back-to-back rounds. The revised adjudication packet materials included session labels detailing category info, time limits for the category, and repertoire requirements, and “Essentials At-A-Glance” pages offering rubrics and comment suggestions that were included in each packet. An enhanced auditions toolkit built on this model would make the process more familiar and accessible at every level.

3. **Enhancing Training & Mentorship.**

- a. Increase opportunities for mentorship for our newest NATS members as they begin to navigate the NSA process with local, regional, and national support from colleagues.
- b. Build connection. Every audition team member should feel supported, informed, and connected to the larger NATS mission and NSA process. I will advocate for approachable, ongoing training, and peer mentorship—so no one feels isolated in the important work they do.
- c. Collaborate with our region leadership to create a system of adjudication where comments and scoring are consistent, encourages artistic singing, providing constructive feedback that honors our diversity, and represents the aspirations outlined in the National Student Auditions Mission Statement.

4. **Honoring our Diversity.** I will continue to promote NATS initiatives that celebrate underrepresented voices by highlighting music by women, composers of color, and works reflective of our diverse student body. As our International Chapters grow and flourish, modifying repertoire requirements to reflect the art song traditions of the region should always be considered. As the NSA auditions honor our classical heritage and embrace Musical Theatre, Commercial Music, and the tradition of American Negro Spiritual, we ensure that our auditions reflect the richness of the world in which our students live and perform.

5. **Supporting Innovation through Technology.** I will champion efforts to explore and refine a centralized online adjudication platform—one that’s intuitive, easily accessible, and adaptable to live, hybrid, or virtual formats. Technology should serve our values of accessibility and consistency while meeting the evolving needs of our students, members, and adjudicators.

6. **Strengthening Unity.** Strengthen unity across all levels of NATS by championing the consistent use of up-to-date resources from the NSA Resource Center, ensuring equity and fairness in every chapter and region. By embracing a shared pedagogical language and clear, compassionate standards, we can foster auditions that support and inspire all singers and members—regardless of geography or circumstance. When our processes are aligned, our purpose is unified.

Above all, I believe NATS auditions embody our deepest shared value: *every singer deserves to be heard, seen, and supported*. With thoughtful leadership, clear communication, and a collective commitment to unity, we can ensure our audition process not only exemplifies excellence, but fosters a lifelong love of singing, learning, and belonging.