



I'm an NSA National Semifinalist

WHAT'S NEXT?

2026 NSA National Semifinalist Deadlines

***** Current as of 7-1-26 *****

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GRAB A BITE AT THE FOOD KIOSK OPTION ON FRIDAY, JULY 3 FROM 11AM TO 1PM NEAR CONFERENCE ROOM 1 — FOLKS CAN WALK UP AND PURCHASE PRE-MADE SANDWICHES, SALAD, CHIPS, DRINKS, GRANOLA BARS, DRIP COFFEE, ETC. IT WILL BE THE SAME TYPE OF FOOD THAT IS LOCATED IN THEIR LOBBY, CAFE BOCADELLO. FOLKS CAN ALSO PURCHASE IT AT CAFE BOCADELLO, BUT THE KIOSK ON OUR FLOOR WILL HELP WITH LONG LINES AND HOPEFULLY HELP FOLKS GET NOURISHMENT IN A TIMELY MANNER.	4
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ALL NSA EVENTS will be held in

The San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter on the River Walk
 101 Bowie Street, San Antonio, Texas, USA, 78205

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NATS National Student Auditions Schedule

A more detailed schedule cannot be created until all Participation Declaration forms are submitted with any staff pianist requests/payments and a Semifinalist's place in the schedule is affirmed.

—————**ALL TIMES listed on this page are in San Antonio's Central Daylight Time Zone**—————

Welcome to San Antonio, Texas!

Thursday, July 2, 2026

Arrive in San Antonio as necessary to register early Friday morning—no exceptions to student registration.

Friday, July 3, 2026

7:00am–8:00am	CL/HJ/MT Semifinalist Registration	PEARL #3, Floor 2
7:00am–8:00am	CM Semifinalist Registration	PEARL #2, Floor 2
8:00am–8:50am	Staff Pianists meet with Coordinator Valerie Trujillo	SOUTHTOWN #2, Floor 2
8:00am–8:45am	MANDATORY CL/HJ/MT SEMIFINALIST MEETING	PEARL #3, Floor 2
8:00am–8:45am	MANDATORY CM SEMIFINALIST MEETING	PEARL #2, Floor 2
9:00am	CL/HJ/MT Staff Pianist Rehearsals <i>begin as tba scheduled</i>	CONFERENCE Rms, Floor 3
9:30am	All CM Rehearsals & Soundchecks <i>begin as tba schedule.</i>	PEARL & SOUTHTOWN Rms, Floor 2
12:00pm–9:30pm	CL/HJ/MT Semifinal Auditions <i>as tba scheduled.</i>	CONFERENCE Rms, Floor 3
9:00am–5:00pm	AuditionCon EXPO open	RIVERCENTER ATRIUM Floor 2

Saturday, July 4, 2026

7:30am–8:45pm	NSA Generations Alumni Breakfast (<i>tickets required</i>)	PEARL #3, Floor 2
8:00am–4:30pm	CM Semifinal Auditions <i>as tba scheduled</i>	PEARL & SOUTHTOWN Rms, Floor 2
9:00am–1:30pm	CL/HJ/MT Semifinal Auditions <i>continue as tba scheduled</i>	CONFERENCE Rms, Floor 3
9:00am	Conference Opening Ceremony: Our Mosaic of Music	SALON I (as in Isle)
11:15am	ANNOUNCEMENT of CL/HJ/MT Finalists	SALON M
5:00pm	CL & HJ FINALS in CONCERT (<i>tickets required</i>)	SALON I (as in Isle)
	<i>following finals</i> CL & HJ Categories AWARDS CEREMONY	SALON I (as in Isle)
5:00pm	MT FINALS in CONCERT (<i>tickets required</i>)	SALON B
	<i>following finals</i> MT Categories AWARDS CEREMONY	SALON B
8:30pm	ANNOUNCEMENT of CM Finalists	PEARL #3, Floor 2
7:30am–12:30pm	AuditionCon EXPO open, see p. 3	RIVERCENTER ATRIUM Floor 2

Sunday, July 5, 2026

10:00am	CM Finalist Soundchecks begin	SALON I (as in Isle)
2:30pm	CM FINALS in CONCERT (<i>tickets required</i>)	SALON I (as in Isle)
	<i>following finals</i> CM Categories AWARDS CEREMONY	SALON I (as in Isle)
7:30pm	Great American Songbook B'way Concert (<i>tickets required</i>)	SALON I (as in Isle)
10:00am–4:00pm	AuditionCon EXPO open, see p. 3	RIVERCENTER ATRIUM Floor 2

Monday, July 6, 2026

9:30am	Plenary Session: Bridging Bel Canto and Billboard	SALON I (as in Isle)
11:15am	Breakout Sessions	Floor 3 SALONS
4:00pm	Closing Ceremony: featuring NATSAA and NMTC Winners and Bernstein's <i>SongFest</i>	SALON B

FRIDAY, JULY 3

MANDATORY SEMIFINALIST MEETING 8:00am – 8:45am

- ALL Semifinalists and any supervising adults for younger students, but not their audition pianists, are required to attend this meeting, which will begin **promptly** at 8:00am.
- If a CM Semifinalist **is also** an HJ, CL, and/or MT Semifinalist, attend the meeting in Pearl #2, where you will receive all the information you need for all your semifinal categories.
- CL, MT, and HJ Semifinalists will meet in Pearl #3, where you had Registration.
- CM Semifinalists will meet in Pearl #2, where you had Registration.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND: *The NSA Team will be busy setting up for auditions, running rehearsals, and semifinal auditions on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. There are no alternate times during which Registration & Mandatory Meetings may be held. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience the early morning timing of these events may cause. We have a relatively short span of time in which to schedule rehearsals and auditions for hundreds of student-singers, who deserve the best experience we can plan and provide.*

Hungry?

Grab a bite at the Food Kiosk option on Friday, July 3 from 11am to 1pm near Conference Room 1 — folks can walk up and purchase pre-made sandwiches, salad, chips, drinks, granola bars, drip coffee, etc. It will be the same type of food that is located in their lobby, Cafe Bocadello. Folks can also purchase it at Cafe Bocadello, but the Kiosk on our floor will help with long lines and hopefully help folks get nourishment in a timely manner.

NATS GUIDEBOOK – Download today!

Make sure to download the GuideBook App on your phone and computer to get the most out of your NATS 59th National Conference experience. Scan the QR code below to get started. On your computer, please visit this URL: <https://builder.guidebook.com/g/nats59/>

Also check out the [Code of Conduct document](#). We ask everyone to help create a welcoming, respectful, and supportive environment for all attendees.

NSA NATIONAL SEMIFINALS & FINALS

1. In National Semifinal and in Final Auditions

- a. Students must only perform songs or arias entered in their region’s NSA auditions and their National NSA application. Adjudicators will have preprinted adjudication forms, which include the song and aria titles you entered in your application.
- b. Students must perform full songs and/or arias from memory—excepting only oratorio arias required in the categories for older students. No audition cuts are allowed. Please see the [NSA Categories of Entry](#)’s Regulations section, if uncertain about what cuts in the music are allowed, if any, in each CL, CM, HJ, or MT category.
- c. Dressing appropriately to audition:
 - Semifinalists may dress casually for rehearsals and dress as if performing in an afternoon recital for their Semifinal auditions.
 - Finalists may dress more formally to perform their auditions.
 - No costumes may be worn in any NSA Auditions. Please, consult your voice teacher about appropriate attire for auditioning in NSA.

1. National Semifinal Audition Time Limits

CATEGORY	STUDENTS	NATIONAL SEMIFINAL AUDITION TIME LIMIT
a. All Categories 1 & 2	Children & Youth	6 minutes
b. All Categories 3 & 4	High School-ages	8 minutes
c. All Categories 5 & 6	Lower post-HS	10 minutes
d. All Categories 7 & 8	Upper post-HS	12 minutes
e. All Categories 9 & 10	Advanced ages 30 or younger	15 minutes

2. National Semifinal Auditions

- a. A Semifinalist will begin by clearly introducing their name, then introduce the title of their selection from their entered songs or arias and perform that selection. CM Semifinalists should double-check the composer and lyricist of their selection.
Sometimes a CM song is not composed by the performer, who recorded the song. The audition continues by performing selections as requested by the panel of adjudicators. When the category’s time limit is reached, the audition must stop—even if in the middle of singing a phrase.
- b. There is no adjudication penalty nor bonus for any of the following circumstances:
 - singing all entered selections filling the audition’s time limit
 - not finishing all selections within the audition’s time limit
 - finishing all selections with time remaining before the audition’s time limit is reached
- c. As determined by the adjudicators, the top 3 singers from each Semifinal category will advance to National Finals.

3. Announcement of Finalists

Be prompt in attending the announcement of finalists your NSA Category. Not only will the finalists be announced, but semifinal adjudicators' comment sheets are given to Semifinalists when they show their NSA nametag. Finalists are also given instructions on how the finals concerts will run and where finalists should be and when for Concert Finals to progress smoothly.

After the Announcement of Finalists, all Finalists are required to remain in the announcement space to hear important instructions to prepare for finals.

SATURDAY

11:15am ANNOUNCEMENT of CL, HJ & MT Finalists SALON M

8:30pm or *after the CL HJ Finals are completed and awards presented*
ANNOUNCEMENT of CM Finalists PEARL #3

4. National Final Auditions

TICKETS REQUIRED

for guests, retain your ticket for entrance to any NSA Finals Event.

A guest is anyone who is not a Semifinalist or a pianist/instrumentalist who played for semifinal auditions.

All Final Auditions are conducted as a public concert, not in audition rooms, but on stage, before a public audience. Each Finalist will clearly introduce themselves by name and introduce the one song or aria they have chosen from their selections entered in their application, then perform that ONE song or aria as their audition. At the conclusion of their performance, Finalists should bow and acknowledge the musician accompanying them, then promptly exit the stage. More detailed instructions will be announced in a Finalists' Meeting at a time and location, which will be included in the Semifinalists' Mid-June email.

SATURDAY

5:00pm CL & HJ FINALS in CONCERT begins SALON I (I as in Isle)

5:00pm MT FINALS in CONCERT begins SALON B

SUNDAY

2:30pm CM FINALS in CONCERT begins SALON I (I as in Isle)

5. NSA Award Ceremonies

As soon as possible following the conclusion of each of our NSA Finals listed above, award certificates will be presented on stage to all three Finalists with monetary awards accompanying the First, Second, and Third Place Winners in each category. This year the cash awards will be accessed online instead of receiving checks onst

Audition Reminders

What you need. What you do.

- What do you need for your audition?
 - Copyright compliant copies of sheet music for their collaborative pianist
 - Your chaperone must be with you if you are a minor
- What to do for your audition
 - Arrive early
 - Check in outside your audition space - look for the person with a clipboard!
 - When asked to enter the audition space, the singer should enter the space followed by their collaborative pianist.
 - Take your place in front of the piano or at the mic stand depending on your audition. (Only CM singers will use a microphone.)
 - Slate:
 - Tell the adjudicators your name (first and last),
 - the title of the FIRST piece your are singing
 - The name of the musical or opera or larger work when applicable
 - And the name of the composer
 - Do not list additional pieces, tell the auditors where you go to school, who you study with, or any other identifying information.
 - The adjudicators will pick the remainder of the pieces you will perform during the allotted audition time for your category:
 - Children and Youth - 6 minutes.
 - High School - 8 minutes
 - Lower College - 10 minutes
 - Hall Johnson Spirituals - 10 minutes
 - Upper College - 12 minutes
 - Advanced - 15 minutes
 - The adjudication panel will stop any audition when the singers allotted time has been reached with a loud THANK YOU. Singers and their pianist should immediately stop, and quickly leave the space so the next singer can begin their audition.
 - Please note: You do NOT need copies of your music for the adjudication panel like some states require at solo and ensemble.

Prepare for Parking and Holiday Traffic

We want to make sure you plan ahead regarding parking downtown in the San Antonio Riverwalk area.

You will often find savings using an app such as SpotHero and for parking in the area.

Parking Rate Information - subject to change:

- Valet parking at the hotel varies starting at \$60 per day plus tax with in and out privileges
- Self parking at the hotel is \$47 per day plus tax
- Rivercenter Parking Garage (849 E. Commerce St.): Located directly at the attached mall, offering daily rates that generally cap around \$20 to \$35 depending on the specific duration and event schedules.
- Long Term Parking at the San Antonio Airport is \$16 per day plus tax

Transportation Options from SA Airport to the Hotel:

- Rideshare (Uber/Lyft): The fastest and most convenient choice. The 10-mile drive takes about 15 to 25 minutes depending on traffic. Fares generally range from \$30 to \$40.
- Taxi: Taxis are readily available outside the terminal and cost roughly \$28 to \$40 for the trip to the River Walk.
- Public Bus (VIA Metropolitan Transit): For a highly budget-friendly option, the VIA Route 5 or Route 7 bus picks up at the airport. A one-way ticket is \$2, and the ride takes about 30–35 minutes to drop you near the downtown area.

Expect Delays. Holiday Traffic Around the NSA Auditions and NATS Conference

Traffic around the [San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter](#) on July 4th will be extremely heavy with gridlock conditions expected in the late afternoon and evening due to high-profile Independence Day events. However, regional highway traffic will get a minor relief as the Texas Department of Transportation ([TxDOT](#)) typically pauses major construction closures on I-10 and I-35 over the holiday weekend.

Major Downtown Events Impacting Traffic:

- Independence Day Parade (10:00 AM): The parade runs along Broadway and moves down Houston Street. Expect immediate morning traffic delays and temporary rolling blocks near the hotel.
- [Stars & Stripes Downtown 5K](#) (8:30 AM): The race begins at Milam Park and ends at [Civic Park at Hemisfair](#). While it finishes early, morning street closures will disrupt standard traffic flow just blocks south of the hotel.

- [Independence Day at the Alamo](#) (9:00 AM – 3:00 PM): Located just blocks away, this free public celebration brings immense pedestrian crowds to the Alamo Plaza area.
- Stars & Stripes Fireworks & Festival (6:00 PM – 11:30 PM): Taking place at [Civic Park at Hemisfair](#) (immediately south of the hotel), this massive festival and the Downtown Spectacular Fireworks (9:00 PM) will cause severe congestion.

Road Closures to Watch For:

- Broadway & Houston Street: Expect strict closures during the morning parade window.
- E. Commerce St. and Market St.: While the city's official [Downtown Events Schedule](#) notes no permanent street closures on Commerce or Market for the fireworks, these primary corridors will face severe bumper-to-bumper delays.
- Bowie Street Access: Because your hotel sits directly between the East Commerce and Market Street intersections, getting in or out of the Marriott valet or the attached Rivercenter garage will be incredibly slow between 6:00 PM and 11:00 PM.

Navigation Tips for July 4th:

- Arrive Early: If you are checking in or parking a vehicle, try to do so before 4:00 PM to beat the heavy influx of local fireworks spectators.
- Expect Ride-Share Delays: Uber and Lyft drivers will face the same gridlock. Pickup and drop-off times at the hotel's front drive will take significantly longer than usual.
- Walk Whenever Possible: The River Walk Artisan Show and downtown festivities are all completely walkable from your hotel door, meaning you can easily avoid moving your car at all.

SNAG THOSE EVENT TICKETS

- a. Remember that you are invited to the **NSA GENERATIONS ALUMNI BREAKFAST** in a Pearl #3 in the Rivercenter on **Saturday at 7:30am, July 4, 2026**. For tickets [CLICK](#)



When: **Saturday, July 4th**
7:30 - 8:45 a.m.

Where: Pearl Room
2nd Floor

San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter

2. Remember that **AuditionCon Expo** offers a chance for schools, colleges and university as well as businesses to connect with student-singers. This will be held in the atrium spaces on Floor 2 just outside the audition rooms.



3. Admission to any of the **NSA Concert Finals** requires a ticket for individuals who aren't an NSA Semifinalist, a Semifinalist's collaborating musician, or did not register for the NATS Conference. One ticket allows entry to all 3 Concert Finals. [CLICK](#) to purchase your Concert Finals Tickets now. Why wait?
4. Broadway performers and real-life husband-and-wife duo [Caroline Bowman](#) and [Austin Colby](#) combine their talents for **The Great American Songbook**—a concert of Broadway and pop standards. [CLICK](#) to purchase your tickets to see these Broadway stars live in concert! On Broadway, Caroline Bowman played Elphaba in *Wicked* and Eva Perón in *Evita*, among other roles Austin Colby debuted on Broadway in *The Great Gatsby* and has performed in national tours of Broadway's *Frozen* and *The Sound of Music*

