

# VIDEO SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

## for Chapter, District, Region, & National Student Auditions



### RECORDING LOCATION

- You should record your video in the spirit of a live audition or recital performance. You may record in a home, school, church, synagogue, recital hall, rehearsal room, or voice studio with good natural acoustics with or without an audience. You should dress professionally, as you would for a recital or live audition.
- Alternately, you may excerpt an unedited video clip of your solo performance with a pianist of a song/aria from a recital performance performed on or after September 1st in the NSA cycle/academic year in which you are entering. Video excerpts from concerts, operas, revues, musicals, or operettas cannot be accepted.

### RECORDING

- All NSA video auditions must be performed on or after September 1st in the current NSA Cycle/academic year
- Record a separate, unedited video of each song/aria entered.
- Your camera must record your audition in **LANDSCAPE** (a horizontal camera-frame), from a fixed, audience-center position, as if adjudicators were seated in front of you.
- Face the camera as you would face adjudicators in a live audition.
- Your video must clearly show your face with your waist upward or more of your body in the camera's frame as needed to keep your physical performance within the camera's frame. Avoid empty space above head on video.
- View a short [4:37] video of [best practices](#) for recording video submissions.
- The student's slate (*see script at bottom of this page*) may be recorded as part of the performance **or** recorded separately from the singing, then edited to the beginning of the unedited video of the song/aria performed.

### COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS

#### In CLASSICAL, SPIRITUAL, and/or MUSICAL THEATRE Category Video Auditions

- Perform with a live pianist whenever possible. If a live pianist is not available, you may perform your **video audition** with a piano-only accompaniment track.
- If your voice teacher is your accompanist, their face or identity should not be visible in the video.
- Pianists must play piano or a keyboard either from memory or from **copyright-compliant** scores.
- A page-turner other than a voice teacher may be visible on camera as needed.
- At **live** national-level NSA auditions, live collaborative pianists are **required** in these categories. Staff collaborative pianists are available to request when completing your online national NSA entry forms.

#### In COMMERCIAL MUSIC Category Video Auditions

- **Mandatory:** Perform with a microphone on camera amplifying vocals—using no additional effects/filters. The microphone used on camera may feed directly into the camera or an external amp/speaker.
- In either live auditions or video submissions, for each song entered you may choose to: **1.** self-accompany from memory on an acoustic instrument, **2.** perform with only one live acoustic instrumentalist (*a keyboard is accepted as the only acoustic exception*), **or 3.** perform with an instrumental pre-recorded track with no backing vocals.  
**Remember:** an acoustic guitar is accepted, but an electric guitar is not—due to time and tech limitations.
- You may make the same or different accompaniment choices for each selection taking care to follow the NSA Commercial Music requirements for the category entered.
- If your voice teacher is your accompanist, their face must not be visible in the video.
- Accompanying instrumentalists may play by ear, from memory, from a score the singer composed, or from **copyright-compliant:** lyric sheets, lead sheets, sheet music, music in a published book, purchased transpositions, original music for original songs, or published music with markings to personalize your interpretation. Any photocopies must be accompanied by written permission of the copyright holder.
- A page-turner other than your voice teacher may be visible on camera as needed.

### AUDITION-PERFORMANCE

- **MANDATORY:** Slate/Introduce yourself and your selection at the beginning of each video. Introduce by stating **only:**

I am (*Your Name*)  
I will perform (*Title of Selection*) **or** I have (*Title of Selection*)  
from (*Title of Larger Work*) **OMIT THE TITLE OF THE LARGER WORK WHENEVER NOT APPLICABLE**  
by (*Composer's Name*) **IF A MUSICAL THEATRE SELECTION has an additional lyricist, ADD THE FOLLOWING LINE**  
and (*Lyricist's Name*)

**WHEN A MUSICAL IS BY A KNOWN WRITING TEAM, THE LAST TWO LINES ABOVE MAY BE SAID IN ANY ORDER**

Lerner & Loewe, Maltby & Shire, Ahrens & Flaherty, Lieber & Stoller, Barlow & Bear, and more are best known as lyricist & composer

- Perform each of your selections from memory in your video, unless otherwise stipulated in the NSA regulations. *(A singer may hold a score while performing Oratorio or Cantata arias as is standard performance practice.)*
- Participants in ALL NSA Categories (Classical, Musical Theatre, Spirituals, and/or Commercial Music) must perform full songs or arias. 16-bar, 32-bar, *etc.* audition cuts are not accepted.
- The identity, logo, or image of your teacher, school, location, or NATS chapter/district/region must not be spoken or revealed in your video in any way including posters, photographs, reflections in mirrors/glass/shiny surfaces, diplomas, flags, banners, video's titling and description, *etc.*

## YouTube Video Settings

- Select **“Unlisted”** in the privacy settings found under the Broadcasting and Sharing Options, when uploading your video files to YouTube. No other settings are accepted in NSA.
- Each video's title should be in the following format: **NATS NSA – Singer's Full Name**  
All video titles must be the same at all levels of NSA. Video titles must not contain any reference to chapter, district, or region, school, teacher, *etc.*
- Type in the YouTube **“Description”** for each video:  

**I DO NOT OWN THE COPYRIGHT TO THE MUSIC PERFORMED IN THIS VIDEO.  
THIS IS A STUDENT AUDITION NOT FOR PROFIT OR MONETIZATION.**

“Title of Selection”

Title of LARGER WORK *whenever applicable*

Composer's Name

*if a Musical Theatre selection, ADD:* & Lyricist's Name
- Turn off the **video comments option** on each video uploaded to YouTube.
- YouTube Channel Background, Banner, Titles, Logos, and Images must NOT reveal Teacher, School, Location, NATS Chapter/District/Region, Studio Names, or Affiliations of the Teacher or the Student auditioning.
- YouTube is the only video uploading platform accepted. *(No video auditions uploaded to Vimeo, Flickr, Vevo, or personal websites, etc. will be accepted.)*

## SUBMISSION

- In your online registration/entry, copy the complete web link/URL for each video matching the selection's title. No extra blank space either before or after the web address, please.
- Check your video submission's link to be sure the video and music are in sync, the volume of the singing is adequate to be adjudicated, and the performance is of a complete selection. The silences before and after your performance may be trimmed.
- **Double-check to be certain** the video performance matches the selection's title on YouTube and on your entry's registration. Video performances not matching titles may disqualify an audition.
- Upload 2, 3, 4, or 5 separate videos matching the number of selections required in your [Category of Entry](#).

## INVALID VIDEOS — The following issues make a video submission unacceptable

- Videos uploaded as **“private”** or **“removed by user”** obviously cannot be adjudicated
- Videos **revealing** teacher's identity, image, school, location, voice/music studio; student's school, location; or NATS: chapter, district, or region—in the video submitted OR on the YouTube channel used for uploading videos submitted
- Videos that pan and/or zoom during performances
- Videos using recording equipment that alters the acoustics of the venue or the sound quality of the singer by adding distractingly unrealistic reverb, altering the pitches sung, digitally altering or filtering the vocals either during or after the video is filmed
- Videos of repertoire not entered in your region's category in which you placed to qualify for national preliminaries
- CM Video Submissions, on which the singer is not performing with a microphone visible on camera to amplify their vocals
- CM Video Submissions with backing vocals on the accompaniment track
- CM Video Submissions with electric instruments other than one keyboard, or with more than one acoustic instrument providing the live accompaniment, *i.e.* any handheld percussion instruments like shakers count as one accompanying instrument
- CL, HJ, or MT Video Submissions with more than a piano or electric keyboard playing on the accompaniment track
- Videos that are incomplete—full songs are required
- Videos in which the singer appears to be looking at anything written to aid memorization
- Videos recorded/filmed before September 1st in the academic year of the video's submission
- Any video audition conducted or side-coached by another person (positioned on or off camera) during the video's recording
- YouTube submissions monetized on YouTube

## PLEASE FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES!

In past years, the NSA Team has contacted students to correct invalid videos submitted.

**Correcting invalid videos after the submission deadline will not continue.**

Whenever possible, invalid video submissions will be adjudicated for comments only.

Invalid video submissions are ineligible to advance to the next level of auditions.

**NSA National Preliminary YouTube Video Submissions are always due on the 2nd Friday in April.**