

# Chapter, District, Region, and National Student Auditions

The National Student Auditions begin at the regional level and progress to the national preliminary round, semifinal round and final round. Regional auditions should offer all of the categories contained in the “Category, Repertoire, Age, and Time Requirements” section of this document. In order to ensure across the board fairness and appropriate rigor to the National Student Auditions, Regions may only advance singers to NSA categories from a regional audition. Exceptions to this regulation must be approved by the NSA Coordinator, VP of Auditions, and NATS Executive Office staff. Winners of Chapter or District auditions may not be automatically advanced to the National Student Auditions.

## Category, Repertoire, Age, and Time Requirements

Category		Length of Study	Age Limit	*Time	Repertoire: all repertoire is sung from memory
1	High School Music Theater Women	No limit	14-19	8 minutes	Three contrasting Music Theater Selections from Staged Broadway or Off---Broadway productions.
2	High School Music Theater Men	No limit	14-19	8 minutes	Three contrasting Music Theater Selections from Staged Broadway or Off---Broadway productions.
3	High School Women	No limit	14-19	8 minutes	Three contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One art song in English. One art song in a foreign language. One additional art song or aria.
4	High School Men	No limit	14-19	8 minutes	Three contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One art song in English. One art song in a foreign language. One additional art song or aria.
5	Lower College Music Theater Women	0-2 post high school	22	10 minutes	Three contrasting Music Theater Selections from Staged Broadway or Off---Broadway productions.
6	Lower College Music Theater Men	0-2 years post high school	22	10 minutes	Three contrasting Music Theater Selections from Staged Broadway or Off---Broadway productions.
7	Lower College/ Independent Studio Women	0-2 years post high school	22	10 minutes	Three contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One aria or art song. One art song in English. One foreign language art song.
8	Lower College/ Independent Studio Men	0-2 years post high school	22	10 minutes	Three contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One aria or art song. One art song in English. One foreign language art song.
9	Upper College Music Theater Women	3-5 years post high school	25	12 minutes	Four contrasting Music Theater Selections from Staged Broadway or Off---Broadway productions.
10	Upper College Music Theater Men	3-5 years post high school	25	12 minutes	Four contrasting Music Theater Selections from Staged Broadway or Off---Broadway productions.
11	Upper College/ Independent Studio Women	3-5 post high school - all as undergraduate	25	12 minutes	Four contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One aria. One art song in English. One foreign language art song. One additional selection. At least three languages must be represented.
12	Upper College/ Independent Studio Men	3-5 post high school - all as undergraduate	25	12 minutes	Four contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One aria. One art song in English. One foreign language art song. One additional selection. At least three languages must be represented.
13	Advanced College/ Independent Studio Women	4+ post high school	22-30	15 minutes	Five contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One operatic aria. One oratorio/cantata aria. One foreign language art song. One art song in English. One additional selection from the classical repertoire. At least three languages must be represented.
14	Advanced College/ Independent Studio Men	4+ post high school	22-30	15 minutes	Five contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One operatic aria. One oratorio/cantata aria One foreign language art song. One art song in English One additional selection from the classical repertoire. At least three languages must be represented.

\*Times may vary due to size of the auditions at the Chapter, District, or Region.

Teachers of students who do not fit the age/years of study or gender identity constraints should be in contact with NSA coordinator for proper placement. Also refer to FAQ in the NSA Resource Center under Competitions and National Student Auditions on the NATS web page!

## Conference Year Only – Hall Johnson Spiritual Category

Hall Johnson Spiritual Category	No limit – undergraduate women and men	17-23	10-12 minutes	Three contrasting selections from Hall Johnson spiritual repertoire.
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Due to the generosity of the Hall Johnson Estate, a \$2000 award will be given in each **national conference** year (even-numbered years) to the best performance of a Hall Johnson Spiritual for the conferences from 2016--2036. All interested performers will apply for this category as part of regional student auditions with the top five regional singers advancing to the NSA rounds, as with all other categories. Chapters are also eligible and encouraged to add this competition to chapter auditions. Where applicable, Chapter auditions serve as qualifying rounds for advancement into region auditions.

Complete information including a catalog of works and links to publications related to this special category is available at [www.nats.org](http://www.nats.org).

# Subcategories for Chapter, District, and Region Auditions

Chapters, Districts, and Regions may subdivide the categories above in the following ways. Repertoire and time limits must remain the same.

High School Categories	Length of Study	Age Range/Limit	Time
Lower High School Music Theater Women <b>1A</b> or Men <b>2A</b>	No limit- all HS	14-16 9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8-10 minutes
Upper High School Music Theater Women <b>1B</b> or Men <b>2B</b>	No limit- all HS	16-19 11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8-10 minutes
Lower High School Women <b>3A</b> or Men <b>4A</b>	No limit- all HS	14-16 9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8-10 minutes
Upper High School Women <b>3B</b> or Men <b>4B</b>	No limit- all HS	16-19 11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8-10 minutes
Lower College Categories	Length of Study	Age Range/Limit	Time
First Year College/ Independent Studio Women <b>7A</b> or Men <b>8A</b> and Music Theater Women <b>5A</b> or Men <b>6A</b>	1 year post high school	20	10 minutes
Second Year College/ Independent Studio Women <b>7B</b> or Men <b>8B</b> and Music Theater Women <b>5B</b> or Men <b>6B</b>	2 years post high school	22	10 minutes
Upper College Categories	Length of Study	Age Range/Limit	Time
Third Year College/ Independent Studio Women <b>11A</b> or Men <b>12A</b> and Music Theater Women <b>9A</b> or Men <b>10A</b>	3 years post high school	23	12 minutes
Fourth/Fifth Year College/ Independent Studio Women <b>11B</b> or Men <b>12B</b> and Music Theater Women <b>9B</b> or Men <b>10B</b>	3-5 years post high school- all as undergraduate	25	12 minutes
Advanced Categories	Length of Study	Age Range/Limit	Time
Lower Advanced College/ Independent Studio Women <b>13A</b> or Men <b>14A</b>	5-7 years post high school	22-26	15 minutes
Upper Advanced College/ Independent Studio Women <b>13B</b> or Men <b>14B</b>	7+ post high school	25-30	15 minutes

Categories can be divided again because of high numbers of students as IA---1, IA---2 etc.

## Region, District, and Chapter Subdivided Category Numbering System

High School Categories	Lower College Categories	Upper College Categories
<b>1A</b> Lower High School Music Theater Women	<b>5A</b> First Year Music Theater Women	<b>9A</b> Third Year Music Theater Women
<b>2A</b> Lower High School Music Theater Men	<b>6A</b> First Year Music Theater Men	<b>10A</b> Third Year Music Theater Men
<b>1B</b> Upper High School Music Theater Women	<b>7A</b> First Year College/ Independent Studio Women	<b>11A</b> Third Year College/ Independent Studio Women
<b>2B</b> Upper High School Music Theater Men	<b>8A</b> First Year College/ Independent Studio Men	<b>12A</b> Third Year College/ Independent Studio Men
<b>3A</b> Lower High School Women	<b>5B</b> Second Year Music Theater Women	<b>9B</b> Fourth/Fifth Music Theater Women
<b>4A</b> Lower High School Men	<b>6B</b> Second Year Music Theater Men	<b>10B</b> Fourth/Fifth Year Music Theater Men
<b>3B</b> Upper High School Women	<b>7B</b> Second Year College/ Independent Studio Women	<b>11B</b> Fourth/Fifth Year College/ Independent Studio Women
<b>4B</b> Upper High School Men	<b>8B</b> Second Year College/ Independent Studio Men	<b>12B</b> Fourth/Fifth Year College/ Independent Studio Men
Advanced Categories		
<b>13A</b> Lower Advanced College/ Independent Studio Women	<b>14A</b> Lower Advanced College/ Independent Studio Men	
<b>13B</b> Upper Advanced College/ Independent Studio Women	<b>14B</b> Upper Advanced College/ Independent Studio Men	

Categories can be divided again because of high numbers of students as 1A---1, 1A---2 etc.

\*Chapter, District, and Region time limits may vary due to size of the auditions or other considerations. If the total length of selections exceeds the time limit, singers will present as much of their repertoire as the determined time limit allows. With the exception of "judicious cuts", selections are generally heard in their entirety until the time limit has been reached.

Teachers of students who do not fit the age/years of study or gender identity constraints should be in contact with the NSA Coordinator for proper placement. Also refer to FAQ!

## Audition Terminology

<b>Aria</b>	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.
<b>24/26/28 Italian Art Songs and Arias</b>	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.
<b>Memorization</b>	All repertoire, including oratorio, must be sung from memory.
<b>Original Languages</b>	Selections should be sung in original language or in translation if warranted by common performance practice.

<b>Transposition</b>	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.
<b>Classical Repertoire/Categories</b>	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.
<b>Judicious Cuts</b>	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.
<b>Music Theater Selections</b>	All repertoire must be from staged Broadway and Off---Broadway productions. The production may be a musical, revue, or song cycle but <b>MUST</b> have been staged <b>AND</b> 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).
<b>Comment Only</b>	Any student may register to sing for comments only and participate in the preliminary audition round.

## Other Audition Categories Defined (not in National Student Auditions)

Category	Length of Study	Age Limit	*Time	Repertoire: all repertoire is sung from memory
<b>Children</b>	No limit	11 and under/below 6 <sup>th</sup> grade	8 minutes	Two or three contrasting age appropriate selections from classical repertoire.
<b>Children’s Music Theater</b>	No limit	11 and under/below 6 <sup>th</sup> grade	8 minutes	Two or three contrasting age appropriate Music Theater selections from Staged Broadway and Off---Broadway productions.
<b>Youth</b>	No limit	11---14 6th - 8th grade	8 minutes	Two or three contrasting age appropriate selections from classical repertoire.
<b>Youth Music Theater</b>	No limit	11---14 6th - 8th grade	8 minutes	Two or three contrasting age appropriate Music Theater selections from Staged Broadway and Off---Broadway productions.
<b>*Adult Women</b>	No limit	22+	10---12 minutes	Three contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One art song in English. One art song in a foreign language. One additional art song or aria.
<b>*Adult Men</b>	No limit	22+	10---12 minutes	Three contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One art song in English. One art song in a foreign language. One additional art song or aria.
<b>*Adult Music Theater Women</b>	No limit	22+	10---12 minutes	Three contrasting Music Theater Selections from Staged Broadway or Off---Broadway productions.
<b>*Adult Music Theater Men</b>	No limit	22+	10---12 minutes	Three contrasting Music Theater Selections from Staged Broadway or Off---Broadway productions.
<b>CCM Women</b>	No limit	18+	10---12 minutes	Three contrasting selections from jazz, pop, rock, or other repertoire. Singers may specialize in a particular genre and have contrasting selections within the chosen genre OR may select repertoire from more than one genre.
<b>CCM Men</b>	No limit	18+	10---12 minutes	Three contrasting selections from jazz, pop, rock, or other repertoire. Singers may specialize in a particular genre and have contrasting selections within the chosen genre OR may select repertoire from more than one genre.

\*Adult categories are intended for serious adult avocational musicians.

NATS regions, Chapters and Districts are encouraged to create new categories that do not advance to the National Student Auditions that suit their students’ needs.