



National Association of Teachers of Singing Ohio Chapter

August 18, 2021

Dear Ohio NATS friends and colleagues:

I hope you have found a way to renew your spirit this Summer so you can continue to inspire the voices of tomorrow as the start of the academic year and Fall session begins. I look forward to serving the Ohio Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing as Vice President alongside President Beth Cram Porter.

We are entering Fall 2021 still navigating the COVID-19 pandemic and its variants. We have learned different ways to teach, audition, compete and perform. While not optimal, I know that I have been grateful for the opportunities to connect and grow while keeping myself, family, colleagues, and students safe and healthy.

You should have received an email from President Beth Cram Porter with important dates and information regarding the Fall auditions. To recap, find the information below.

- Friday, October 1, 2021 – You may begin registering your students for the Student Auditions.
- Monday, October 18, 2021 – Videos are due no later than 4:59 PM.
- Monday, October 18, 2021 – Registration closes at 5:00 PM.
- Saturday, November 6, 2021 – Virtual Chapter Business Meeting via Zoom will occur from 5:00-5:50 PM
- Saturday, November 6, 2021, 6:00 PM – Musical Theater Masterclass; 7:00 PM – Classical Singers Masterclass
- Saturday, November 6, 2021 – Winner's Announcement and Winner's Virtual Recital will go live at 8:15 PM.

The **student registration fee is \$25 per entry**. Student fees fund the prize money awarded to the winners. Each teacher may enter up to 15 students. There is no teacher registration fee since the auditions are virtual. More detailed information regarding the registration and audition process will be sent out in the next few weeks.

Below, I have shared several important pieces of information from the NSA Regulations committee. This is copied directly from the National Office letter. In addition, please review all attached information to familiarize yourself with these updates.

We will continue to utilize Auditionware for student registration. You will be able to upload the audition video links directly through the software. Stay tuned for a step-by-step document that will guide you through the registration process for auditions. We can do this!!!

We welcome new members. Please encourage teachers who are new to Ohio to join NATS and enter students in the competition. The more the merrier!

All the best,

Susan Wallin
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KEEP SCROLLING!

New Category and Repertoire Updates.

1. New numbering system for all National Student Auditions categories
 - a. When the NSA Regulations Committee created the first regulations document, it used an old numbering system with Roman numerals. The Roman numerals were then changed to Arabic numerals at the suggestion of most of the NATS entities. Adding new categories in the old system was becoming difficult because each addition required a higher number, making wide distributions of numbers in age categories. In preparation for the addition of new NSA categories during the current audition cycle and in future cycles, the NSA Regulations Committee has approved a new numbering system that will allow the needed flexibility for these new additions and subdivisions. You will see the new categories listed in the NSA Regulations and Categories documents, as well as in the Auditionware system. These category names will now be locked and unchangeable in the Auditionware system to facilitate coordination of the auditions at all levels. (The NSA Categories and Requirements document that is attached to this email is an abridged version of the categories/requirements information that is found in the complete NSA

Regulations document that will appear in the NSA Resource Center on the NATS website.)

2. New NSA categories advancing to the National Level.

- a. a. For the 2021-22 NSA National Rounds, the NATS Board of Directors has approved the expansion of the High School Classical and Musical Theatre categories. This means there will be four additional categories at the National level, with each of the current HS categories being subdivided into Upper and Lower. (complete categories document attached)

MT 3-A Lower HS Musical Theatre Treble Voice	14-16	9th and 10th Grade
MT 3-B Upper HS Musical Theatre Treble Voice	16-19	11th and 12th Grade
MT 4-A Lower HS Musical Theatre TBB Voice	14-16	9th and 10th Grade
MT 4-B Upper HS Musical Theatre TBB Voice	16-19	11th and 12th Grade
CL 3-A Lower HS Classical Treble Voice	14-16	9th and 10th Grade
CL 3-B Upper HS Classical Treble Voice	16-19	11th and 12th Grade
CL 4-A Lower HS Classical TBB Voice	14-16	9th and 10th Grade
CL 4-B Upper HS Classical TBB Voice	16-19	11th and 12th Grade

3. New/Revised Adjudication Rubrics: Commercial Music (CM), Musical Theatre (MT), Classical (CL) (documents attached)

4. Hall Johnson Competition Reminder

- a. The Hall Johnson Spirituals Competition will be held again during this audition cycle, culminating at the National Conference in Chicago. Please encourage your fellow members to have their students participate!

5. Classical Categories update on Oratorio, Mass, Requiem, and Cantata arias

- a. Singers may use music scores for these aria type as a reference in the traditional performance manner.
 - o Rationale:
 - Consistency with NATSAA which allows the use of a score
 - The number of singers choosing these arias has dropped to nearly zero
 - Singers may use music scores for these types of arias as is the traditional performance practice.
 - In performance practice, a score is almost always used.
 - Singers need to learn how to use a score in an audition

6. Transposition in Musical Theatre Categories

- a. After much discussion with the subcommittees of the NSA Regulations Committee and the Competitions Committee it is clear that allowing transposition in the Musical Theatre categories is the best course for NATS Student Auditions.
- o Rationale:
 - The industry is allowing transpositions for many roles in professional settings.
 - On-line vendors/publishers allow singers to purchase songs in just about any key possible.
 - Our auditions systems are not set up to enter or vet keys. Our volunteer auditions personnel do not have the time or training to begin to vet keys.

Therefore, the policy below was developed to allow transposition but require singers to retain the composer's style and the essence of the character.

Published transpositions are permitted. Singers are expected to retain the composer's intended style of music and to convey the essence of the character portrayed in the larger work. Performances not fulfilling these requirements may result in lower scores from adjudicators

7. Double Dipping

- a. Singers entering more than one category (Classical, Musical Theatre, Spiritual) in NATS auditions are allowed to sing the same piece in two categories provided that the repertoire requirements of both categories are met. Cross over repertoire in musical theatre and classical categories can be used during the same audition—for example, "Lonely House" from Street Scene can be used as an aria in the classical and a selection in musical theatre categories...or the same spiritual from Hall Johnson or American Negro Spiritual Categories can be used both as an art song in the classical and a selection in the spiritual categories. If a singer advances in NATS Auditions (chapter, region, national levels) in more than one category, they may not sing the same selection in multiple finals.