

# NATS National Student Auditions Categories of Entry



National Association of Teachers of Singing

- Treble Voices** — Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, Contralto, and Countertenor Voices
- TBB Voices** — Tenor, Baritone, and Bass Voices
- MT** — Musical Theatre
- CL** — Classical Art Songs & Arias
- CM** — Commercial Music
- AS** — American Negro Spirituals
- HJ** — Hall Johnson
- HS** — High School

- **Categories ADVANCING to National Auditions in the 2024-25 NSA Cycle**
- **Subdivided Categories ADVANCING to National Auditions by combining into a single category in the NSA National Preliminary YouTube Auditions**  
 AN EXAMPLE: **CL 1A** and **CL 1B** combine into one category, **CL 1**, in the national levels of NSA. If a region subdivides an NSA category, up to 10 students (those placing 1st through 5th in each subdivision) may advance from the region to the combined category in National Auditions.  
 AN EXCEPTION: Some highly populated and/or disparate subdivisions do advance as individual national categories without combining. These national level subdivisions function as independent categories. For example: **CL 3A** and **CL3B** are independent national categories and do not combine to become CL 3 in the National Auditions. See page 9 for subcategories advancing to National Auditions.
- **Categories that MUST be subdivided in NSA regions to advance independently to the NSA National Preliminary YouTube Auditions.**
- **Categories that alternate biennially and ADVANCE to National NSA Rounds in alternating years**
- **Categories NOT advancing to National Auditions in the 2024-25 NSA Cycle**

## CHILDREN & YOUTH CATEGORIES *(any length of study)*

Number	Category	Maximum Age / Grade Limit		Time	Repertoire Requirements
<b>CATEGORIES 1 &amp; 2 — CHILDREN &amp; YOUTH</b>					
MT 1	Children Musical Theatre—All Voices	11	below 6 <sup>th</sup> grade	6 minutes	TWO contrasting age-appropriate musical theatre selections from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles or musical theatre song literature. Only one selection may be chosen from operetta or musical theatre song literature.
MT 2	Youth Musical Theatre—All Voices	14	6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade	6 minutes	
CL 1	Children Classical—All Voices	11	below 6 <sup>th</sup> grade	6 minutes	TWO contrasting age-appropriate selections from classical repertoire.
CL 2	Youth Classical—All Voices	14	6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade	6 minutes	
CM 1	Children Commercial Music—All Voices	11	below 6 <sup>th</sup> grade	6 minutes	TWO contrasting age-appropriate selections performed in a Commercial Music style(s).
CM 2	Youth Commercial Music—All Voices	14	6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade	6 minutes	
<b>Subdivided Categories 1 &amp; 2 — Children &amp; Youth</b>					
MT 1A	Children Musical Theatre Lower—All Voices	9	below 6 <sup>th</sup> grade	6 minutes	Same as above
CL 1A	Children Classical Lower—All Voices	9	below 6 <sup>th</sup> grade	6 minutes	Same as above
CM 1A	Children Commercial Music Lower—All Voices	9	below 6 <sup>th</sup> grade	6 minutes	Same as above
MT 1B	Children Musical Theatre Upper—All Voices	11	below 6 <sup>th</sup> grade	6 minutes	Same as above
CL 1B	Children Classical Upper—All Voices	11	below 6 <sup>th</sup> grade	6 minutes	Same as above
CM 1B	Children Commercial Music Upper—All Voices	11	below 6 <sup>th</sup> grade	6 minutes	Same as above
MT 2A	Youth Musical Theatre Lower—All Voices	12	6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade	6 minutes	Same as above
CL 2A	Youth Classical Lower—All Voices	12	6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade	6 minutes	Same as above
CM 2A	Youth Commercial Music Lower—All Voices	12	6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade	6 minutes	Same as above
MT 2B	Youth Musical Theatre Upper—All Voices	14	6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade	6 minutes	Same as above
CL 2B	Youth Classical Upper—All Voices	14	6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade	6 minutes	Same as above
CM 2B	Youth Commercial Music Upper—All Voices	14	6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade	6 minutes	Same as above

# HIGH SCHOOL CATEGORIES

Number	Category	Length of Study	Maximum Age	Time	Repertoire Requirements	
<b>CATEGORIES 3 &amp; 4 — HIGH SCHOOL</b>						
<b>MT 3</b>	HS Musical Theatre—Treble Voices	No limit – all HS	19	8 minutes	THREE contrasting musical theatre selections from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles, or musical theatre song literature. Only one selection may be chosen from an operetta or musical theatre song literature.	
<b>MT 4</b>	HS Musical Theatre—TBB Voices	No limit – all HS	19	8 minutes		
<b>CL 3</b>	HS Classical—Treble Voices	No limit – all HS	19	8 minutes	THREE contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song sung in English; English must be the original language. One art song in a language other than English. One additional art song or aria.	
<b>CL 4</b>	HS Classical—TBB Voices	No limit – all HS	19	8 minutes		
<b>CM 3</b>	HS Commercial Music—Treble Voices	No limit – all HS	19	8 minutes	THREE contrasting full songs performed in a CM style(s): At least 1 ballad and 1 up tempo. Only 1 song may be an original song, instead of a cover. Only 1 song may be self-accompanied on an acoustic instrument, instead of performing with an instrumental track or one live collaborative acoustic instrumentalist.	
<b>CM 4</b>	HS Commercial Music—TBB Voices	No limit – all HS	19	8 minutes		
<b>AS 3<sup>†</sup></b>	HS American Negro Spiritual—All Voices	No limit – all HS	19	8 minutes	THREE classical arrangements of American Negro Spirituals contrasting by composer, tempo, and text. See approved spirituals repertoire on NATS.org	
<b>Subdivided Categories 3 &amp; 4 — High School</b>						
<b>MT 3A</b>	Lower HS Musical Theatre—Treble Voices	No limit – all HS	16	9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> grades	8 minutes	Same as above
<b>MT 4A</b>	Lower HS Musical Theatre—TBB Voices	No limit – all HS	16	9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> grades	8 minutes	
<b>MT 3B</b>	Upper HS Musical Theatre—Treble Voices	No limit – all HS	19	11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> grades	8 minutes	Same as above
<b>MT 4B</b>	Upper HS Musical Theatre—TBB Voices	No limit – all HS	19	11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> grades	8 minutes	
<b>CL 3A</b>	Lower HS Classical—Treble Voices	No limit – all HS	16	9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> grades	8 minutes	Same as above
<b>CL 4A</b>	Lower HS Classical—TBB Voices	No limit – all HS	16	9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> grades	8 minutes	
<b>CL 3B</b>	Upper HS Classical—Treble Voices	No limit – all HS	19	11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> grades	8 minutes	Same as above
<b>CL 4B</b>	Upper HS Classical—TBB Voices	No limit – all HS	19	11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> grades	8 minutes	
<b>CM 3A</b>	Lower HS Commercial Music—Treble Voices	No limit – all HS	16	9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> grades	8 minutes	Same as above
<b>CM 4A</b>	Lower HS Commercial Music—TBB Voices	No limit – all HS	16	9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> grades	8 minutes	
<b>CM 3B</b>	Upper HS Commercial Music—Treble Voices	No limit – all HS	19	11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> grades	8 minutes	Same as above
<b>CM 4B</b>	Upper HS Commercial Music—TBB Voices	No limit – all HS	19	11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> grades	8 minutes	
When the number of entries becomes large <b>American Negro Spiritual may be split into Upper &amp; Lower Ages.</b> The same system would be used: <b>AS 3A &amp; AS 3B</b> and/or <b>AS 4A &amp; AS 4B</b> .						

# LOWER POST HIGH SCHOOL CATEGORIES

Number	Category	Length of Study	Age Limit	Time	Repertoire Requirements
<b>CATEGORIES 5 &amp; 6 — LOWER POST HIGH SCHOOL</b>					
MT 5	Lower Musical Theatre—Treble Voices	1–2 yrs. Post HS	22	10 minutes	THREE contrasting musical theatre selections: from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles, or musical theatre song literature. Only <u>one</u> selection may be chosen from an operetta or musical theatre song literature.
MT 6	Lower Musical Theatre—TBB Voices	1–2 yrs. Post HS	22	10 minutes	
CL 5	Lower Classical—Treble Voices	1–2 yrs. Post HS	22	10 minutes	THREE contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song sung in English; English must be the original language. One art song in a language other than English. One additional art song or aria.
CL 6	Lower Classical—TBB Voices	1–2 yrs. Post HS	22	10 minutes	
CM 5	Lower Commercial Music—Treble Voices	1–2 yrs. Post HS	22	10 minutes	THREE contrasting full songs performed in a CM style(s): At least 1 ballad and 1 up tempo. Only 1 song may be an original song, instead of a cover. Only 1 song may be self-accompanied on an acoustic instrument, instead of performing with an instrumental track or one live collaborative acoustic instrumentalist.
CM 6	Lower Commercial Music—TBB Voices	1–2 yrs. Post HS	22	10 minutes	
AS 7 <sup>†</sup>	Intermediate American Negro Spiritual—All Voices	1–3 yrs. post HS	23	10 minutes	THREE classical arrangements of American Negro Spirituals contrasting by composer, tempo, and text. See approved spirituals repertoire on NATS.org
<b>Subdivided Categories 5 &amp; 6 — Lower Post High School</b>					
MT 5A	1 <sup>st</sup> yr. Musical Theatre—Treble Voices	1 yr. post HS	20	10 minutes	Same as above
MT 6A	1 <sup>st</sup> yr. Musical Theatre—TBB Voices	1 yr. post HS	20	10 minutes	
CL 5A	1 <sup>st</sup> yr. Classical—Treble Voices	1 yr. post HS	20	10 minutes	Same as above
CL 6A	1 <sup>st</sup> yr. Classical—TBB Voices	1 yr. post HS	20	10 minutes	
CM 5A	1 <sup>st</sup> yr. Commercial Music—Treble Voices	1 yr. post HS	20	10 minutes	Same as above
CM 6A	1 <sup>st</sup> yr. Commercial Music—TBB Voices	1 yr. post HS	20	10 minutes	
MT 5B	2 <sup>nd</sup> yr. Musical Theatre—Treble Voices	2 yrs. post HS	22	10 minutes	Same as above
MT 6B	2 <sup>nd</sup> yr. Musical Theatre—TBB Voices	2 yrs. post HS	22	10 minutes	
CL 5B	2 <sup>nd</sup> yr. Classical—Treble Voices	2 yrs. post HS	22	10 minutes	Same as above
CL 6B	2 <sup>nd</sup> yr. Classical—TBB Voices	2 yrs. post HS	22	10 minutes	
CM 5B	2 <sup>nd</sup> yr. Commercial Music—Treble Voices	2 yrs. post HS	22	10 minutes	Same as above
CM 6B	2 <sup>nd</sup> yr. Commercial Music—TBB Voices	2 yrs. post HS	22	10 minutes	

**†PLEASE NOTE: The Hall Johnson Spirituals Competition is held only in NSA audition cycles culminating at the NATS national conference.**

**The American Negro Spiritual Category is offered in NSA audition cycles culminating at the NATS national summer workshop.**

**†† Singers may hold the music score for oratorio/cantata aria, in exception to the memorization requirement.**

# UPPER POST HIGH SCHOOL CATEGORIES

Number	Category	Length of Study	Age Limit	Time	Repertoire Requirements
<b>CATEGORIES 7 &amp; 8 — UPPER POST HIGH SCHOOL</b>					
MT 7	Upper Musical Theatre—Treble Voices	3–5 yrs. post HS not in a grad prog	25	12 minutes	FOUR contrasting musical theatre selections: from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles, or musical theatre song literature. Only <u>one</u> selection may be chosen from an operetta <u>or</u> musical theatre song literature.
MT 8	Upper Musical Theatre—TBB Voices	3–5 yrs. post HS not in a grad prog	25	12 minutes	
CL 7	Upper Classical—Treble Voices	3–5 yrs. post HS not in a grad prog	25	12 minutes	FOUR contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song sung in English; English must be the original language. One art song in a language other than English. One aria. One additional selection from classical repertoire. At least 3 languages must be represented.
CL 8	Upper Classical—TBB Voices	3–5 yrs. post HS not in a grad prog	25	12 minutes	
CM 7	Upper Commercial Music—Treble Voices	3–5 yrs. post HS not in a grad prog	25	12 minutes	FOUR contrasting full songs performed in a CM style(s): Up to 2 songs may be original songs, instead of covers. Up to 2 songs may be self-accompanied on an acoustic instrument, instead of performing with an instrumental track or one live collaborative acoustic instrumentalist.
CM 8	Upper Commercial Music—TBB Voices	3–5 yrs. post HS not in a grad prog	25	12 minutes	
AS 7†	Intermediate American Negro Spiritual—All Voices <i>(4<sup>th</sup> yr. or more post HS students enter the AS 9 advanced category)</i>	1–3 yrs. post HS	23	10 minutes	THREE classical arrangements of American Negro Spirituals contrasting by composer, tempo, and text. See approved spirituals repertoire on NATS.org
<b>Subdivided Categories 7 &amp; 8 — Upper Post High School</b>					
MT 7A	3 <sup>rd</sup> yr. Musical Theatre—Treble Voices	3 yrs. post HS	23	12 minutes	<i>Same as above</i>
MT 8A	3 <sup>rd</sup> yr. Musical Theatre—TBB Voices	3 yrs. post HS	23	12 minutes	
CL 7A	3 <sup>rd</sup> yr. Classical—Treble Voices	3 yrs. post HS	23	12 minutes	<i>Same as above</i>
CL 8A	3 <sup>rd</sup> yr. Classical—TBB Voices	3 yrs. post HS	23	12 minutes	
CM 7A	3 <sup>rd</sup> yr. Commercial Music—Treble Voices	3 yrs. post HS	23	12 minutes	<i>Same as above</i>
CM 8A	3 <sup>rd</sup> yr. Commercial Music—TBB Voices	3 yrs. post HS	23	12 minutes	
MT 7B	4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> yr. Musical Theatre—Treble Voices	4–5 yrs. post HS not in a grad prog	25	12 minutes	<i>Same as above</i>
MT 8B	4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> yr. Musical Theatre—TBB Voices	4–5 yrs. post HS not in a grad prog	25	12 minutes	
CL 7B	4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> yr. Classical—Treble Voices	4–5 yrs. post HS not in a grad prog	25	12 minutes	<i>Same as above</i>
CL 8B	4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> yr. Classical—TBB Voices	4–5 yrs. post HS not in a grad prog	25	12 minutes	
CM 7B	4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> yr. Commercial Music—Treble Voices	4–5 yrs. post HS not in a grad prog	25	12 minutes	<i>Same as above</i>
CM 8B	4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> yr. Commercial Music—TBB Voices	4–5 yrs. post HS not in a grad prog	25	12 minutes	

# Biennial HALL JOHNSON SPIRITUALS COMPETITION

Number	Category	Length of Study	Age Limit	Time	Repertoire Requirements
<b>HALL JOHNSON SPIRITUALS COMPETITION</b>					
HJ 7†	Hall Johnson—All Voices <i>Not Active in 2024–25 Audition Cycle</i>	post HS undergraduate students only	17–23	10 minutes	THREE contrasting selections from approved Hall Johnson spirituals repertoire. See approved spirituals repertoire on NATS.org

†PLEASE NOTE: The Hall Johnson Spirituals Competition is held only in NSA audition cycles culminating at the NATS national conference.  
The American Negro Spiritual Category is offered in NSA audition cycles culminating at the NATS national summer workshop.

†† Singers may hold the music score for oratorio/cantata aria, in exception to the memorization requirement.

# ADVANCED CATEGORIES

## Post-Baccalaureate Students

Number	Category	Length of Study	Age Limit	Time	Repertoire Requirements
<b>CATEGORIES 9 &amp; 10 — ADVANCED</b>					
MT 9	Advanced Musical Theatre—Treble Voices <i>Consider NATS National Musical Theatre Competition</i>	4+ yrs. post HS	30	15 minutes	FIVE contrasting musical theatre selections: from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles, or musical theatre song literature. Only <u>one</u> selection may be chosen from an operetta <u>or</u> musical theatre song literature.
MT 10	Advanced Musical Theatre—TBB Voices <i>Consider NATS National Musical Theatre Competition</i>	4+ yrs. post HS	30	15 minutes	
CL 9	Advanced Classical—Treble Voices	4+ yrs. post HS	30	15 minutes	FIVE contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English.* One art song in a language other than English. One opera aria. One oratorio/cantata aria.†† One additional selection from the classical repertoire. At least three languages must be represented.
CL10	Advanced Classical—TBB Voices	4+ yrs. post HS	30	15 minutes	
CM 9	Advanced Commercial Music—Treble Voices	4+ yrs. post HS	30	15 minutes	FIVE contrasting full songs performed in a CM style(s): Up to 3 songs may be original songs, instead of covers. Up to 2 songs may be self-accompanied on an acoustic instrument, instead of performing with an instrumental track or one live collaborative acoustic instrumentalist.
CM 10	Advanced Commercial Music—TBB Voices	4+ yrs. post HS	30	15 minutes	
AS 9 <sup>†</sup>	Advanced American Negro Spiritual—All Voices	4+ yrs. post HS	30	12 minutes	FOUR classical arrangements of American Negro Spirituals contrasting by composer, tempo, and text. See approved spirituals repertoire on NATS.org
<b>Subdivided Categories 9 &amp; 10 — Advanced</b>					
MT 9A	Lower Advanced Musical Theatre—Treble Voices	4–7 yrs. post HS	26	15 minutes	Same as above
MT10A	Lower Advanced Musical Theatre—TBB Voices	4–7 yrs. post HS	26	15 minutes	
MT 9B	Upper Advanced Musical Theatre—Treble Voices	7+ yrs. post HS	30	15 minutes	
MT 10B	Upper Advanced Musical Theatre—TBB Voices	7+ yrs. post HS	30	15 minutes	
CL 9A	Lower Advanced Classical—Treble Voices	4–7 yrs. post HS	26	15 minutes	Same as above
CL 10A	Lower Advanced Classical—TBB Voices	4–7 yrs. post HS	26	15 minutes	
CL 9B	Upper Advanced Classical—Treble Voices	7+ yrs. post HS	30	15 minutes	
CL 10B	Upper Advanced Classical—TBB Voices	7+ yrs. post HS	30	15 minutes	
CM 9A	Lower Advanced Commercial Music—Treble Voices	4–7 yrs. post HS	26	15 minutes	Same as above
CM 10A	Lower Advanced Commercial Music—TBB Voices	4–7 yrs. post HS	26	15 minutes	
CM 9B	Upper Advanced Commercial Music—Treble Voices	7+ yrs. post HS	30	15 minutes	
CM 10B	Upper Advanced Commercial Music—TBB Voices	7+ yrs. post HS	30	15 minutes	

<sup>†</sup>PLEASE NOTE: The Hall Johnson Spirituals Competition is held only in NSA audition cycles culminating at the NATS national conference.  
The American Negro Spiritual Category is offered in NSA audition cycles culminating at the NATS national summer workshop.

<sup>††</sup> Singers may hold the music score for oratorio/cantata aria, in exception to the memorization requirement.

# ADULT AVOCATIONAL CATEGORIES

Students neither pursuing nor holding a degree in music and not working as professional musicians

Number	Category	Length of Study	Age Limit	Time	Repertoire Requirements
<b>CATEGORIES 11 &amp; 12 — ADULT AVOCATIONAL</b>					
MT 11	Adult Musical Theatre—Treble Voices	No Limit	none	10–12 minutes	THREE contrasting musical theatre selections: from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles or musical theatre song literature. Only one selection may be chosen from operetta or musical theatre song literature.
MT 12	Adult Musical Theatre—TBB Voices	No Limit	none	10–12 minutes	
CL 11	Adult Classical—Treble Voices	No Limit	none	10–12 minutes	THREE contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song sung in English; English must be the original language. One art song in a language other than English. One additional art song or aria.
CL 12	Adult Classical—TBB Voices	No Limit	none	10–12 minutes	
CM 11	Adult Commercial Music—Treble Voices	No Limit	none	10–12 minutes	THREE contrasting full songs performed in a CM style(s): At least 1 ballad and 1 up tempo. Only 1 song may be an original song, instead of a cover. Only 1 song may be self-accompanied on an acoustic instrument, instead of performing with an instrumental track or one live collaborative acoustic instrumentalist.
CM 12	Adult Commercial Music—TBB Voices	No Limit	none	10–12 minutes	

# NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT CATEGORIES

Students pursuing or holding degrees in music and whose age or level of study falls outside the limits of other categories

Number	Category	Length of Study	Age Limit	Time	Repertoire Requirements
<b>CATEGORIES 13 &amp; 14 — NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENTS</b>					
MT 13	Adult Musical Theatre—Treble Voices	No Limit	none	10–12 minutes	THREE contrasting musical theatre selections: from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles or musical theatre song literature. Only one selection may be chosen from operetta or musical theatre song literature.
MT 14	Adult Musical Theatre—TBB Voices	No Limit	none	10–12 minutes	
CL 13	Adult Classical—Treble Voices	No Limit	none	10–12 minutes	THREE contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song sung in English; English must be the original language. One art song in a language other than English. One additional art song or aria.
CL 14	Adult Classical—TBB Voices	No Limit	none	10–12 minutes	
CM 13	Adult Commercial Music—Treble Voices	No Limit	none	10–12 minutes	THREE contrasting full songs performed in a CM style(s): At least 1 ballad and 1 up tempo. Only 1 song may be an original song, instead of a cover. Only 1 song may be self-accompanied on an acoustic instrument, instead of performing with an instrumental track or one live collaborative acoustic instrumentalist.
CM 14	Adult Commercial Music—TBB Voices	No Limit	none	10–12 minutes	

NATS encourages chapters and regions to create additional categories to address the inclusivity and diversity of all students and repertoire. NATS entities may not alter the NSA categories in this document but may create additional NSA categories to meet the needs of that entity’s membership. Currently, any additional or new categories cannot advance to the National Auditions in NSA.