



## 2026 National Student Auditions – International Region

### RULES AND REGULATIONS

#### PURPOSE

- A. To offer students of member teachers of NATS:
1. Encouragement toward more diligent study in the preparation of appropriate repertoire;
  2. An opportunity to perform under conditions designed to provide the most complete and total consideration for the student, and one which will ideally combine the best elements of non-competitive and competitive performance;
  3. A specific goal, stimulating the desire and incentive for vocal and musical self-improvement;
  4. An opportunity to sing before qualified and impartial judges, and to receive careful and constructive criticism;
  5. Opportunities for public appearance by outstanding students;
  6. Recognition of achievement and talent by appropriate awards.
- B. To provide opportunities for professional growth for NATS members through the sharing of ideas, encountering new repertoire, hearing other teachers' students on an annual basis, and participating in carefully considered evaluations.

#### ELIGIBILITY AND PROCEDURE

- A. Any student who resides in the state of Hawaii and any of the non-US and Canada locations, currently studying with an active NATS member in good standing is eligible.
- B. If the student has been studying with the sponsoring teacher for less than eight (8) months, acknowledgment must be made of the student's former vocal study both on the application and in any public announcements. The NATS Code of Ethics provides that "It is unethical to claim as a pupil one having studied less than eight months with a teacher except where there has been no previous training."
- C. All registration and payment of fees for teachers, performers and accompanists must be done **online only** via *Auditionware*. Hard copies and checks are not accepted.

To enter students in Region NSA Events, as well as registering for the Regional Conference: Go to your NATS.org member homepage and scroll down to click on the green AuditionWare button for a single sign-in to AuditionWare.com

**\*\*Registration and payment of fees must be completed by 11:59pm EST on February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2026\*\***

- D. Teachers must participate in the Auditions. All teachers who enter students must attend and be available to adjudicate or to assist in the Auditions for the preliminary and semi-final rounds.
- E. During registration, indicate your teacher relationship with the student being registered. Use the following "Clarifying Definitions of Sponsoring Teachers Language" when making your choice.

**Clarifying Definitions of Sponsoring Teachers Language:**



**Primary Voice Teacher**—the teacher who currently teaches a student the majority of their weekly voice lessons in an independent studio or who currently teaches the student voice lessons as a requirement or elective in an academic degree program.

**Concurrent Teacher**—a teacher, who in addition to a primary teacher, also currently teaches weekly voice lessons to the same student. Common examples: voice teachers addressing different genres of vocal music or having different areas of expertise desired by the students.

**Supplemental Teacher**—a teacher, who in addition to a primary teacher, also currently teaches voice lessons to a student on a less than weekly basis.

**Former Voice Teacher**—teachers who previously taught a student voice lessons within the previous eight months, who no longer teaches the student being entered. Common examples: voice teachers of students who have changed voice teachers and voice teachers of students who, after earning a diploma or degree, have begun a subsequent vocal degree program at a different institution or with a different voice teacher.

**Remote Voice Teacher** – the teacher currently teaching a student that resides in a different NATS chapter than the teacher. Remote Voice Teachers are considered Primary Voice Teachers unless designated as Remote Concurrent or Remote Supplemental.

Members should respect a student's prerogative to obtain instruction from any teacher(s) of their choice, including concurrent study with another teacher(s). Transparency should be maintained among all parties.

In order to maintain transparency in the registration process, **the two teachers with whom the student concurrently studies must communicate directly with one another *prior* to registering a student for a NATS audition.**

F. When registering a student, a student's age on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 will determine the student's category of entry along with the student's year of voice study in progress on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Students will remain in the same category(s) for an entire audition cycle – even if later in the academic year on their birthday, they age out of the category. September 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 is the first day of the current audition cycle and is designated here for that reason.

G. NO REPERTOIRE CHANGES are allowed after the registration period has closed.

H. All singers and accompanists must perform from lawful editions and observe and obey copyright laws. Please contact the Auditions Chair if you have any questions regarding copyright requirements. **Refer to the NATS Policy on Copyright Laws for more information found at [https://nats.org/Copyright\\_Resources.html](https://nats.org/Copyright_Resources.html).**

I. All selections must be sung from memory except for oratorio/cantata arias. Singers may hold the music score for oratorio/cantata arias, in exception to the memorization requirement.

J. No repertoire changes are allowed once the student has sung in the Preliminary round. Should a student advance to the National Student Auditions, the same repertoire used at the Region Auditions must be sung in the National Auditions. No repertoire changes will be allowed between Region and National Auditions.

**NOTE:** Any student may, with the teacher's permission, choose to sing for comment only within any classification. This information should be indicated during the registration process and on the adjudication sheets. No restriction on age or length of study should apply. The student will be permitted to sing all prepared selections, provided they fall within time guidelines.



## Voice Gender Classification

Students who self-identify as transgender or gender fluid must choose one audition category in Classical and/or Music Theater based on their gender identity at the time of the chapter or regional audition and select repertoire linked and associated with the gender of that category throughout the corresponding audition season.

Treble voice singers must register for treble categories regardless of gender identity. TBB voice singers must register for TBB categories regardless of gender identity. Categories themselves are gender neutral.

As per the new National Guidelines, Countertenors are now considered Treble Voices and are therefore included in Classical categories CL3, CL5, CL7, CL9 and CL11.

NATS teacher members who meet the requirements of a student audition category---age and years of study--- may enter student auditions through the NATS member with whom they are currently studying, but they may not enter themselves in the audition.

If they enter their students in the audition, they must be available to adjudicate a category as well.

## Video Submission Guidelines

[https://www.nats.org/Library/NSA\\_Files/2025-26\\_NSA\\_Video\\_Submission\\_Guidelines.pdf](https://www.nats.org/Library/NSA_Files/2025-26_NSA_Video_Submission_Guidelines.pdf)

Note: **Please follow these guidelines closely**, as Youtube has recently changed their policy and flagged many videos that are filmed vertically (portrait) for copyright and content ID problems and blocked them.

## ADJUDICATION AND STRUCTURE OF AUDITIONS

The principal purpose of the Auditions is to give each student a full hearing before qualified and impartial judges, as well as the opportunity to receive careful and constructive criticism. Evaluative comments and ideas are of great value to students and teachers. Each judge should make as comprehensive a critique as time allows, acknowledging achievement and encouraging improvement. Comments that would be embarrassing to the teacher or discouraging to the student must be avoided; no one should be criticized to the point of humiliation or defeat. Since the Auditions are important to the participating students who have made a significant investment in time, energy, and money, the experience should be positive and rewarding. The real competition is between the student and his/her own self-image or self-imposed goals. The preparation for the Auditions and the written constructive criticisms are far more valuable than any award or honor given to the student.

### CATEGORIES

In this year's Regional Auditions, the following categories in Musical Theater (MT), Classical (CL) Spiritual (HJ) and Commercial Music (CM) will be offered:

Categories 1-2 – Children and Youth: MT1, MT2, CL1, CL2, CM1, CM2

Categories 3-4 – High School: MT3, MT4, CL3, CL4, CM3, CM4 (all High School categories are subdivided into upper and lower categories.)

Categories 5-6 – Lower Post High School: MT5, MT6, CL5, CL6, CM5, CM6

Categories 7-8 – Upper Post High School: MT7, MT8, CL 7, CL8, CM7, CM8, Hall Johnson Spiritual HJ7

Categories 9-10 – Post-Baccalaureate Students: CL9, CL10, CM9, CM10, MT9/10 (MT non-NSA-eligible)

Categories 11-12 – Adult Avocational (not NSA-eligible): MT11, MT12, CL11, CL12, CM11, CM12

Categories 13-14 – Non-Traditional Students (not NSA-eligible): MT13, MT14, CL13, CL14, CM13, CM14



**Age limits, Repertoire Requirement and terminology can be found here:**

[https://www.nats.org/Library/NSA\\_Files/2025-26\\_NSA\\_Categories\\_of\\_Entry.pdf](https://www.nats.org/Library/NSA_Files/2025-26_NSA_Categories_of_Entry.pdf)

Continuing this year, and only as **one-year pilot programs**, are the following:

1. The International Region's students entering an NSA Classical Category have **the option** to perform an art song in English (English must be the original language) —OR— instead perform an art song in which the **original** text is in the official language or most commonly spoken language in their country of residence. In either case, these art songs must be settings of the text originally set by the composer and performed in that original language.
2. The International Region's students have **the option** to enter their selections in the Musical Theatre Categories performed in English —OR— in translation to the official language or most commonly spoken language in their country of residence.
3. Please note that these exceptions are available **ONLY** to students in the International Region and its Chapters. Hawaiian students are not included.

**Note: Singers are asked to use the same email for ALL rounds of the Student Auditions to ensure they receive all important communication.**

#### **PRELIMINARY ROUND**

1. In each category there will be 3 judges assigned. Adjudicators will evaluate the videos submitted by each student in the category. Comments will be submitted online.
2. During the preliminary round, adjudicators will write constructive comments and a score between 70 and 100 online.
3. **NO REPERTOIRE CHANGES** may be made for the duration of the Region Student Auditions once a student has sung in the preliminary round.

#### **SEMIFINAL ROUND**

1. All students who have received 2 scores of 90 and above or an average score of 90 and above will advance to the semifinal round. There is no limit on the number of semi finalists.
2. Adjudicators will evaluate the videos submitted by each student in the category to which they are assigned. Comments will be submitted online.
3. During the semifinal round, adjudicators will write constructive comments and a score between 70 and 100 online.

#### **FINAL ROUND**

1. The top 3 students from each category will advance to the final round, regardless of numerical score.
2. Only the song chosen for the final round/recital (during the registration process) will be evaluated.
3. No written comments will be provided in this round.
4. Guest judges will serve as adjudicators for the final round. Winners in each category will be ranked by the adjudicators.
5. Awards and places will be announced during the broadcast. First, second and third place will be announced on the website shortly following the final round. Note: The top 5 students of each category are eligible to apply for the National Student Auditions, yet only the top 3 singers will be competing as finalists.

#### **ADVANCEMENT TO THE NATIONAL STUDENT AUDITIONS**

1. Repertoire used at the Region Auditions **MUST** be used in the National Auditions. **NO REPERTOIRE CHANGES** are allowed.
2. The top five students in each Region category will be eligible to advance to the National Student Auditions. This number includes the three students who participated in the Region finals as well as the next two highest scorers in the category.
3. The Preliminary round of the National Student Auditions is a video round by invitation only. Eligible students will receive an invitation from the National office via email.



4. **The deadline for video submission for the National round is always the SECOND FRIDAY of APRIL.**
5. As **one-year pilot program**, International Region students who advance to NSA's National Semifinals (and potentially the NSA's National Finals) will audition live via Zoom from their home country at the scheduled time of their category(s)'s semifinals (and potentially the category's finals) for the same adjudicators as each category's live auditions. Semifinals will be viewed by the adjudicators on a computer screen. Finals will be shared on a large screen for the entire audience, whenever the hosting venue has the technology to support this option. We understand this proves to be challenging in terms of differences in time zones and have no alternate solution that keeps the zoomed auditions on par with the live auditions.  
To keep NSA's National Semifinal and Final auditions fair, students must perform these auditions from memory with a live pianist just as the live students must do.

### **FEE SCHEDULE**

*Collect all fees from students and make one payment after all students have been registered on the Auditions website. **Registration is not complete until payment is made.***

**Teacher Registration Fee** - \$25 (includes conference registration)

**Student Registration Fee (for all auditioning students)** - \$25 per student per category

**Conference Registration Fee** - \$25 (for those who are not entering students, but attending the conference)

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### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

*For any questions that cannot be answered by this document, or the help guide in Audition Now, direct them to:*

Stephen Ng, Auditions Chair  
[sng@wcupa.edu](mailto:sng@wcupa.edu)

Sandra Oberoi, International Region Governor  
[sandra@harmonybangalore.com](mailto:sandra@harmonybangalore.com)

*For any questions regarding conference activities, please contact:*

Alexander Lee, Conference Chair  
[singerwook@gmail.com](mailto:singerwook@gmail.com)

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### **TIMELINE**

#### **January 1 – Registration opens**

Teachers and Students must register and submit all fees by first logging in at the [www.nats.org](http://www.nats.org) and then selecting "AuditionWare" green button, under "NATS National Student Auditions."

#### **February 2 – Registration deadline**

All student/teacher registrations must be completed by this date, along with submission of online payment and video links. The repertoire information for each student should also be entered. Be sure to indicate which song will be used for the Final Round should the student advance to that round.

#### **February 9-16 – Preliminary Round**



Judges will be assigned. Each teacher who has entered students must be available to judge unless a Judging Waiver fee has been paid. Each judge will view the videos for each student in the category to which the judge is assigned and submit comments online. All comments should be written in English. All judging for this round must be completed by 11:59pm EST on February 16. All singers who score 90 and above from 2 judges, or score an average of 90 and above, will advance into the semifinal round.

### **February 17-22 - Semi Final Round**

All judging for this round should be completed by 11:59pm EST on February 22.

### **March 1 – Final Round**

Guest judges will adjudicate live the selected Final Round videos in all categories during the International Regional Conference. Winners will be announced at the end of the judging on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **HOW TO USE THE AUDITION INFORMATION PACKET**

*NOTE: This document includes all the information you will need to successfully enter your students in the upcoming **National Student Auditions – International Region**. Please read through all of the information in the Rules and Regulations and the Audition Information Packet carefully before registering your students.*

The Audition Information Packet is listed at the International Region website (<http://natsinternationalregion.org/region>), under “Resources” on the left-hand side.

- All NSA Classical, Musical Theatre, Commercial Music, and Spiritual Categories, Requirement, and Terminology
- Musical Theatre NSA Category Resources
- Children and Youth Category Resources
- Commercial Music NSA Category Resources
- American negro Spiritual Category Resources
- Video Submission Guidelines
- Student Pre-registration Form for Teachers
- Adjudicator Training Videos