**NATS NATIONAL STUDENT AUDITIONS: NORTH CENTRAL REGION**

**AUDITION CATEGORIES**

(Age limits apply as of the date of the regional audition, February 15, 2016, and the age categories reflected below are official)

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| **Category** | **Length of Study from memory** | **Age Limit No limit 14-19 8 Three contrasting Music Theater Selections from Theater Women minutes staged Broadway or off-Broadway productions.** | **\*Time** | **Repertoire: all repertoire is sung from**  **memory** |
| I High School Music  Theater Women | No limit | 14-19 | 8  minutes | Three contrasting Music Theater selections from staged Broadway or off-Broadway productions. |
| II High School Music  Theater Men language. One additional art song or aria. | No limit | 14-19 | 8  minutes | Three contrasting Music Theater selections from staged Broadway or off-Broadway productions. |
| III 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. |
| IV 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. |
| V Lower College Music  Theater Women | 0-2 years  post high  school | 22 | 10 minutes | Three contrasting Music Theater selections from staged Broadway or off-Broadway productions. |
| VI 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. |
| VIIA First Year College/  Independent Studio  Women | 1 years  post high  school | 20 | 10 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. |
| VIIB Second Year College/  Independent Studio  Women | 2 years  post high  school | 22 | 10 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. |
| VIIIA First Year College/  Independent Studio  Men | 1 years  post high  school | 20 | 10 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. |
| VIIIB Second Year College/  Independent Studio  Women | 2 years  post high  school | 22 | 10 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. |
| IX 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. |
| X 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. |
| XIA Third Year College/  Independent Studio  Women | 3 years post high school | 23 | 12 minutes | Four contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One aria. One art song in English. One art song in a foreign language. One additional selection. At least three languages must be represented. |
| XIB Fourth/Fifth Year  College/Independent  Studio Women | 3-5 years  post high  school – all  undergrad. | 25 | 12 minutes | Four contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One aria. One art song in English. One art song in a foreign language. One additional selection. At least three languages must be represented. |
| XIIA Third Year College/  Independent Studio  Men | 3 years post high school | 23 | 12 minutes | Four contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One aria. One art song in English. One art song in a foreign language. One additional selection. At least three languages must be represented. |
| XIIB Fourth/Fifth Year  College/Independent  Studio Men | 3-5 years  post high  school – all  undergrad. | 25 | 12  minutes | Four contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One aria. One art song in English. One art song in a foreign language. One additional selection. At least three languages must be represented. |
| XIII Advanced College/  Independent Studio  Women | 4+ years  post high  school | 22-30 | 15  minutes | Five contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One operatic aria. One oratorio/cantata aria. One art song in a foreign language. One art song in English. One additional selection from the classical repertoire. At least three languages must be represented. |
| XIV Advanced College/  Independent Studio  Men | 4+ years  post high  school | 22-30 | 15  minutes | Five contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One operatic aria. One oratorio/cantata aria. One art song in a foreign language. One art song in English. One additional selection from the classical repertoire. At least three languages must be represented. |
| XV Hall Johnson Spiritual  Category | No limit | 17-23 | 10  minutes | Three contrasting selections from Hall Johnson Spiritual repertoire. |

Teachers of students who do not fit the age/ears of study or gender identity constraints should be in contact with the North Central Region Governor for proper placement.

\*Timing for the audition will begin when the singer announces the first selection.

Due to the generosity of the Hall Johnson Estate a $2000 award will be given in each national conference year (even years) to the best performance of a Hall Johnson Spiritual for the conferences from 2016-2035.

**AUDITION TERMINOLOGY**

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| Aria | 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. |
| 24/26/28  Songs & Arias | 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. |
| Memorization | All repertoire, including oratorio, must be song from memory. |
| Original | Selections should be sung in the original language or in translation if warranted by common performance practice. |
| Transposition | 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. |
| Classical  Repertoire/Categories | 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. |
| Judicious Cuts | 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 verses of selections are not allowed. In the case of strophic songs, all verses should remain that are traditionally included. |
| Music Theater  Selections | All repertoire must be from staged Broadway and off-Broadway productions. The production may be a musical, revue, or song cycle, but MUST have been staged on 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.) |
| Comments Only | Any student may register to sing for comments only and participate in the North Central Region Auditions. |

**PROCESS AND ORGANIZATION**

**Regional Rounds**

Each region advances the top 5 singers in each category to the national YouTube screening level. Award certificates will be presented to all five finalists. Small monetary awards may be awarded.

Music Theater students who exceed the age limits for the College Music Theater categories are eligible for participation in the National Music Theater Competition and are encouraged to enter that competition.

**National YouTube Screening**

The national rounds of the competition will begin with eligible singers from each region completing online registration for the national auditions and submitting a YouTube video for initial judging and comments. All of the repertoire selections for the applicable audition category, as set forth in the requirements for the National Student Auditions must be included on the YouTube video; and the footage of this video must not be edited. Fourteen singers from each audition category will be invited to the live National Semi-Final Round.

**National Semifinal Round**

The National Semifinal round will take place during a National Conference or Summer Workshop. Each singer participating in the national semifinal round will begin with a selection of his or her choice and continue with selections chosen by the adjudicators according to the national repertoire requirements and within the prescribed time limits for each audition category. Three singers from each audition category will advance to the National Final Round.

**National Final Round**

The National Final Round will take place during a National Conference or Summer Workshop. Each participating singer will sing one selection of his or her choice. This selection must be one of the pieces submitted in the previous semifinal round of the competition. Award certificates will be presented to all three finalists with monetary awards for the First, Second, and Third Place Winners in each audition category.

**Schedule**

February 15, 2016 - Deadline for North Central Region YouTube submissions and for teachers to submit online application information

March 1-20, 2016 - YouTube submissions reviewed by selected adjudicators

March 28, 2016 - Deadline for each region to submit a list of eligible singers and repertoire for each category to the National Student Auditions Coordinator

End of April, 2016 - Deadline to submit YouTube submissions for national YouTube screenings

Beginning of May, 2016 - Deadline for judging results from national YouTube submissions

Middle of May, 2015 - Date to notify national semifinalists (Approximately 6 weeks prior to semi-finals)

Late June/Early July, 2016 - National Student Auditions semi-final and final rounds at the NATS National Conference or NATS Summer Workshop

**Audition Fees**

**North Central Region Registration Fee:** $25

A separate registration fee is required for each category entered.

**National Level Registration Fee:** $75

This is a registration fee for the national round of the National Student Auditions: National Preliminary YouTube screening, Semifinals and Finals. This fee provides for a pianist at the Semifinal and Final rounds of the competition, should the singer so desire; and includes national conference/summer workshop registration for all sessions. This is separate from any Chapter, District, and/or Regional audition fees. A separate registration fee is paid for each category entered.

**Collaborative Pianists**

Each singer may collaborate with his or her own pianist at all levels of the competition. For those singers who elect to use a Staff Collaborative Pianist, one will be provided at the National Semifinal and Final rounds at no extra cost to the singer. While no rehearsals will be possible with the Staff Pianists prior to or during the Semifinal round, singers who advance to the Final round and are using a Staff Collaborative Pianist will be allotted a ten-minute rehearsal with the pianist preceding the audition.

**Adjudication**

**North Central Region Auditions**

The Regional Governor will select judging panels for the North Central Region YouTube Auditions. Any teacher with a singer who is competing is required to judge a category in which his or her student is not competing.

The adjudication panel ranks the singers from one through the number of entrants in their category (or portion of a category) and the singers with the lowest scores are chosen to advance to the National YouTube screening.

**National Auditions**

Judging panels for the National YouTube screening, the National Semifinals, and the National Finals will be selected by the National Student Auditions Coordinator in consultation with the National Vice President for Auditions. Sources for eligible adjudicators will include:

* Any teacher with a singer who is competing may be invited to judge a category in which his or her student is not competing
* NATS members attending the Conference or Workshop may indicate on the registration form a willingness to serve as a judge
* NATS members who reside in the area of the Conference or Workshop may be contacted to serve as judges

The adjudication panel ranks the singers from one through the number of entrants in their category (or portion of a category) and the singers with the lowest scores are chosen to advance to the semifinal round.

**National Prize Monies (2015 award amounts: future year awards may be adjusted)**

High School, Lower College Categories\*

$1,200 1st place in category

$600 2nd place in each category

$450 3rd place in each category

Upper College, Graduate Categories\*

$1,600 1st place in category

$900 2nd place in each category

$500 3rd place in each category

\*Should there be a tie, an award will be pooled and divided evenly between the singers. Both will be named Place Winners. Not all prizes must be awarded in all categories, depending on enrollment and/or judging.