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

**OFFICIAL RULES AND GUIDELINES**

*To be fair to all participants, these rules will be followed explicitly, with no exceptions. Read and follow all of these instructions carefully to avoid disqualification.*

**Note: The Official Student Application Form will be emailed to all active North Central Region NATS teachers around January 15, 2016.**

1. Singers must be students of NATS members who are in good standing with both national and state chapters of the National Association of Teachers of Singing. Students of non-NATS members are not eligible for this competition. ***\*Important – all member dues (both National and Chapter) must be paid in full before February 15, 2016 for students to be eligible to participate. No exceptions.***
2. ENTRY DEADLINE: Midnight on February 15, 2016. No exceptions.
3. Winners in each category may be asked to provide proof of age to verify registration in the correct category.
4. Final results will be announced via email to teachers and posted on the North Central Region web site by March 15, 2016 (the site is currently under construction.) Written comments from the judges will be emailed to teachers to share with their students.
5. Regional finalists in each age category will be eligible to submit video auditions to the online NATS National YouTube screening round. Official guidelines, rules and deadline dates can be found at <http://www.nats.org/national_student_auditions.html>.
6. Singers should prepare a separate unedited video for each song on their repertoire list. In the entry form, you will provide the web link/address for each video that corresponds with the appropriate repertoire piece - 3, 4 or 5 total repertoire pieces, depending on your category. Please double check the links you provide for each repertoire selection work.
7. Please note that you must select “Public” in the Privacy Settings found under the Broadcasting and Sharing Options section when uploading your video file to YouTube. If you select “unlisted” or “private” your submission will be invalid. For information on posting videos, please explore the Help section found on the YouTube homepage. (I urge you to view the 2012-2013 winners of another online vocal competition through the music publisher Hal Leonard <http://www.halleonard.com/vocalcomp/> to get a sense of an acceptable video and audio quality standard. Please record your video in an acoustically flattering room. Test various microphone and camera placements for best results before recording your final submission.)
8. The video should mimic a live performance for judges at an audition. A fixed camera position throughout, clearly showing your face and most of your body, is preferable. Record the best quality entry possible, both audio and video. While a professional recording is not required, audio and video should be recorded as clearly as possible. The video should be in the spirit of a recital or audition. It may be shot in a home, school, church, synagogue, recital hall, or some other appropriate location, with or without an audience. Please take into account the acoustics of the room. A small room with dead acoustics will not flatter a voice. The performance recorded for the video entry must be acoustic and not amplified. The only microphone(s) involved should be for recording. No lighting or special sound effects are needed. ***Video editing during a song is not allowed****.*
9. Singers must sing all audition repertoire from memory on the audition video entries. If a singer’s performance is not memorized, the entry will be disqualified.
10. You must sing with a live pianist in your video entry and your pianist must be visible in your video. Note that the quality of the accompanist's playing can affect not only your singing, but also the judging. An accompaniment with many wrong notes creates a bad impression. You are encouraged to dress appropriately, as you would for a recital or an audition.
11. Members are not allowed to accompany their own students.
12. Accompanists are forbidden to use photocopies. Pianists accompanying singers must play from original and legal publications. *Singers are responsible for the accompanist's compliance with this strict rule. No exceptions.* Entries with visible photocopies will be automatically disqualified. Photocopying music is illegal. The purchase of a publication does not grant the right to photocopy for rehearsal or performance with a pianist. The use of LEGALLY downloaded and purchased copies in compliance with the NATS Copyright Policy is allowed. The NATS Copyright Policy can be found at the end of this document. You are encouraged to use a page-turner as necessary.
13. 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.
14. You are required to introduce yourself and your selections on the video entry. This is a simple introduction in the spirit of an audition.
15. Take very special care to pronounce the title of your song (if from a larger work, i.e. an opera, include the name of the opera) and the composer’s name clearly and accurately.

For the NATS National Student Auditions: North Central Region, a typical model of spoken introduction before the first selection is:

I am . I will sing “Non so più cosa son” from Mozart’s *Le nozze di Figaro*. (Or after your name you could simply state the selection without saying “I will sing …”)

Before the second and subsequent selections(s), simply introduce the song and composer, for example:

“Mandoline” by Gabriel Fauré.

1. ***For NATS National Student Auditions: North Central Region, in any age category, your video must be titled as follows:***

NATS National Student Auditions: North Central Region 2016 Your Name

For instance:

NATS National Student Auditions: North Central Region 2016 John Doe

To be explicit:

NATS(one space)National(one space)Student(one space)Auditions:(one space)North(one space)Central(one space)Region(one spce)John(one space)Doe

Note capitalization and spacing. If your entry strays from these titling instructions, you risk being disqualified.

1. In the official entry form, you provide the link with the web address of your video postings by copying the YouTube URL into the application entry field. Please double check the link provided is correct and opens.
2. The audition registration fee is $25 per singer for all categories. A separate registration fee is required for each category entered. Teacher’s should submit a single payment for all entries by check only made payable to NATS (include North Central Region Auditions 2016 in the memo) and mailed to:

Alison Feldt

NATS North Central Region Governor

St. Olaf College

Music Department

1520 St. Olaf Avenue

Northfield, MN 55057

For questions about topics beyond those covered, please contact Alison Feldt at [feldt@stolaf.edu](mailto:feldt@stolaf.edu) or 507-786-3180.

**Adjudication**

All teachers submitting students are required to participate in adjudicating the online auditions. No exceptions. Adjudicators will receive via email a critique sheet including each applicant’s name, category, URL for video recordings, space to write a critique for each song, and instructions for adjudicating online submissions. If a sufficient number of adjudicators are not available, the North Central Region Governor, in consultation with North Central Chapter/District Audition Chairs, will seek additional adjudicators from among the region’s membership. Decisions made will be final.

**NATS Policy on Copyright Laws (click on this link to review the policy)**

<http://www.nats.org/_Library/docs/copyright_policy_revision1-2012.pdf>

The National Association of Teachers of Singing endorses a strict policy regarding copyright laws. The use of photocopied music is prohibited at all NATS sponsored events, from the national to the chapter level.

Exceptions are:

1. Music that is out of print, still under copyright law, with permission from a publisher.
2. Sheet music or books for which the copyright has expired, but available in CD format. (e.g., CD Sheet Music). Performers must be prepared to present proof of ownership upon request.
3. Sheet music purchased legally from an online vendor. Such music should have either a separate page proving the performer has purchased such OR a copyright notice at the bottom of the music that includes the performer’s name. Performers must be prepared to present proof of ownership upon request.
4. Music available from approved public domain websites. Performers should take particular care when accessing these sites as some do not guarantee that all works are indeed in the public domain. Current approved online public domain sites are:

www.imslp.org

www.sheetmusicarchive.net

www.jscholarship.library.jhu.edu/handle/1774.2/2085