

## **RULES FOR OKLAHOMA DISTRICT STATE AUDITIONS**

Please read all rules carefully. A five-member Auditions Committee will decide the interpretation of all questions of rules and procedures connected with the state auditions. This committee will also deal with the resolution of all penalties, infractions of rules, and irregularities. The current District Governor and the Auditions Chair for the next state Auditions will be ex-officio members of this committee. Each year the District Governor will appoint one member at large to serve a three-year term.

### **ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION**

Any student may participate in the audition who is currently studying with a NATS member in good standing, and who falls within one of the classifications listed below. It is unethical to claim as a pupil anyone having studied less than eight months with the current teacher, except when there has been no previous training. Teachers who enter students who have studied with them for less than eight months must list the former teacher's name on the entry form.

A teacher is in good standing whose dues were paid according to the records of the National Office as of the deadline date for entries. Applications of new members must be completed and filed with the National Office before this date.

All teachers who enter students must attend all Saturday events, including those of the afternoon. Students who qualify for finals, but whose teachers fail to answer the call for judges for finals round will be disqualified from the final round.

### **ENTRY FORMS**

Do not allow students to complete entry forms. Incorrect information could result in the disqualification of that student. Student entry fees are \$15.00 per student and must be paid for all entry forms submitted, even if the student withdraws from the auditions. Student checks will not be accepted. Each teacher must collect the fees and send one check for all the entries. Entry forms must be postmarked, faxed or e-mailed on or before the deadline. All entry fees must be paid prior to the conference.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

All teachers who enter students in the Student Auditions are required to attend the convention and serve as judges. The Auditions Committee must approve any exceptions to this rule prior to the Auditions. Petitions for exceptions must be submitted to the Auditions Chair two weeks prior to the application deadline for entries.

### **PHOTOCOPY POLICY**

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](http://www.imslp.org)

[www.sheetmusicarchive.net](http://www.sheetmusicarchive.net)

**Note:** If IMSLP or another site is used contestants should print a copy of the page that shows the download link to that file: such as this page for "Abendempfindung"

[http://imslp.org/wiki/Abendempfindung,\\_K.523\\_%28Mozart,\\_Wolfgang\\_Amadeus%29](http://imslp.org/wiki/Abendempfindung,_K.523_%28Mozart,_Wolfgang_Amadeus%29)

and provide it as proof when requested.

Following the lead of the TEXOMA region, the Oklahoma District will include a "Statement of Compliance" on our teacher registration form that requires each teacher to check a box indicating that they have read and agree to follow the policy laid out by the NATS National office. By checking the box, they also agree that their students and accompanists will also follow the policy laid out by the NATS National office. Students of any teacher who does not agree to the statement of compliance by checking the box will not be allowed to compete. Having such a statement of compliance means that judges will not and should not police the use of photocopies during the auditions.

**Note:** This policy was changed in January of 2010 in response to a mandate sent out from the NATS National Office.

## STUDENT AUDITION CLASSIFICATIONS, REPERTOIRE AND TIME LIMITS

**CLASSIFICATION:** A student's classification shall be determined by two tests: (1) the student's age and (2) the duration of time of vocal study (class and/or private). The Auditions Chair must resolve all questions of eligibility before a student is entered. Responsibility for correctly entering a student lies with the teacher. If it is determined that a student has been entered in the wrong classification, the student will be disqualified. If the student has not already sung he or she will not be allowed to sing. If the student has already auditioned, he or she will not receive comment sheets or scores.

**AGE:** If the student's age exceeds the maximum for one classification, he or she must enter the next highest appropriate classification, regardless of the total number of semesters of study. Minimum and maximum ages are determined by a student's age **at the time of the conference**. If there are any questions concerning age, the teacher must check with the Auditions Chair before entering the student.

**DURATION OF VOCAL STUDY:** A college student's classification shall be determined by the number of semesters of vocal study (class and/or private) and not the present academic standing. Two semesters will be accepted as equal to one year's study, with 12-15 lessons considered the equivalent of one semester. This is for the benefit of those who are not attending school but are studying voice privately. The semester in which the student is currently enrolled will be counted in the total when determining classification.

All past college/university study must be included when determining classification, regardless of where or when the work was done. Remember, the number of credit hours offered does not in any way change the classification of the student. (For instance, if a student takes only 1 credit hour of voice for the semester, this still counts as a full semester in the total.) The number of total credit hours does not in any way affect the classification. Summer semesters do not count. Summer semesters of study will not be counted in addition to the regular long semesters in school. **HOWEVER**, should the student be affected by the age factor (see age limits below), then that student's age will determine the classification.

**REPERTOIRE:** All repertoire must be performed from memory. All questions concerning repertoire requirements will be referred to the Auditions Chair and should not be discussed at the time a student sings. Any changes in repertoire after entry forms have been submitted must be approved by the Auditions Chair prior to the Auditions. If the Audition judges question whether the repertoire rules have been correctly observed, and the Auditions Committee subsequently determines that a student has failed to present literature chosen according to these rules, the student will receive the comment sheets, but the scores will be obliterated and the student may not advance to finals.

**TIME LIMITS:** The time limit for each classification includes all aspects of the audition, beginning when the contestant's number is announced. In each classification, the student and teacher should select one song for performance and be prepared to announce it. The judges will select additional songs until the time allotted for that class is complete. The Event Chair will ensure that each student is given the full amount of time allotted for their classification.

### YOUTH DIVISION

**YW 1: High School Women AND YM 1: High School Young Men.** Age: Minimum 14 years old. Only those persons who have NOT received a high school diploma and have NOT reached age **17** at the time of the conference may compete in the Youth Division 1.

**YW 2: High School Women AND YM 2: High School Young Men.** Age: Minimum **17** years old. Only those persons who have NOT received a high school diploma and have NOT reached age **20** at the time of the conference may compete in the Youth Division 2.

Time Limit: 8 minutes  
Repertoire: 1. One Italian art song  
2. One Art song in English  
3. One additional art song or aria

**III: Undergraduate women in their First or Second semester of private study**

**IV: Undergraduate men in their First or Second semester of study**

**V: Undergraduate women in their Third or Fourth semester of study**

**VI: Undergraduate men in their Third or Fourth semester of study**

Age: through age 22 at the time of the Conference  
Time Limit: 10 minutes  
Repertoire: 1. One Aria (Opera, Oratorio, or Cantata) sung in the original language OR in English translation  
2. One Italian, French, German or Spanish art song performed in the original language  
3. One American, British, Russian, Scandinavian, or Spanish art song sung in English

**VII: Undergraduate women in their Fifth or Sixth semester of study**

**VIII: Undergraduate men in their Fifth or Sixth semester of study**

**IX: Undergraduate women in their Seventh or Eighth semester of study**

**X: Undergraduate men in their Seventh or Eighth semester of study**

Age: through age 24 at the time of the Conference.

Time Limit: 12 minutes

Repertoire: 1. One Aria (Opera, Oratorio, or Cantata) sung in the original language OR in English translation.  
2. One Italian, French, German or Spanish art song performed in the original language  
3. One American, British, Russian, Scandinavian, or Spanish art song sung in English

#### **GRADUATE**

Age: 21 to 30 years old at the time of the Conference.

Time Limit: 15 minutes

Repertoire: 1. One Aria from an opera sung in the original language OR in English translation  
2. One Aria from an oratorio or cantata sung in the original language, OR in English translation  
3. One French art song performed in the original language  
4. One German art song performed in the original language  
5. One Italian or Spanish art song performed in the original language  
6. One American, British, Russian, Scandinavian, or Spanish art song sung in English

#### **ADULT (Competitive and Non-Competitive/Comments only option)**

Age: minimum of 22 years old at the time of the Conference, no maximum age. Please remember to specify on the auditionsware program if the student is auditioning in the Competitive or Non-Competitive Comments only division.

Time Limit: 15 minutes

Repertoire: Present a minimum of three memorized classical selections representing at least two languages, including English. More repertoire may be presented but the performance will be governed by the fifteen-minute maximum.

#### **CONDUCT OF THE AUDITIONS**

1. The Student Auditions are designed to give the students an opportunity to sing at the preliminary level for three experienced teachers who will judge their performance and comment upon it. These judges will also identify persons who will compete in other levels of the contest.
2. Students who have been previous First Place winners at state auditions are not eligible to enter the state auditions in the classification which they won. They may enter their next highest classification. EXCEPTION to rule: Winners in Young Men/Women II may compete again in the high school divisions as long as they are age eligible; previous rules still apply to winners in Young Men/Women I. Previous First Place winners at the Regional Conference may compete in the same division at the following Oklahoma District Student Auditions, provided they present different repertoire.
3. A student who is a finalist at regional competition may not repeat any of the same repertoire at the following state audition, regardless of class entered.
4. NATS members are not permitted to accompany contestants, whether their own or another teacher's. All teachers are needed as judges. Each accompanist may play for no more than ten students. In emergencies, such as illness, the Auditions Committee may allow an accompanist to substitute at the contest site for another accompanist and exceed this limit of ten. In all other cases the accompanist must play for only ten students. It is the responsibility of each teacher to inform accompanists of the ten-student limit.
5. Each contestant will normally sing before three judges. If small numbers of teachers attending make it impossible for each event to have three judges, some events may be assigned only two judges. The Auditions Committee is empowered to deal with other emergencies as may seem best for the efficient operation of the contest.
6. Judges are not to confer until after rating sheets have been delivered to the Auditions Office.
7. One judge will be designated Event Chair. At the end of the event the Event Chair will help the other judges collate the sheets and will personally deliver all sheets for the event to the Auditions Chair. Sheets may not be given to any other person, or before the end of the event.

8. Students will be identified by number and last name. There should be no attempt by teachers, students, or judges to identify the student by school or teacher. Name tags must not list the school a student attends. Each student must prepare three identical program sheets listing Last Name, Contest Number, and Title and Composer of each song, listed in the language in which it will be performed. These repertoire sheets should be given to the Event Chair or to the student monitor at the event.

9. Teachers may **ONLY** enter a total of 8 students in Classes III-Graduate. Students entered in YW, YM and Adult classes do not count toward the total of 8 students. However, a teacher may enter one extra student in Classes III-Graduate for each winner (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> place) he/she had in the previous year's student auditions in Classes III-Graduate.

10. The state auditions are divided into two rounds:  
I. Preliminary Audition  
II. Finals

#### PRELIMINARY AUDITION ROUND:

Each judge will write comments on the forms provided. The comments should be constructive and should support the score assigned.

During the preliminary round each singer will be rated according to the following standards:

90 - 100	Exceptional for age and class.
80 - 89	Above average for age and class.
75 - 79	Average for age and class.
70 - 74	Below average for age and class.

**No judge may give a score lower than 70.**

Students who receive either two scores of 90 or above, OR an average of the three scores of 90 or above will advance to the Final round.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINALISTS:

When the names of persons who will compete in finals are announced, the comment sheets and scores from the preliminary round will be distributed to the TEACHER of each student. Sheets and scores are NOT available to either teacher or student before the official announcement. Students and teachers not present at the announcement meeting will be disqualified from the final round.

#### FINAL ROUND:

Students selected for the final round will sing ONE number, which they will choose. That selection must be one of the three selections presented at the preliminary round.

Each judge will score the student according to the scale below:

95 - 100	Outstanding for finals of this age and class
89 - 94	Exceptional, with one or two minor flaws of performance or technique
80 - 88	Very good, but with one or more evident flaws of performance or technique
70 - 79	This range should be rare in finals round and given only for major errors in performance.

There are no written comments during the final round. Scores from this round are not available to students or teachers. Final tabulation will be made by the Audition Chair with the supervision of the Audition Committee as needed. Only the total of the three judges' scores will be considered.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS:

Three winners (1st, 2nd, and 3rd) will be awarded in each classification, if the number of finalists allows. In case of tied scores the winners will be designated as tied for 1st or for 2nd place, but only three winners will be named unless there are students tying for both first and second places. In the event three students tie for first place, only that place will be awarded. Winners will receive a small cash award, as determined by the Governor.

Revised January 2014