



Dear Oklahoma Chapter of NATS Members,

I trust that you all are doing extremely well! This year, our Oklahoma Chapter of NATS Conference and Student Auditions will be held virtually April 3-10, 2021. There is a lot of information in this document that is a culmination of our requirements and suggestions from protocols used for the Texoma Regional Conference and Student Auditions, so I ask that you read this document thoroughly. Here are items to consider:

### **NATS MEMBER REGISTRATION**

Registration for the 2021 Oklahoma Chapter NATS conference and student auditions (Classical and Music Theatre) opens Monday, February 15 (9:00 AM). NATS Members will be allowed to enter 10 students total across all College & Advanced Divisions. You may enter an additional student for every first place winner you had at the 2019 OK NATS Student Auditions. Adult and Youth divisions are allowed an unlimited number of entries per member. *This year, a student may enter both the Classical and Music Theatre divisions appropriate for their age and semester(s) of study. If a student chooses to do this, the student will only count as one (1) in regard to the total number of students entered by a NATS Member. However, the student will be responsible for paying the appropriate fee for both entries.*

You may register for the conference and student auditions by accessing your Member Account (“Member Home”) at [www.nats.org](http://www.nats.org). Upon your login, click and follow the prompts accordingly. Please confirm that your information is accurate before your final submission. You will be able to access your registration file and submit video links later. (See deadlines below.)

**NATS AUDITIONS REGISTRATION**

You will notice that there is no registration fee for NATS Members! So, join in for this year’s conference and encourage your colleagues to bring their students! Student Registration: \$10 for each entry.

**Deadline for registration is Monday, March 15 (6:00 PM).**  
**Video Link Submission Deadline is Friday, March 26 (6:00 PM)**

### **STUDENT AUDITIONS CATEGORIES**

If you have any questions regarding the student categories, refer to the Student Auditions Categories section in the “National Student Auditions Regulations” document using the link below. Notice that in the Oklahoma District, we offer Category 15: Adult (Age 22-99) and Category 16: Advanced Music Theatre for Music Theatre singers out of college and those with 4+ years post High School ages 22-30. Please

note that Category 15 is designated as COMMENTS ONLY and will not offer final callback or ranking within the division.

### **NATS MEMBER PARTICIPATION**

The Student Auditions are offered only to students of those members who attend the conference. Remember that if you enter students in the auditions, you **MUST** attend the entire conference, attend the judges meeting and be available for judging assignments. Due to the nature of this year's conference, NATS Members will be required to choose one of the three meetings offered to obtain information and have questions answered prior to the release of judging assignments and adjudication rounds. The Zoom meetings are scheduled as follows: **Wednesday, March 24 (6:30 PM)**, **Sunday, March 28 (6:30 PM)**, and **Tuesday, March 30 (6:30 PM)**.

[CLICK HERE](#) to sign-up for your preferred meeting time or use the QR Code below.



If you fail to attend the judges meeting and avail yourself to judge for the entire conference, your students will be disqualified with the following exceptions:

- The member is unable to attend due to a life-threatening or degenerative illness.
- The member is receiving extensive short-term medical treatment due to a medical emergency.
- Members receiving a medical exemption from attending the conference are still responsible for all conference fees.

### **NATIONAL GUIDELINES**

National guidelines, including video explanations and templates for judging forms, are available at: <https://www.nats.org/nsaresources.html>

### **COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS**

For this year only, there will be no limit to how many students for which a pianist may collaborate since the auditions will be held online.

Due to the unprecedented nature of the times in which we find ourselves, with growing travel restrictions, school closings (and/or transitions to online instruction), and wide-spread health concerns, we know it will be nearly impossible for many to meet and record videos with live accompanists during this time. Therefore, during this crisis NATS will allow students to record audition videos using pre-recorded tracks such as found on Appcompanionist, Hal Leonard's Virtual Library, or other similar sources that offer piano-only accompaniments. YouTube Karaoke Tracks are also acceptable, as long as they are piano only. NO orchestrated tracks or tracks with other instruments or voices will be acceptable, and would result in disqualification. It will also be acceptable to use tracks that are recorded by your teacher or your pianist (who know you and your interpretation).

Additionally, in this extreme circumstance, should student and teacher be in the same location, a teacher may accompany a singer in the recording, but the teacher should not be visible in the recording directly or

on any reflected surface (mirror, piano surface, etc.). Please note that this will not be an accepted precedent for future auditions, but is rather an isolated exception necessitated by a highly unusual global crisis. Because of this, videos will not be required to show the pianist. All other guidelines outlined in the video submission guidelines at [https://www.nats.org/NSA\\_-\\_You\\_Tube\\_Round\\_Video\\_Submissions.html](https://www.nats.org/NSA_-_You_Tube_Round_Video_Submissions.html) will apply and must be followed.

## RECORDING AND YOUTUBE INSTRUCTIONS

### SETUP

- Record a separate unedited video for each selection on your repertoire list.
- Camera should record from a fixed position as if three adjudicators were seated in front of you.
- Singer should face straight forward to the camera as you would appear to adjudicators in a live audition.
- Video recordings must clearly show your face and full shot of your body from the knees upward. Singers are permitted to wear masks for the videos.
- Ensure that no items bearing an institutional name, logo, or image appear in the recording frame of the video.

### ACCOMPANIST

- Singer may perform with a live pianist, your teacher, or recorded accompaniment in your video entries.
- If the NATS Member/Teacher of Record is the pianist, they should not be in view in the video.
- Pianist must play from authorized copies that are compliant with the NATS Copyright Policy.
- In these unusual times, videos will not be required to show the pianist in order to promote physical distancing.

### PERFORMANCE FOR CAMERA

- Introduce each selection at the beginning of the video. Student must introduce each video by saying: "My Name is \_\_\_\_\_; "I will sing—Title of Composition---by—Composer—and if appropriate—from---Title of Work". (**The identity of your teacher, school, and region should not be revealed.**)
- Each of the selections must be performed from memory on the recording. CAUTION: In viewing your tablet or phone during the recording, if you give the impression you are using music for your audition, you may be disqualified.

### YOUTUBE SETTINGS

If you need assistance with YouTube, try these two brief tutorials to get started:

- Creating a YouTube Account:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0eM1\\_JVqHE#action=share](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0eM1_JVqHE#action=share)
- Uploading a Video to YouTube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6C4dEpT0rYg#action=share>
- Please note that you must select "unlisted" in the Privacy settings found under the broadcasting and Sharing Options section when uploading your video file to YouTube.
- If you select "private," adjudicators will not be able to access your submission(s). If you select "Public", you may encounter copyright issues with YouTube.
- If you see the option to "Set this video (and/or channel) for kids" or "No, this content is not for kids," please choose the NOT for kids option. The setting for kids can make it more difficult for judges to access the material and it may need to be reviewed by YouTube admins, causing delays.

### YOUTUBE VIDEO TITLE AND NOTES

- Each video title should contain the singer's name and the name of the local, regional, or national audition based on the audition for which you are submitting the video. (i.e. Jane Doe –

Eastern Region NATS) If the same video is used for a different audition, the video title MUST be changed to reflect the new audition. (i.e. From the Eastern Region to the National Preliminary Round.)

- In the YouTube “Notes” section, include the Title, Composer, and Larger Work (if applicable).
- YouTube Channel Titles & Images must NOT reveal Teacher, School, or Studio affiliations.

#### VIDEO SUBMISSION IN AUDITIONWARE (Registration Program)

- In the registration program, provide the web link/address for each video that corresponds to the appropriate repertoire selection – either 3, 4, or 5 total selections, depending on your audition category.
- Please double check the links you provide for each video before submitting your application.

#### INVALID VIDEOS

The following video problems would make them invalid. While we will attempt to provide an opportunity for members to resolve video issues, invalid videos may result in disqualification without a refund for the student audition fee.

- Videos revealing the teacher’s identity, the region of the singer, or the school they attend.
- Videos with “private” sharing options.
- Videos that pan and zoom during performances.
- Videos using recording equipment that alters the acoustics of the venue or the sound quality of the singer by adding/subtracting reverb or altering the pitches being sung.
- Videos that are digitally altered.

#### MASTER SCHEDULE

- Monday, February 15 (9:00 AM) – Registration Opens
- Monday, March 15 (6:00 PM) – Registration Closes
- All registration (complete information, including repertoire) must be completed by this point and fees paid. Video links are not due until 3/26.
- Friday, March 26 (6:00 PM) – Video Link Submission Deadline
- Saturday, April 3 (9:00 AM) – Judging Schedule Released and Preliminary Judging Starts
- Wednesday, April 7 (12:00 Noon) – Preliminary Scores Due
- Thursday, April 8 (9:00 AM) Semi-Finals Announcement; Semi-Finals Judging Begins
- Friday, April 9 (3:00 PM) – Semi-Finals Scores Due
- Saturday, April 10 (9:00 AM) – Finals Announcement; Finals Judging Begins
- Saturday, April 10 (2:00 PM) – 2019 Winners’ Virtual Recital
- Saturday, April 10 (3:00 PM) – NATS Member Business Meeting (ZOOM)
- Saturday, April 10 (6:00 PM) – Finals Ceremony/Announcement

#### COPYRIGHT

Please remind your students about the NATS copyright policy, to which we are bound. [https://www.nats.org/copyright\\_info.html](https://www.nats.org/copyright_info.html) Students in violation of this policy will be disqualified. The use of iPads by pianists is currently forbidden under NATS regulations.

#### REPERTOIRE CHANGES AND STUDENT CANCELATIONS

Repertoire changes may be updated in AuditionWare until system is closed by the Auditions Chairs. If you have changes after the system is closed, please be in touch with Tracey Gregg-Boothby (tgregg-boothby@rose.edu) or Rebekah Ambrosini (rambrosi@snu.edu), Oklahoma District Vice Presidents for Student Auditions. They will be able to assist you with any changes

or questions regarding repertoire change(s). Please submit all repertoire changes and student cancelations prior to the opening judges' meeting.

**RESOURCES** (<https://www.nats.org/nsaresources.html>)

National Student Auditions Regulations:

[https://www.nats.org/Library/NSA\\_Files/NATS\\_Regulations\\_2019\\_October\\_2.pdf](https://www.nats.org/Library/NSA_Files/NATS_Regulations_2019_October_2.pdf)

NATS Adjudication Guidelines Video:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X\\_f7Wsicc-A&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_f7Wsicc-A&feature=youtu.be)

NATS Judging Rubric (Classical):

[https://www.nats.org/Library/NSA\\_Files/NATS\\_Rubric\\_Classical\\_2019\\_July\\_30.pdf](https://www.nats.org/Library/NSA_Files/NATS_Rubric_Classical_2019_July_30.pdf)

NATS Judging Rubric (Music Theatre):

[https://www.nats.org/Library/NSA\\_Files/NATS\\_Rubric\\_Music\\_Theater\\_MUTH\\_July\\_30.pdf](https://www.nats.org/Library/NSA_Files/NATS_Rubric_Music_Theater_MUTH_July_30.pdf)

Thank you so much for being a part of Oklahoma Chapter of NATS! I know that this is a lot of information and that you may have questions. Please feel free to message me. I know that you most likely get tired of me saying it, but I do appreciate you for your role in keeping music alive in our part of the world! I will be sending out multiple messages over the coming weeks to keep you informed with the most up-to-date information prior to our event, so please check those emails when they arrive in your inbox.

Please be in touch with any questions that you may have.

All the best,

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