

Dear Oklahoma NATS Members,

In the weeks ahead our Oklahoma NATS Conference will begin with the first annual musical theater student auditions. As you know, we will also be in the judging trenches, searching for the very best way to put down on paper all those vocal gems and maxims of the singing art we are trying to share with the aspiring artist standing in front of us. As a matter of due diligence, may I encourage you all to *prepare* to adjudicate these rounds of auditions?

What are the reasons to prepare to adjudicate?

- * We have a completely new set of audition guidelines and regulations.
- * All of the categories have been assigned new numbers.
- * We have a thoughtful and well crafted Audition Rubric.
- * The new standardized adjudication form is very different than the one used in the past.
- * We have a responsibility to NATS, our colleagues, students, and ourselves to provide the very best adjudication possible.
- * We want to keep the job of our Auditions Chair and those who assist her as concise and free of complications as possible.

What is the best way for us to prepare?

- * Please read the new guidelines, very carefully.
- * Please orient yourselves to the new category numbers and their repertoire requirements, being careful to avoid a situation where we arrive in the judging room asking, what are we judging again? What are the requirements?
 - * Please study the Audition Rubric and take a copy into the judging room. A group of very dedicated NATS members spent many hours creating this rubric. The rubric must be the basis of our adjudication standard for all NATS auditions, or we fail the system.
- * Please study the Adjudication Form. The form is thoughtfully matched to the rubric.
- * Please watch the Webinar prior to the conference. Keep in mind the intention of the webinar is not to entertain, rather it is designed to impress upon us the importance of our roles as adjudicators and educate us about the new procedures of that adjudication system.

By electing to prepare in this manner, we can commit to making our Oklahoma Conference a wonderful success! Here is the link for the NATS Resource Center. On this webpage, you will find information for the Regulations, Rubrics, Categories, Adjudication Forms, and Adjudicator Video.

<http://www.nats.org/nsaresources.html>

Thank you in advance for your dedication to our conference and students. I am grateful for your continued commitment and for your anticipated preparation for our upcoming auditions.

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