



RULES AND REGULATIONS

PURPOSE

- A. To offer students of member teachers of NATS:
1. Encouragement toward more diligent study in the preparation of appropriate repertoire;
 2. An opportunity to perform under conditions designed to provide the most complete and total consideration for the student; and one which will ideally combine the best elements of non-competitive and competitive performance;
 3. A specific goal, stimulating the desire and incentive for vocal and musical self-improvement;
 4. An opportunity to sing before qualified and impartial judges, and to receive careful and constructive criticism;
 5. Opportunities for public appearance by outstanding students;
 6. Recognition of achievement and talent by appropriate awards.
- B. To provide opportunities for professional growth for NATS members through sharing ideas, encountering new repertoire, hearing other teachers' students on an annual basis, and participating in carefully considered evaluations.
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ORGANIZATION

DIVISIONS AND REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS

HIGH SCHOOL: (Age limit 15-19)

1. High School Women
2. High School Men

Repertoire (8 minutes)

Three selections should be prepared.

- a. An early English or Italian Classic song.
- b. Two additional songs selected at the discretion of the teacher. At least one song should be in English. All selections may be in English.

(NOTE: It is strongly advised that operatic arias not be sung.)



COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY DIVISIONS

When placing students in college/university divisions, do not include study in high school when calculating the semesters of study. For students in private studios a semester of study would equal 4 to 6 months of lessons.

LOWER COLLEGE /UNIVERSITY: (Age limit 23; including students of equivalent age and length of study in private studios)

3. Freshman Women (1 or 2 semesters of study)
4. Freshman Men (1 or 2 semesters of study)
5. Sophomore Women (3 or 4 semesters of study)
6. Sophomore Men (3 or 4 semesters of study)

Repertoire (10 minutes)

Three selections chosen from the 17th through the 20th century vocal literature.

- a. A foreign language art song (i.e. Italian, German, French, or Spanish) sung in the original language.
 - b. An American, British, Canadian, or Australian art song composed in English.
 - c. A second foreign language art song or an appropriate aria sung in the original language or in an English translation.
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UPPER COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY: (Age limit 26; including students of equivalent age and length of study in private studios)

7. Junior Women (5 or 6 semesters of voice study)
8. Junior Men (5 or 6 semesters of voice study)
9. Senior Women (7 or 8 semester of voice study)
10. Senior Men (7 or 8 semester of voice study)

Repertoire (12 minutes)

Three selections chosen from the 17th through the 20th century vocal literature.

- a. A foreign language art song (i.e. Italian, German, French, or Spanish) sung in the original language.
 - b. An American, British, Canadian, or Australian art song, composed in English.
 - c. An appropriate aria sung in the original language. An advanced foreign language art song may be substituted.
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ADVANCED

11. Advanced Lower – age limit 27 – Beyond 8 semesters of voice study, and to include fifth year seniors.
12. Advanced Upper – no age limit – Beyond 8 semesters of voice study, and to include doctoral students.

Repertoire (15 minutes)

Four selections including:

- a. one opera aria in the original language OR one oratorio aria which may be sung in an English translation;
- b. two art songs representing two languages;
- c. one contemporary art song composed since 1950.

No more than two of the four selections may be in English. One selection must be in English.

ADULT: (Ages 24 or older)

In the spirit of the Student Auditions Guidelines, this division is intended for students who are either not currently or previously enrolled as a music major in a college setting.

13. Adult Lower (1 – 4 semesters of voice study)
14. Adult Upper (5 or more semesters of study)

Repertoire

LOWER – (10 minutes) follow Lower College repertoire.

UPPER – (12 minutes) follow Upper College repertoire.

MUSIC THEATER: (Ages 15 or older)

15. Music Theater Lower – High School students
16. Music Theater Upper – All others.

Repertoire (12 minutes)

Three selections in the original language (all may be in English), displaying a variety of tempos and styles. The music theater pieces must be from the stage version of the score and not from a movie version.

- a. An operetta aria or art song in the original language. The art song may be an English or foreign language song of any period.
- b. A selection from a music theater work written before 1960.
- c. A selection from a music theater work written after 1960.



ELIGIBILITY AND PROCEDURE

A. Any student currently studying with an active member in good standing at the national and district or chapter level of the National Association of Teachers of Singing is eligible.

B. If the student has been studying with the sponsoring teacher for less than eight (8) months, acknowledgment must be made of the student's former vocal study both on the application and in any public announcements. The NATS Code of Ethics provides that "It is unethical to claim as a pupil one having studied less than eight months with a teacher except where there has been no previous training."

C. Application forms should be filled out completely and mailed with the appropriate fees to:

Dr. Stephen Ng
Swope Music Building
West Chester University
817 S. High St.
West Chester, PA 19383

***** Applications, complete with all fees, must be postmarked by
February 1, 2012 *****

D. Teachers must participate in the Auditions. All teachers who enter students must attend and be available to adjudicate or to assist in the Auditions. At the discretion of the Auditions Coordinator, teachers over the age of 65 and/or in ill health may be excused from adjudication. If unable to attend, the teacher must submit a "Request for Waiver" form and the appropriate fee. A waiver may be granted for no more than two consecutive years, after which time the teacher must attend the Auditions.

E. NATS members may enter only their own students in the Auditions. Entering another teacher's students, for whatever reason, is unethical and will result in the disqualification of all concerned.

F. The auditioning student is responsible for bringing his/her own accompanist; such an arrangement is to the decided advantage of the singer. Scheduling makes it impractical for one accompanist to play for more than 8 students. Teachers may not accompany their own students. Professional accompanists will be available at the conference for a fee. The fee will include playing in all rounds of the auditions; because of scheduling problems, **rehearsals may not be possible**. Please note on the appropriate forms if a professional accompanist is desired. For singers using the professional accompanist, **NO REPERTOIRE CHANGES** are allowed after we have received your registration form. Again, it is to the decided advantage of the singer to bring his or her own accompanist.



G. For singers who bring their own accompanists, substitutions in repertoire are permitted as long as the requirements are met.

H. Timings for each selection must be included on the Performer Registration Form.

I. All singers and accompanists must perform from lawful editions and observe and obey copyright laws. Please contact the conference chair if you have any questions regarding copyright requirements.

NOTE: Any student may, with the teacher's permission, choose to sing for comment only within any classification. This information should be listed on the application form and on the adjudication sheets. No restriction on age or length of study should apply. The student will be permitted to sing all prepared selections, provided they fall within time guidelines.

ADJUDICATION

The principal purpose of the Auditions is to give each student a full hearing before qualified and impartial judges, as well as the opportunity to receive careful and constructive criticism. Evaluative comments and ideas are of great value to students and teachers. Each judge should make as comprehensive a critique as time allows, acknowledging achievement and encouraging improvement. Comments that would be embarrassing to the teacher or discouraging to the student must be avoided; no one should be criticized to the point of humiliation or defeat. Since the Auditions are important to the participating students who have made a significant investment in time, energy, and money, the experience should be positive and rewarding. The real competition is between the student and his own self-image or self-imposed goals. The preparation for the Auditions and the written constructive criticisms are far more valuable than any award or honor given to the student.

Preliminary, semi-final and final auditions will be held. All students who receive two grades of 90 or above OR an average of 90 or above in the preliminary auditions will proceed to the semi-finals. The time allotted for the semi-final round for the following divisions will be reduced by 2 minutes: high school, lower college, upper college, adult, and musical theater. The advanced divisions will be reduced by 3 minutes. The top three scores (including ties) in each division of the semi-finals will proceed to the finals. Written comments will be given in both the preliminary and semi-final rounds. Cash awards and certificates will be given to the top three finalists in the final round. At the finals, each singer will sing one selection of their choice, limited to FIVE MINUTES. There will be no written comments.