



---

# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF SINGING EASTERN REGION STUDENT AUDITIONS AND CONFERENCE

**March 15-17, 2024**

**Swope Music Building  
Wells School of Music, West Chester University  
817 S. High Street  
West Chester, PA 19383**

**Auditions Co-Chairs:  
Stephen Ng – [sng@wcupa.edu](mailto:sng@wcupa.edu)  
Debra Field – [debra.field@gmail.com](mailto:debra.field@gmail.com)**

**Conference Hosts:  
Stephen Ng – [sng@wcupa.edu](mailto:sng@wcupa.edu)  
Nicholas Provenzale – [nprovencale@wcupa.edu](mailto:nprovencale@wcupa.edu)**

**Technology Support Team:  
Charles Dugan – [chipdugan@yahoo.com](mailto:chipdugan@yahoo.com)**

**Eastern Region Governor:  
Rebecca Pieper – [rebeccasings78@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccasings78@gmail.com)**

**Guest Master Teachers:  
Elizabeth Daniels & Dr. Triniece Robinson-Martin**

## **PACKET CONTENTS**

Page 2	Timeline
Page 2	Schedule of Events
Page 4	Lodging Information
Page 5	Rules and Regulations – Student Auditions

---



---

## TIMELINE

### January 24 – Registration opens

Teachers must register themselves and students and submit all fees by first logging in at [www.nats.org](http://www.nats.org) and then selecting the "AuditionNow" green button under "NATS Auditions." Refer to [https://www.nats.org/Library/NSA\\_Files/Logging\\_In\\_to\\_AuditionNow.pdf](https://www.nats.org/Library/NSA_Files/Logging_In_to_AuditionNow.pdf) for detailed instructions.

### February 26 – Registration closes

All student/teacher registrations must be completed by this date, along with submission of online payment. The repertoire information for each student should also be entered.

### March 15 – Preliminary Round

Judges will be assigned and the assignments made available a few days prior to the start of this round. *Each teacher who has entered students must be available to judge unless a Judging Waiver fee has been paid.* All singers who score 90 and above from 2 judges, or score an average of 90 and above, will advance to the Semifinal Round.

### March 16 – Semifinal Round

*All teachers who have entered students should be available to judge this round.* The 3 top-scoring students in each category will advance to the Final Round.

### March 17 – Final Round

All teachers in attendance will adjudicate the Final Round in all categories. Winners will be announced at the conclusion of the Final Round.

### April 12 – Deadline for application and video submissions for the National Student Auditions

The top 5 students from each category who are eligible for entry into the National Student Auditions will be emailed with information about how to apply. This email will come directly from the National Office of NATS.

---

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

*Subject to change – an updated schedule will be available at the conference.*

### FRIDAY, MARCH 15

*Note: The times for the auditions may be adjusted depending upon number of entries.*

10:30am	Registration opens (Location: Swope Music Building Lobby)
11:30am–12:15pm	Judges' meeting (Location: Ware Recital Hall)
12:30–6:00pm	Student Auditions Preliminary Round – <i>All teachers are expected to judge the Preliminary Round</i> (Various Locations)
5:00-7:30pm	Activities TBD
<b>7:30-9:30pm</b>	<b>EVENING MASTER CLASS</b> (Location: Madeleine Wing Adler Theater) Dr. Triniece Robinson (Music Theater/Commercial Music)



---

## SATURDAY, MARCH 16

- 8:15-9:00am                      Region board meeting – All district governors/chapter presidents are expected to attend. (Location: Ware Recital Hall)
- 9:15–9:45am                      Judges’ Meeting – *All teachers are expected to judge the Semifinal Round* (Location: Ware Recital Hall)
- 10:00–2:30pm                      Student Auditions Semifinal Round (Various locations)

### **WORKSHOPS, PRESENTATIONS & MASTERCLASSES**

**10:00am-4:30pm**

*Specific times TBD*

#### **WORKSHOP PRESENTERS**

***Susan Ashbaker*** - The Vocal Coach Approach (When Practice Makes Perfect)  
(2 singers may sign up – details TBA)

***Catherine Brown*** - Mindfulness for Singers: An Interactive Workshop

***Patrick Chiu*** - Creating a Theatrical Recital

***Marcus DeLoach*** - Compose Yourself: Original Works

***Maren Montalbano*** - Visibility & The Portfolio Singer

***Nick Provenzale*** - lecture recital on Songs of Ernest Charles

- 5:00-7:00pm**                      **EVENING MASTER CLASS** (Location: Madeleine Wing Adler Theater)  
Elizabeth Daniels (Classical)

## SUNDAY, MARCH 17

- 9:00-10:00am                      Eastern Region Business Meeting – (Location: Asplundh Concert Hall – 700 S. High St., West Chester)
- 10:00am                              STUDENT AUDITIONS FINAL ROUND (Location: Asplundh Concert Hall)  
*All registered teachers are expected to adjudicate the Final Round*
- 2:30pm (approx.)                      Awards Ceremony
- 4:00pm (approx.)                      Depart for home!



---

## LODGING INFORMATION

### **Quality Inn and Suites Conference Center (45 rooms)**

943 South High St., West Chester, PA 19382. (484) 319-4426

Reference: NATS, Group Number: NP94G4

Rates: King \$94.10/night; 2 Queens \$106.10/night, 2 Doubles \$94.14/night

Includes Breakfast, parking

*Book by February 23, 2024, to get this rate.*

### **Hampton Inn and Suites, Chadds Ford (30 rooms) – 12 min. drive from Swope**

40 State Farm Drive, Glen Mills, PA 19342 (610-358-9540)

Room includes: breakfast, wi-fi, parking

\$159/night (2 Queens)

Booking: Call 888-370-0981, request the group rate for “Music Teacher Event” or via the following link:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/cfordhx-nat-f625dc75-c99e-41cd-83ae-65fca826dfbc/>

*Book by February 15, 2024, to get this rate.*

### **Hotel Warner (2 rooms) – in downtown West Chester, 5 min. drive from Swope**

120 N. High Street, West Chester, PA 19380 (610-692-6920)

Room includes: breakfast, high speed internet

\$159/night

*Call before February 29, 2024, and identify yourself as “West Chester University – Wells School of Music – NATS”*



## 2024 National Student Auditions – Eastern Region

### 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 the sharing of ideas, encountering new repertoire, hearing other teachers' students on an annual basis, and participating in carefully considered evaluations.

#### ELIGIBILITY AND PROCEDURE

- A. Any student currently studying with an active member in good standing at the national and district or chapter level of NATS 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. All registration and payment of fees for teachers, performers and accompanists must be done **online only** at [www.nats.org](http://www.nats.org). Hard copies and checks are not accepted. You can find registration instructions once you have logged into your NATS account.
- \*\*Registration and payment of fees must be completed by end of day February 26, 2024\*\***
- 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 for all rounds (Friday-Sunday). At the discretion of the Auditions Chair, teachers over the age of 65 and/or in ill health may be excused from adjudication. Contact Stephen NG ([sng@wcupa.edu](mailto:sng@wcupa.edu)). If unable to attend, the teacher must



supply a qualified substitute judge for both Friday and Saturday, **OR** submit a **Request for Judging Waiver** and pay the appropriate fee. In either case, the teacher may enter only 5 students. In addition, a waiver may be granted for no more than two consecutive years, after which time the teacher must attend the Auditions in order to enter students.

E. During registration, indicate your teacher relationship with the student being registered. Use the “Clarifying Definitions of Sponsoring Teachers Language” listed below when making your choice.

### **Clarifying Definitions of Sponsoring Teachers Language:**

**Primary Voice Teacher** – the teacher who currently teaches a student the majority of their weekly voice lessons in an independent studio or who currently teaches the student voice lessons as a requirement or elective in an academic degree program.

**Concurrent Teacher** – a teacher, who in addition to a primary teacher, also currently teaches weekly voice lessons to the same student. Common examples: voice teachers addressing different genres of vocal music or having different areas of expertise desired by the students.

**Supplemental Teacher** – a teacher, who in addition to a primary teacher, also currently teaches voice lessons to a student on a less than weekly basis.

**Former Voice Teacher** – teachers who previously taught a student voice lessons within the previous eight months, who no longer teaches the student being entered. Common examples: voice teachers of students who have changed voice teachers and voice teachers of students who, after earning a diploma or degree, have begun a subsequent vocal degree program at a different institution or with a different voice teacher.

Members should respect a student's prerogative to obtain instruction from any teacher(s) of their choice, including concurrent study with another teacher(s). Transparency should be maintained among all parties.

In order to maintain transparency in the registration process, **the two teachers with whom the student concurrently studies must communicate directly with one another prior to registering a student for a NATS audition.**

F. When registering a student, a student’s age on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, will determine the student’s category of entry along with the student’s year of voice study in progress on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Students will remain in the same category(s) for an entire audition cycle – even if later in the academic year on their birthday, they age out of the category. September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, is the first day of the current audition cycle and is designated here for that reason.

G. The auditioning student is responsible for bringing his/her own accompanist; such an arrangement is to the decided advantage of the singer. **An accompanist is allowed to play for no more than 12 students** because of scheduling. Teachers may not accompany their own students. Professional staff accompanists will be available at the conference for an additional



fee. This fee will include playing in all rounds of the auditions although, because of obligations the assigned staff accompanist may have on Sunday, a qualified substitute pianist may be playing for Sunday's Final Round. Because of scheduling problems with staff accompanists, **rehearsals may not be possible, are not included in the fee, and are not guaranteed.** Please indicate during the online registration process if a professional staff accompanist is desired. For singers using the professional staff accompanist, NO REPERTOIRE CHANGES are allowed after the registration period has closed. Again, it is to the decided advantage of the singer to bring his/her own accompanist.

H. For singers who bring their own accompanists, substitutions in repertoire are permitted up to the day of the preliminary round as long as the requirements are met. However, after registration closes, repertoire changes in the system must be made by one of the Auditions Co-Chairs prior to the Preliminary round. If a repertoire change is needed, send any requests to one of the Audition Co-Chairs.

I. Timings for each selection must be included during the online registration process.

J. All singers and accompanists must perform from lawful editions and observe and obey copyright laws. Please contact one of the Auditions Co-Chairs if you have any questions regarding copyright requirements. ***Refer to the NATS Policy on Copyright Laws for more information found at [https://nats.org/Copyright\\_Resources.html](https://nats.org/Copyright_Resources.html).***

K. All selections must be sung from memory except for oratorio/cantata arias. Singers may hold the music score for oratorio/cantata arias, in exception to the memorization requirement.

L. No repertoire changes are allowed once the student has sung in the Preliminary round. The same repertoire is used for all 3 rounds of the Region Student Auditions. Should a student advance to the National Student Auditions, the same repertoire used at the Region Auditions must be sung in the National Auditions. No repertoire changes will be allowed between Region and National Auditions.

**NOTE:** Any student may, with the teacher's permission, choose to sing for comment only within any classification. This information should be indicated during the registration process 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.

M. Under no circumstance should a teacher give students his/her NATS login information. All online registration tasks should be completed only by the teacher. Sharing login information puts the teacher's personal information at risk.

### **Voice Gender Classification**

Students who self-identify as transgender or gender fluid must choose one audition category in Classical and/or Music Theater based on their gender identity at the time of the chapter or regional audition and select repertoire linked and associated with the gender of that category throughout the corresponding audition season.



Treble voice singers must register for treble categories regardless of gender identity. TBB voice singers must register for TBB categories regardless of gender identity. Categories themselves are gender neutral.

As per the new National Guidelines, Countertenors are now considered Treble Voices and are therefore included in Classical categories CL 3, CL 5, CL 7, CL 9, and CL 11.

Adult categories are intended for serious adult avocational musicians.

NATS teacher members who meet the requirements of a student audition category---age and years of study--- may enter student auditions through the NATS member with whom they are currently studying, but they may not enter themselves in the audition. ***Note: If they enter their students in the audition, they must be available to adjudicate a category as well.***

## ADJUDICATION AND STRUCTURE OF AUDITIONS

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/her 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.

***Note: Singers are asked to use the same email for ALL rounds of the Student Auditions to ensure they receive all important communication.***

## CATEGORIES

In this year's Regional Auditions, the following categories in Classical (CL), Commercial Music (CM), Musical Theater (MT), and Spiritual (HJ) will be offered:

- ***Categories 1-2*** – Children & Youth: CL1, CL2, CM1, CM2, MT1, MT2
- ***Categories 3-4*** – High School: CL3A, CL3B, CL4A, CL4B, CM3A, CM3B, CM4A, CM4B, MT3A, MT3B, MT4A, MT4B
- ***Categories 5-6*** – Lower Post High School: CL5A, CL5B, CL6A, CL6B, CM5, CM6, MT5, MT6
- ***Categories 7-8*** – Upper Post High School: CL7A, CL7B, CL8A, CL8B, CM7, CM8, MT7, MT8
- ***Categories 9-10*** – Post-Baccalaureate Students (Advanced): CL9, CL10, CM9, CM10





- **Categories 11-12** – Adult Avocational (not NSA-eligible): CL11, CL12, CM11, CM12, MT11, MT12
- **Hall Johnson Spiritual** – HJ7

**Age limits, Repertoire Requirement and terminology can be found here:**

[https://www.nats.org/Library/2023\\_24\\_NSA\\_Docs/9-19-23\\_NSA\\_Categories\\_of\\_Entry.pdf](https://www.nats.org/Library/2023_24_NSA_Docs/9-19-23_NSA_Categories_of_Entry.pdf)

### **PRELIMINARY ROUND**

1. Singers in all classifications will sing one song of his/her choice and then songs selected by the adjudicators within the time limits.
2. During the preliminary round, adjudicators will write constructive comments and a score between 70 and 100 on their scoring sheets. These sheets will be made available prior to the start of the next round in order that the singers may benefit from the written comments.
3. **NO REPERTOIRE CHANGES** may be made for the duration of the Region Student Auditions once a student has sung in the Preliminary Round.

### **SEMIFINAL ROUND**

1. ALL students who have received 2 scores of 90 or above or an average score of 90 or above in the Preliminary Round will advance to the Semifinal Round. There is no limit on the number of semifinalists.
2. Each student will sing one selection of his/her choice in its entirety and then songs selected by the adjudicators within the time limits. The time allotted for the Semifinal Round for the following age categories will be reduced by 2 minutes: high school, lower college, upper college, adult, and music theater. The advanced categories will be reduced by 3 minutes.
3. During the Semifinal Round, adjudicators will write constructive comments and a score between 70 and 100 on their scoring sheets. These sheets will be made available prior to the start of the next round.

### **FINAL ROUND**

1. The top three students from each category will advance to the Final Round, regardless of numerical score.
2. Each student will sing one song of his/her choice.
3. No written comments will be provided in this round.
4. **ALL TEACHERS**, regardless of whether one or more of their students has advanced to the Final Round, will serve as judges for the Final Round. Winners in each category will be ranked according to the number of votes received.
5. Awards and certificates will be announced and distributed after all categories have performed and all votes are tallied. First, second and third place (and occasionally fourth place) will be awarded at the conclusion of the Final Round.

### **ADVANCEMENT TO THE NATIONAL STUDENT AUDITIONS**

1. Repertoire used at the Region Auditions **MUST** be used in the National Auditions. **NO REPERTOIRE CHANGES** are allowed.



2. The top five students in each Region category will be eligible to advance to the National Preliminary YouTube Auditions. This number includes the three students who participated in the Region finals as well as the next two highest scorers in the category.
3. The Preliminary Round of the National Student Auditions is a video round by invitation only. Eligible students will receive an invitation from the National office via email.
4. **The deadline for video submission for the National Preliminary YouTube Round is Friday, April 12, 2024, by 11:59pm, ET.**

---

## FEE SCHEDULE

*Collect all fees from students and make one payment after all students have been registered on the Auditions website. **Registration is not complete until payment is made.***

**Teacher Registration Fee - \$30**

**Judging Waiver - \$75** (required if a teacher is sending students but not attending)

**Student Registration Fee (for all students) - \$25** per student per category

**Staff Accompanist Fee - \$50** per student per category

***Deadline for registration and fees is February 26, 2024***

---

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

*For any questions that cannot be answered by this document, or the help guide in Auditionware, direct them to one of the Co-Chairs.*

Stephen Ng, Auditions Co-Chair  
sng@wcupa.edu

Debra Field, Auditions Co-Chair  
debra.field@gmail.com

*For any questions regarding conference activities, contact the Region Governor.*

Rebecca Pieper, Eastern Region Governor  
rebeccasings78@gmail.com