



## 2021 Eastern Region Virtual Student Auditions

### 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 12, 2021\*\***

***Note: The deadline for video link submissions is February 26, 2021.***

**D. Teachers must be available to adjudicate in the Auditions.** All teachers who enter students must be available to adjudicate the Preliminary and Semi-Final/Runoff Rounds. At the discretion of the Auditions Chair, teachers over the age of 65 and/or in ill health may be excused from adjudication. If unable to commit the time to adjudicate, the teacher must supply the name of a qualified substitute judge, **OR** submit a **Request for Judging Waiver** and pay the appropriate fee. In either case, the teacher may enter only 2 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. 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 and his/her teacher are responsible for making arrangements for accompaniment.** The guidelines for accompanists are outlined in the Video Submission Guidelines on the NATS.org website. A list of acceptable accompaniment options is included.

G. **Substitutions in repertoire are permitted** up to the deadline for submitting video links on Auditionware as long as the requirements are met. The deadline is **February 26, 2021.**

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

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. *Refer to the NATS Policy on Copyright Laws for more information found at [www.nats.org/copyright\\_info.html](http://www.nats.org/copyright_info.html).*

J. **All selections must be sung from memory, including oratorio arias.** No participant will be allowed to sing with music.

K. **No repertoire changes are allowed once the preliminary round has begun.** The same repertoire is used for all 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 regional 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.

## 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.

### PRELIMINARY ROUND

1. Adjudicators will evaluate all of the videos submitted by each student in the category to which they are assigned. Comments will be submitted online.
2. During the preliminary round, adjudicators will write constructive comments and a score between 70 and 100 online. This information 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.
4. The top 5 students will advance to the final round unless a semi-final/runoff round is necessary.



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### **SEMIFINAL ROUND/RUNOFFS**

1. A semi-final round may be necessary if a large number of students in a category receive scores of 90 or above. A runoff may be necessary for large categories split during the preliminary round. Only those students in these categories will be adjudicated in this round. All others will advance directly to the final round.
2. Adjudicators will evaluate all of the videos submitted by each student in the category to which they are assigned. Comments will be submitted online.
3. During the semifinal round, adjudicators will write constructive comments and a score between 70 and 100 online. This information will be made available prior to the start of the next round.

### **FINAL ROUND**

1. The top 5 students from each category will advance to the final round, regardless of numerical score.
2. Only the song chosen for the final round/recital (during the registration process) will be evaluated.
3. No written comments will be provided in this round.
4. Guest judges will serve as adjudicators for the final round. Winners in each category will be ranked by the adjudicators.
5. Awards and places will be announced during the broadcast. First, second and third place will be awarded at the conclusion of the final round. *Note: All 5 students who make it to the final round are eligible to apply for the National Student Auditions.*

### **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 category will be eligible to advance to the national student auditions. This number includes the three students who placed in the region finals as well as the next two highest scorers in the category.

### **ONLINE REGISTRATION AND WEBSITE INFORMATION ([www.nats.org](http://www.nats.org))**

The new NATS Auditions Registration system is designed in partnership with Auditionware and its creator Brad Mills. This is the system that the Eastern Region has used in the past and is now accessible through the national website only. Instructions for entering the system as well as completing the registration process are included in the document "Accessing the NATS Auditions Registration System". You can find these instructions by visiting [www.nats.org](http://www.nats.org), logging into your account, and clicking on the link below the green registration button.

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### **FEE SCHEDULE**

*Payment of all fees will be made at the completion of the registration process on the NATS website.*

**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



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## **TIMELINE**

### **February 12 – Registration deadline**

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; however, video links may be added until February 26.

### **February 26 – Video submission deadline**

All video links must be uploaded in Auditionware. Be sure to indicate which song will be used for the Final Recital (Step 4 above) should the student advance to that round.

### **March 4-7 – Preliminary Round**

Judges will be assigned as usual. Each teacher who has entered students must be available to judge unless a Judging Waiver fee has been paid. Each judge will view the videos for each student in the category to which the judge is assigned and submit comments online. All judging for this round must be completed by 1pm on March 7. The top 5 scores in each category will advance to the Final Round.

### **March 8-9 – Semi-final/Runoffs (if necessary)**

If a category has a large number of students who might be eligible to advance or, if a category was split in the Preliminary Round, a semi-final round or runoff may be necessary. Judges who are assigned to this round must have the judging and comments completed by end of day March 9.

### **March 10-12 – Final Round**

Guest judges will be asked to adjudicate the Final Round in all categories. Judging for this round must be completed by end of day March 12.

### **March 14, TBD – Final Recital and Awards Presentation**

The Final Recital will be broadcast via YouTube Premiere. One song (indicated during registration) for each student who advanced to the Final Round will be broadcast. Winners will be announced during the broadcast.

### **End of April (TBD) – Deadline for application to National Student Auditions**

Each student 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.

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## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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