



2021 Eastern Region Conference and Student Auditions



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF SINGING
EASTERN REGION VIRTUAL STUDENT AUDITIONS AND
CONFERENCE**

March 4-14, 2021

Auditions Co-Chairs:

Stephen Ng- sng@wcupa.edu

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Conference Host Institution: West Virginia University

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Eastern Region Governor:

Mario Martinez- eastern@nats.org

***Q&A SESSIONS & JUDGES MEETING**

Tuesday, February 2, 7:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://naz.zoom.us/j/93234979702?pwd=bkNIMEl3NzVmZlZTNnh2VFJlK2p3UT09>

Meeting ID: 932 3497 9702

Passcode: 396604

Sunday, February 21, 6:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://naz.zoom.us/j/97286449069?pwd=MCs1ekxCRRsWk40R0U5MnJYVlhmUT09>

Meeting ID: 972 8644 9069

Passcode: 182562



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Tuesday, March 2, 8:00p.m.- Judges Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://naz.zoom.us/j/92316645253?pwd=aXZJQXVBZ0VBZ0VBY1hwaEtHSEppcGVNUT09>

Meeting ID: 923 1664 5253

Passcode: 192363

*These sessions will be recorded and made available to the membership.

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 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 1:00p.m. on March 7. The top 5 scores in each category will advance to the Finals 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 adjudicate the Finals Round in all categories. Judging for this round will be completed by end of day March 12.

March 14 – Awards Ceremony and Final Recital. The Final Recital will be broadcast via YouTube Premiere. The winners of each category will be announced during the broadcast, and one song (indicated during registration) for the first place student in each category will be broadcast.

Meet Our Distinguished Guests Adjudicators

[Lori McCann](#) ; [Robert Edwin](#) ; [Mark Kano](#); [Marcia Porter](#)



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CONFERENCE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Final draft)

FRIDAY, MARCH 12

1:00pm

CONFERENCE BEGINS!

****Opera...from a Sistah's Point of View***

Angela Brown, soprano

Description: The myths surrounding the sometimes-intimidating art form called opera are dispelled. This performance helps people from all walks of life find themselves in and enjoy opera and leaves no doubt of the ethnic, geographic, and socio-economic diversity depicted in opera characters. Angela likes to say, "Opera is not about being a certain way, dressing a certain way, speaking a certain way. It's about experiencing, and opera is for everyone!"

Zoom link: TBD- Live-streamed

**Co-sponsored by the NATS Eastern Region, the West Virginia District and the Central New York-Finger Lakes Chapter.*

6:00pm

West Virginia University Virtual Kiosk

Mario Martinez, Eastern Region Governor

Hope Koehler & William Koehler, Conference Hosts

Zoom link: TBD- Live-streamed

7:00pm

****Opera...from a Sistah's Point of View***

Angela Brown, soprano

Concert Performance Reply and Live Q&A Session w. Angela Brown

Zoom link: TBD- Concert Performance Pre-recorded; Q&A Session

Live-streamed

**Co-sponsored by the NATS Eastern Region, the West Virginia District and the Central New York-Finger Lakes Chapter.*

8:00pm

2021 Eastern Region Conference Honoree Ceremony

Presenting the 2021 Eastern Region Conference Honoree:

Prof. Robert Edwin

Mario Martinez, Eastern Region Governor

Guest Speakers: Nancy Bos, Faith Steinfort

Zoom Link: TBD- Live-streamed



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WORKSHOPS, PRESENTATIONS, PERFORMANCES

(Updated)

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

9:30-10:30am

YogaVoice®

Mark Moliterno

Description: An interactive session, this workshop will be in a master-class format. Singers will show through guided work by Mr. Moliterno how various ***YogaVoice®*** exercises and poses assist their vocal technique and performance.

Zoom Link: TBD- Live-streamed

10:45-11:45am

Towards Decolonizing the Curriculum of the Classical Singer: Learning the Latin American and Iberian Art Song Repertoire

Patricia Caicedo

Description: Starting from the observation of the Latin American art song, the author questions the Eurocentric curriculum of the institutions that train classical singers across the world and invites classical singers and voice teachers to explore new repertoire, specifically the Latin American and Iberian art song one, a repertoire she will contextualize presenting some of its most prominent composers and poets

Zoom link: TBD- Pre-recorded; Q&A Session Live-streamed

12:00am–1:00pm

How to Protect Yourself from a Bad Director: Basic Stage Techniques for the Singer-Actor

William Koehler

Description: Have you ever wondered what you need to know going into your first staging rehearsal or what's expected of you? Are you a young singer who is new to the stage? This workshop will explore (with some humor) basic stage techniques and situations for the beginning (and seasoned) singer/actor.

Zoom Link: TBD- Live-streamed

1:15-2:15pm

From Folk-song to Art-song: The Songs of Jean Ritchie (1922 – 2015) A Lecture Recital

Julianne Laird, soprano and R.J. Nestor, piano



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Description: Jean Ritchie (1922- 2015) was one of the foremost American collectors of Southern Appalachian and British Isles folk-songs in the 20th century. As we near the centennial of her birth, we honor her legacy by presenting a recital of original art-song arrangements by R.J. Nestor. These are the songs from Ritchie’s heritage that she cherished and shared, presented for a new audience in a new era.
Zoom Link: TBD- Pre-recorded

2:15-3:30pm

Lunch Break Virtual Vendors Kiosk

Description: Zoom in and join our guest presenters to learn about their products, services, publications etc.
Zoom link: TBD- Live-streamed, Breakout Rooms

3:45-4:45pm

The ABC’s of Auditioning in 2021 Susan S. Ashbaker

Description: Auditioning has always required specific skill sets. Covid chaos has changed the familiar landscape. Acquire information and tools to once again feel like you can be on top of your game.
Zoom link: TBD- Live-streamed

5:00-6:00pm

Spirituals: The Mother Music Hope Koehler

Description: After the music of the indigenous people of North America, spirituals are the first truly American music. It can be argued that almost every other American musical form sprang from this rich heritage.
Zoom link: TBD- Live-streamed.

6:00-7:15pm

Singing Through Change: Women's Voices in Midlife, Menopause, and Beyond. Nancy Bos

Description: Women's voices change as they age and go through perimenopause and menopause. For singers, this can have many profound effects. In this talk, based on the best selling book published less than a year ago, *Singing Through Change*, co-written by Nancy Bos, Joanne Bozeman, and Cate Frazier-Neely, the presenter will expose us to



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challenges singers face and give us solutions for working through the issues with our students. Issues can include a wide range of physical and emotional challenges, and vary greatly from singer to singer. Strategies will include consideration of the effects of hormone changes, the impact of self-care, medical intervention, the need for flexibility from the singers and flexibility from those who support them.

Zoom Link: TBD- Live-streamed

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

1:00pm

Awards Ceremony and Final Recital.

The Final Recital will be broadcast via YouTube Premiere. The winners of each category will be announced during the broadcast and one song (indicated during registration) for the first place student in each category will be broadcast.

Zoom Link: TBD- Awards Ceremony live-streamed; Final Recital pre-recorded.

Mario Martinez, Eastern Region Governor

Stephen Ng, Auditions Co-Chair

Debra Field, Auditions Co-Chair

3:00pm

2021 Eastern Region of NATS Student Auditions & Conference ends.

Meet our Distinguished Conference Guest Presenters, Clinicians, Master Teachers and Performing Artists

[Mark Moliterno](#); [Patricia Caicedo](#); [William Koehler](#); [Susan Ashbaker](#);
[Hope Koehler](#); [Nancy Bos](#); [Angela Brown](#)



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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.** 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



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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.**

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.



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Adjudication Instructions

Thank you for spending time adjudicating the Eastern Region Video Student Auditions. We truly appreciate your role in making this year's auditions a success.

Please adjudicate with your own students in mind: What comments would be most useful? How can you fairly evaluate, score, and comment in a way that will help the student rather than discourage? Please be kind and generous with your comments for each singer! You are also encouraged to use the Classical/Music Theater rubrics included in Auditionware.

Follow these steps to complete your adjudication:

- 1) Log in to the NATS website and go to the **MEMBER HOME** page.
- 2) Scroll down to **NATS AUDITION REGISTRATION** and click on the green button.
- 3) Click on **VIEW MY STUDENTS/ADJUDICATOR SCHEDULE**. Your judging assignment will be listed at the top of the page.
- 4) Before you begin adjudicating, you are asked to watch an 18-minute VIDEO which explains judging processes, the NATS rubrics, and the adjudication form. You must "sign off" as having watched the video before you can continue.
- 5) After you have watched the video, scroll down to see your assigned singers and their video links. Next to the singers' name and video links, click on "ADD" to access the adjudication form.

NOTE: You may take as long as you need to adjudicate but BE SURE TO HIT "SUBMIT" (at the bottom of the page) to save YOUR WORK as you go. You'll get a reminder after about 15 minutes telling you to do this. Then, EDIT to return to the form and complete your adjudication. You will be able to do this as long as you have not entered a final score.

You must complete these tasks to adjudicate each singer:

1. Give a numeric score for Tone, Breathing/Alignment, etc. - slide the blue box icon across the score bar to do this.
2. NOTE: The "Ensemble" score should not figure into your final score - it's a comment only. BUT, please do use the slider to give a score, and make a comment if necessary.
3. Give written comments on each piece. The comments boxes will expand as you type, so there's plenty of room. Please be generous with your comments - students and teachers will be anxious to hear your feedback! The comments should be reflected by your numeric scores in the areas listed - if you give someone a low score in "Tone", the written comments should explain that score.
4. Give a composite score for each singer - bottom right, in the box. This score should roughly reflect the numeric scores you gave in #1. After you've done this, and hit SUBMIT, you are done and may not return to the form to make changes. So, be sure you are completely finished before hitting SUBMIT.



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Please complete your judging assignment by 1 pm, March 7 (for the Preliminary Round) and end of day March 9 (for the Semi-final Round).

Eastern Region Student Auditions Guidelines

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 according to the instructions included in this document.
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. You are strongly encouraged to only assign a score of 90 or above to those students you feel should advance to the next round. Be sure your comments are a reflection of the comments you make.
4. The top 5 students will advance directly to the final round unless a semi-final round is necessary for the category you are adjudicating.
5. Students with an average of 90 or above or two scores of 90 or above will move on to the semifinal rounds **in categories IA, IB, IIIA, IIIB, and VIIA.**

SEMIFINAL ROUND

1. A semi-final round will be necessary if a large number of students advance from the Preliminary Round or a category was split during the Preliminary Round. Only those students in these categories will be adjudicated in the Semi-final round. All others will advance directly to the final round. *Students with an average of 90 or above or two scores of 90 or above will move on to the Semifinal round in the categories designated as such.
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. The top 5 students in this round will advance to the Final 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 final recital broadcast. First, second and third place will be awarded at the conclusion of the final round. Only the first-place winner video will be broadcast during the recital. Note: All 5 students who make it to the final round are eligible to apply for the National Student Auditions.



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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.
3. 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.

Again, thank you for your contribution as a judge. And, thank you for giving of your valuable time and sharing such valuable feedback to the students.

Mario Martínez, Eastern Region Governor

Stephen Ng, Auditions Co-Chair

Debra Field, Auditions Co-Chair

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