

Mississippi State National Association of Teachers of Singing Judging Procedures

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Teachers may not judge or accompany their own students.
2. The judge's sheet must be signed and contestant information verified at the beginning of the audition.
3. Singers must have original music in their possession, and accompanists must play from the original scores, unless approved by the Auditions Chair for medical reasons, or the music has been purchased online and proof of purchase can be shown. If a student is in question, please note this on the top of your adjudication form, but continue to provide comments and provide a numeric score for the student.
4. The Auditions Chair is the only authorized person to penalize or disqualify a singer. Judges do not penalize or disqualify a singer. Judge every participant on his or her merits alone. If there is a question by the judges (i.e., inappropriate repertoire, etc.), please document all questions and forward to the Auditions Chair.
5. If a question arises about classification, contact the Auditions Chair before the audition.
6. All songs must be performed from memory. The penalty for doing so is eventual disqualification by the Auditions Chair. Notify the Audition Chair at the end of the session.
7. Maintain consistency between written comments and scoring.
8. The first name listed on the judging assignment is the head judge of that session. That person is responsible for picking up the audition packet and returning it to the Auditions Chair. As you collect completed sheets, collate them, verifying audition number, score, and signatures.
9. Do not make unnecessary comments to singers. Do not share comments or scoring information with other judges.
10. No adjudicator may list his or her institute, telephone number, or address on any adjudication sheet.

AUDITION FORMAT

1. The preliminary round is competitive.
2. Singers must present copies of their repertoire sheets to give to each of the three judges. Repertoire sheets should include audition number, category, age, and titles of repertoire with composers, and language of their selections.
3. Singers perform a song of their choice. The judges will select a second song to be performed from the repertoire sheet. In categories 13-16, the judges may choose a third selection.
4. Write constructive and meaningful comments that are generally encouraging in nature. Disparaging remarks are inappropriate and contrary to the spirit of the MS Chapter of NATS.
5. Judges compare singers and assign numerical scores **on a separate tally sheet** according to the following standard:

98-100	Superb
95-97	Excellent
90-94	Good; worthy of finals
85-89	Worthy of semifinals, but not finals
80-84	Questionable semifinalist
6. The top four scorers and ties in each category normally advance to the finals. However, a total score of 270 is necessary for advancement.

FINAL ROUND

1. Singers announce and sing one song of their choice, not to exceed four minutes in length. Time starts when the collaborative pianist begins playing. Singers will be stopped without penalty after four minutes.
2. Singers are ranked 1-4 with 1 being the best. In case of ties, singers receive the higher award. In classes with fewer than four singers, the highest possible ranking is awarded.