

Mississippi Chapter National Association of Teachers of Singing Judging Procedures

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Teachers may not 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. Accompanists may play from a notebook. The penalty for lack of original music is immediate disqualification by the judging panel. If this situation arrives, question the singer. If they cannot produce the originals, inform the student that they have been disqualified. Document the event on their Adjudication Sheet and return with the other forms to the Audition Chair.
4. Except for the lack of original music, the Audition Chair is the only person authorized to penalize or disqualify a singer. Judges do not penalize or disqualify a singer. Judge every participant on its merits alone. If there is a question by the judges (i.e., inappropriate repertoire, etc.), please document all questions and forward to the Audition Chair.
5. If a question arises about classification, contact the Audition Chair before the audition.
6. All songs must be performed from memory. The penalty for doing so is eventual disqualification by the Audition's 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 chair of that session. That person is responsible for picking up the audition packet and returning it to the Audition Chair. As you collect completed sheets, collate them, verifying audition number, score, and signature.
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.

PRELIMINARY ROUND

1. The preliminary round is not competitive. Draw no comparisons from singer to singer.
2. Singers must present copies of their Preliminary Forms to give to each of the three judges. Preliminary Forms 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. Please mark the appropriate blank, showing whether the singer should advance to the semifinal round.

SEMIFINAL ROUND

1. The Semifinal Round is competitive. Singers perform on a first-come, first served basis with consideration given to accompanists' schedules. Singers announce and sing one song of their choice.
2. Judges compare singers and assign numerical scores 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
3. 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 accompanist 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.