

# Mississippi Chapter 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. Official NATS Copyright Policy for Use of Published Music:
  1. NATS encourages its members, their students, collaborative pianists, and the general population to become educated about, and to comply with, all applicable copyright laws. Reproduction of a copyrighted work constitutes copyright infringement unless a license to reproduce such work has been obtained, the use is considered fair use, the work is in the public domain, or a valid exception to copyright infringement exists.
  2. NATS requires students, teachers, and other participants in NATS affiliated events, auditions, and competitions to affirm **compliance with the NATS Copyright Policy**, and to use only authorized reproductions of copyrighted works. ([https://www.nats.org/Copyright\\_Resources.html](https://www.nats.org/Copyright_Resources.html))  
(2019: [http://www.southernnats.org/images/docs/region/general/NATS\\_copyright\\_policy.pdf](http://www.southernnats.org/images/docs/region/general/NATS_copyright_policy.pdf))
4. The Auditions Chair is the only authorized person to penalize or disqualify a singer — not a judge. Please judge every participant on merit alone. If there is any question (e.g., 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 not doing so is disqualification by the Auditions Chair. Notify the Auditions 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 completed sheets are collected, please 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 institute of affiliation, telephone number, or address on any adjudication sheet.
11. Spiritual Categories:

*EVEN YEARS:*

HJ 7 – Post-High School (undergraduate) Hall Johnson (ages 17-23); 3 contrasting selections from approved Hall Johnson repertoire. ([https://www.nats.org/Hall\\_Johnson\\_Spirituals\\_Competition.html](https://www.nats.org/Hall_Johnson_Spirituals_Competition.html))

*ODD YEARS:*

AS 3 – High School Spiritual Category (ages 14-19); 3 contrasting Spiritual selections

AS 5 – Post-High School (undergraduate/graduate) Spiritual Category (ages 18-30); 4 contrasting Spiritual selections. ([https://www.nats.org/American\\_Negro\\_Spiritual\\_Competition.html](https://www.nats.org/American_Negro_Spiritual_Competition.html))

### **AUDITION FORMAT**

1. The preliminary round is competitive.
2. Singers perform a song of their choice. The judges will select a second song to be performed from the repertoire sheet. **In Advanced post-high school graduate categories (CL 9, CL 10, MT 9, MT 10), the judges must choose a third selection.**
3. 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.
4. Judges compare singers in the areas of Tone, Breathing/Alignment, Language/Diction, Musicianship/Accuracy, and Artistry/Expression and assign a numerical score according to the following standard:
  - 90-100 – Mastering
  - 80-89 – Advancing\*
  - 70-79 – Developing*(\*NOTE: The term “Advancing” refers to a level of student artistry and does NOT indicate or imply promotion to successive rounds of auditions.)*
5. To be named a semi-finalist, a singer must receive a combined score of at least 270 (average of 90 or above) - OR- receive two scores of 90 or above. The four highest-scoring semi-finalists (five, if there are ties) will be promoted to the final round.

Rubrics (Classical & Musical Theatre):

[https://www.nats.org/Library/2023 24 NSA Docs/All NSA Rubrics 2023-24.pdf](https://www.nats.org/Library/2023%2024%20NSA%20Docs/All%20NSA%20Rubrics%202023-24.pdf)

NATS Music Theater adjudicating video with Matt Edwards: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbyEkytK1Q4>

### **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 the case of ties, singers receive the higher award. In categories with fewer than four singers, the highest possible ranking is awarded.