



**National Association
of
Teachers of Singing
Southern Region
Louisiana Chapter
Auditions Handbook
2024**

Table of Contents

	<u>Page Number</u>
● Purpose	3
● Organization	3
● Eligibility and Participation Guidelines	3
○ Teachers/Adjudicators	3
○ Students	4
○ Collaborative Pianists	4
● Structure and Conduct of the Auditions	5
○ Preliminary Round	5
○ Final Round	6
● Classification	6
● NATS Policy on Copyright Laws	6

Purpose

The Louisiana Chapter Conference and Student Auditions of the Southern Region of the National Association of Teachers of Singing furnishes opportunities for musical growth, vocal understanding, and professional encouragement and recognition. Specifically, the auditions seek to provide the following benefits to student of NATS members:

1. Vocal and personal self-improvement.
2. Mastery of appropriate and challenging repertoire.
3. Performance opportunities combining the best elements of competitive and non-competitive endeavor.
4. Constructive criticism from qualified and impartial judges.
5. Recognition of outstanding talent and accomplishment.

Organization

1. The Student Auditions are an annual activity officially sponsored by the Louisiana Chapter of the Southern Region of NATS. The auditions are not affiliated with the NATS Artist Award (NATSAA) competition.
2. The auditions are under the supervision of the chapter's audition chair, who administers policies adopted by the entire membership and set forth in this *Auditions Handbook*.

Eligibility and Participation

TEACHERS

1. Teachers must be Louisiana Chapter and National NATS members with dues paid for the current year.
 - a. Chapter dues are collected online by the NATS National Office when the national dues are paid.
 - b. New members may be asked to provide proof of membership.
 - c. Teachers with membership applications in process may attend the conference but may not judge nor enter students in the auditions.
2. The Chapter Membership determines conference fees and publishes them on the *Teacher Registration Form*. **Registration fees for teachers and students are non-refundable after the registration deadline.**
3. Teachers who enter students are assessed a registration fee whether they attend or don't attend the conference and auditions. This fee is used to defray conference expenses. **Students will not be scheduled until the teacher's fee is paid.**
4. Teachers entering students in the auditions are expected to attend the conference and serve as judges. Exceptions may be approved by the auditions chair upon completion of registration through AuditionNow.

5. Exceptions for non-attending teachers may be issued for two consecutive years. In the third year a teacher's students are ineligible to participate in the auditions. Emeritus teachers are exempt from this rule.
6. Teachers may not judge students with whom they have a "significant relationship". These include present and former students and family members. Every effort is made to avoid a teacher judging students enrolled in their school. However, in some cases it is impossible to avoid such a situation. Under these circumstances, a teacher is expected to judge impartially.
7. According to the *NATS Code of Ethics*, "It is unethical to claim as a pupil one having studies less than eight months with the teacher except where there has been no previous training." Thus, a teacher may enter a student who has not studied with him or her for eight months or more, provided that the name of any former teacher within the eight months immediately preceding the auditions is specified during registration. If a student studies or coaches with more than one teacher or coach, all names must be listed.
8. To assist a student who does not have immediate access to a collaborative pianist, the chapter provides a list of the names of collaborative pianists willing to accept additional assignments.
This list, including contact information, may be found on the chapter website.
 - a. It is the student's responsibility to contract collaborative pianist services.
 - b. The chapter recommends an collaborative pianist fee of \$40 for three selections and \$50 for four or more selections.
9. Teachers should be aware of the *NATS National Policy on Copyright Laws* governing the chapter auditions and published in this handbook.

STUDENTS

1. Students may participate in the auditions provided that they (1) are currently studying with a NATS member in good standing who is registered for the conference: (2) qualify for one of the categories described below.
2. Students may register for both classical and music theatre divisions. Students who wish to compete in two categories must complete separate online registrations and pay an entry fee for each category.
3. The student registration fee permits students to attend all sessions of the conference.
4. Students must bring their own collaborative pianists with them.
5. The collaborative pianist's name must be clearly chosen during registration. Registration will not be complete until this is done.
6. To assist a student who does not have immediate access to an collaborative pianist, the chapter provides a list of the names of collaborative pianists willing to accept additional assignments on their website.
 - a. It is the student's responsibility to contract collaborative pianist services.
 - b. The chapter recommends an collaborative pianist fee of \$40.00 for categories with three selections and \$50 for categories with four selections.
8. Students should be aware of the *NATS National Policy on Copyright Law* governing the chapter auditions and published in this handbook.

COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS

1. Due to scheduling concerns, collaborative pianists may play for no more than 15 student entries.

Exceptions must be cleared with the Auditions Chair before entries are submitted.

2. Teachers may not accompany their own students. If a NATS member wishes to play for a student, it must be cleared by the Auditions Chair.
3. The pianist's name must be chosen during online registration.
4. Collaborative pianists who are willing to accept additional student audition assignments should contact the current auditions chair or the chapter president by January 5th of the audition year.

Collaborative pianists names and contact information will be listed on the chapter website.

- a. Students in need of collaborative pianist services must refer to this collaborative pianist list posted on the Louisiana NATS Chapter website and contact their preferred collaborative pianist directly.
- b. The chapter recommends an collaborative pianist fee of \$40.00 for categories with three selections and \$50 for categories with four selections.
5. Collaborative pianists should be aware of the *NATS National Policy on Copyright Law* governing the chapter auditions and published in this handbook.

Conduct of the Auditions

1. The motivating spirit of the auditions is one of cooperation in the pursuit of vocal artistry and technique, through hearing and being heard, judged, and being judged, in a climate of mutual support and concern.
2. The auditions chair reserves the right to limit the number of entrants in any category that becomes too large. In such case, earlier registrants have priority.
3. Previous first place winners in the College and Advanced Categories are not eligible to enter the category they previously won. They may enter the next highest category. In Youth, High School, Student Adult, Music Theatre, Commercial Music, and Advocational Categories, students are eligible to enter and win a second time. For unusual circumstances consult the Auditions Chair. One exception is that 5th year seniors may complete in Category 9 or 10 provided they did not win their category prior to the current audition.
4. Certificates and cash awards are presented at the end of the auditions. In case of a tie, each student will receive the higher place and its appropriate cash award.

INITIAL ROUND

1. Singers in the Youth, High School, College, Student Adult, Music Theater, Commercial Music, and Avocational Categories (all categories except 13-16) must sing two songs from their repertoire—one song of their choice and a second song selected by the judges. The total time for the two songs should not exceed eight minutes.
2. Singers in the advanced categories (13-16) must sing three songs from their repertoire—one song of their choice and two additional songs selected by the judges. The total time for the three songs should not exceed eleven minutes.
3. During the initial round only, judges will write comments on the judging sheets provided. These sheets, containing constructive criticism, will be returned to the appropriate teacher following the student winner announcements at the end of the auditions.

4. During the Initial Round, judges will also score each student according to the following system:
 - 98-100 superb
 - 95-97 excellent
 - 90-94 worthy of finals
 - 85-89 not yet worthy of finals
 - 80-84 not yet competitive in the category
5. The three highest scoring students with an average score of 90 or better within each category will participate in the final round, if held. In the case of a third-place tie, both students will participate in the final round.
6. Categories may have less than three finalists if three students do not earn the score of an average score of 90 or better.
7. Categories containing five or less student entrants will not have a final round. Within these categories, winners (first, second, and third) will be chosen based on the highest earned scores in the initial round. In case of a tie for first or second place, each student will receive the place and the cash award, and no third place will be awarded. In case of a tie for third place, both students will be awarded third place and the cash award.

FINAL ROUND

1. Due to time limitations, the final round may be conducted in several simultaneous sessions determined by judge availability and the number of student participants.
2. A minimum of three judges will score each category. Any judge who has had a “significant relationship” with one of the finalists will not be assigned to judge that category. Also, every effort will be made to avoid a teacher judging students enrolled in their school. However, in some cases it is impossible to avoid such a situation. Under these circumstances, a teacher is expected to judge impartially.
3. Students perform one song of their choice, with duration not to exceed four minutes. Time begins when the pianist begins playing. Cuts are permitted. Students are stopped without penalty after four minutes.
4. Scoring: Judges rank the finalists in order: 1-2-3, with 1 being best. Final rankings are determined by low total score.

Registration, Classification and Awards

1. Students may register for both classical and music theatre divisions as appropriate to voice type, age, and semesters of vocal study.
2. The high school categories are determined by voice type only.
3. All finalists receive award certificates and cash prizes. Cash prize amounts are determined by the current officers of the chapter.

NATS National Policy on Copyright Laws

Please refer to this website for the updated policy:

https://natssouthern.com/images/docs/region/general/NATS_copyright_policy.pdf

Louisiana Chapter Categories of Entry

Please refer to this website for the updated Louisiana Chapter of NATS Categories of Entry
https://natssouthern.com/images/docs/louisiana/general/LA_Audition-Categories.pdf