

**National Association of
Teachers of Singing
Southern Region
Student Auditions
&
Conference Information**

August 2024

**All non-region-specific information in this handbook
directly reflects and is attributed to the updated
2023-2024 NSA Categories of Entry document found
on the national website:*

[2024-2025 Full Regulations and Categories of Entry](#)

Table of Contents

● Eligibility and Participation Guidelines	3
● Teachers/Adjudicators	3
● Students	4
● Collaborative Pianists	4
● Structure and Conduct of the Auditions	5
● Preliminary Round	5
● Semi-final Round	5
● Final Round	6
● Registration, Classification, and Awards	6
● Categories	7

Eligibility and Participation

TEACHERS

1. Teachers must be National NATS members with dues paid for the current year.
 - a. Dues are collected online by the NATS National Office.
2. **Conference and Student Auditions registration fees for teachers and students are non-refundable after the registration deadline.**
3. Teachers who enter students are required to pay a registration fee whether they attend the conference and auditions. This fee is used to defray conference expenses. **Students will not be scheduled until the teacher's registration fee is paid.**
4. Teachers entering students in the auditions are expected to attend the conference and serve as judges. Exceptions must be approved by the auditions chair upon completion of registration through Auditionare.
5. Exceptions for non-attending teachers may be issued for one year. In the second year, a teacher's students are ineligible to participate in the auditions. Emeritus teachers are exempt from this rule.
6. Every effort is made to avoid a teacher adjudicating their own student(s). However, in some cases it is impossible to avoid such a situation and a teacher may be placed to adjudicate a category in which one or more of their students are singing. Under these circumstances, teachers are expected to abstain from judging.
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 region can assign a collaborative pianist if the teacher indicates this need during online registration in AuditionNow.
 - a. It is the teacher's responsibility to contract collaborative pianist services and the student's responsibility to provide remuneration for their collaborative pianist.
 - b. Collaborative pianists must be contracted **before** student and teacher registration on Auditionware.
 - i. Teachers may only choose a specific collaborative pianist from the provided list on Auditionware during registration, or add additional collaborative pianists to the online list, if they have already contracted their chosen collaborative pianist **before** registration.
 - c. The regional collaborative pianist fees are \$50 for "three-song categories" and \$65 for "four or more" song categories. These fees include service for all rounds of the regional auditions.
9. Teachers should be aware of the *National Policy on Copyright Laws* governing the chapter auditions and published in this handbook, which can be found at [NSA Copyright Resources](#). Further resources: [Commonly Asked Copyright Questions](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions-NSA](#).

STUDENTS

1. Students may participate in the auditions provided they (1) are currently studying with a NATS member in good standing who is registered for the conference, and (2) qualify for one of the categories described below.
2. Teachers may register students for more than one category. Teachers who wish their students to compete in two or more categories must complete separate online registrations and pay an entry fee for each category. ***The current Southern Region registration fee for each category is \$23.***
3. The student registration fee permits students to attend all sessions of the conference.
4. Teachers are responsible for disseminating all conference information to their students' collaborative pianists.
5. To assist a student who does not have immediate access to a collaborative pianist, the region can assign a collaborative pianist if the teacher indicates this need during online registration in Auditionware.
 - a. It is the teacher's responsibility to contract collaborative pianist services and the student's responsibility to provide remuneration for their collaborative pianist.
 - b. Collaborative pianists must be contracted ***before*** student and teacher registration on Auditionware.
 - i. Teachers may only choose a specific collaborative pianist from the provided list on Auditionware during registration, or add additional collaborative pianists to the online list, if they have already contracted their chosen collaborative pianist before registration.
 - c. The regional collaborative pianist fees are \$50 for "three-song categories" and \$65 for "four or more" song categories. These fees include service for all rounds of the regional auditions.
6. Students should be aware of the *National Policy on Copyright Laws* governing the chapter auditions and published in this handbook, which can be found at [NSA Copyright Resources](#). Further resources: [Commonly Asked Copyright Questions](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions-NSA](#).

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. Collaborative pianists must be contracted before teachers register their students on AuditionNow.
4. Collaborative pianists who are willing to accept additional student audition assignments should contact the current auditions chair or the chapter president by September 1st of the audition year.
5. The regional collaborative pianist fees are \$50 for "three-song categories" and \$65 for "four or more" song categories. These fees include service for all rounds of the regional auditions.
6. Collaborative pianists should be aware of the *National Policy on Copyright Laws* governing the chapter auditions and published in this handbook, which can be found at [NSA](#)

[Copyright Resources](#). Further resources: [Commonly Asked Copyright Questions](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions-NSA](#)

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, being heard, and adjudicated in a climate of mutual support and concern.
2. Certificates and cash awards are presented at the end of the Final Round of auditions. All NSA Qualifiers, the top 5 scorers in each category, will receive a certificate of award. The top three scorers in each category will sing in the Final Round of auditions and will receive a cash prize in addition to a certificate of award. In case of a tie, each student will receive the higher place and its appropriate cash award.

PRELIMINARY ROUND

1. Singers in the Children and Youth Categories 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 six minutes.
2. Singers in the 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. During the Preliminary Round, judges will also score each student according to the following system:

98-100 superb

95-97 excellent

90-94 worthy of semi-finals

85-89 not yet worthy of semi-finals

80-84 not yet competitive in the category

6. Students with two scores above 90 or an average score of 90 or above will advance to the Semi-Final Round.

SEMI-FINAL ROUND

1. The Semi-Final round is competitive. All semi-finalists must sing to be considered for advancement to the Final Round.
2. Students sing one song of their choice. Judges serve as scorers, but not as commentators.
3. Judges score students according to the following system:

98-100 superb
95-97 excellent
90-94 worthy of finals
85-89 not worthy of finals
80-85 marginal semifinalist

4. The five top scorers and ties in each category are all National Student Audition (NSA) qualifiers and will receive a certificate of award.
5. The top three scorers and ties in each category will advance to the Final Round of auditions. These top three scorers and ties must have two scores of 90 or above, or an average score of 90.

FINAL ROUND

1. Judges for a given finals session occasionally judge a class that contains a student with whom a significant relationship exists. For such a situation, write "Pass" on the entire ballot for that class.
2. Students perform one song of their choice, with duration not to exceed four minutes. Time begins when the accompanist begins playing. Cuts are permitted. Students are stopped without penalty after four minutes.
3. 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 more than one category 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 students in 1st through 3rd place receive cash prizes. Cash prize amounts are determined by the current executive board of the chapter.

Southern Region NATS Student Auditions

Categories of Entry

TERMINOLOGY & ABBREVIATIONS

Treble—Soprano, Mezzo-soprano, Contralto, & Countertenor Voices **TBB**—Tenor, Baritone & Bass Voices
MT—Musical Theatre
CL—Classical Art Songs & Arias
CM—Commercial Music **AS**—American Negro Spirituals **HJ**—Hall Johnson
HS—High School

• **Categories ADVANCING to National NSA Rounds in the 2023/24 Audition Cycle**

• **Subdivided categories ADVANCING to nationals by combining into a single category in the NSA National Rounds**

FOR EXAMPLE: CL 1A and CL 1B combine into one category, CL 1, in the national levels of NSA. If a region subdivides these categories, then up to 10 students (up to 5 from each subdivision) may advance to each combined category in the national YouTube round.

AN EXCEPTION: Some highly populated and/or disparate subdivisions do advance as individual national categories without combining—these national level subdivisions are independent categories. For example: CL 3A and CL3B are independent national categories and do not combine to become CL 3 at the national levels of NSA. See page 2.

• **Categories that MUST be subdivided in NSA regions to advance independently to the NSA National Preliminary Round.**

• **Categories that alternate biennially and also ADVANCE to National NSA Rounds in alternate years**

• **Categories NOT advancing to the NSA National Rounds**

• **Subdivided categories ADVANCING to nationals by combining into a single category in the NSA National Rounds**

Children & Youth Categories (any length of study)

Number	Category	Age Range/Limit	Time Limit	Repertoire Requirements
MT 1	Children Musical Theatre– All Voices	11 & under below 6 th grade	6 minutes	TWO contrasting age-appropriate musical theatre selections from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles or musical theatre song literature. Only one selection may be chosen from operetta or musical theatre song literature.
MT 2	Youth Musical Theatre – All Voices	11-14 6 th -8 th grade	6 minutes	TWO contrasting age-appropriate musical theatre selections from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles or musical theatre song literature. Only one selection may be chosen from operetta or musical theatre song literature.
CL 1	Children Classical – All Voices	11 & under. below 6 th grade	6 minutes	TWO contrasting age-appropriate selections from classical repertoire
CL 2	Youth Classical – All Voices	11-14 6 th -8 th grade	6 minutes	TWO contrasting age-appropriate selections from classical repertoire
CM 1	Children Commercial Music—All Voices	11 & under. below 6 th grade	6 minutes	TWO contrasting age-appropriate selections performed in a CM style.
CM 2	Youth Commercial Music – All Voices	11-14 6 th -8 th grade	6 minutes	TWO contrasting age-appropriate selections performed in a CM style.

High School Categories

Number	Category	Length of Study	Age Range/ Limit	Time Limit	Repertoire Requirements
MT 3	HS Musical Theatre – Treble Voices	No Limit – all HS	14 -19	8-10 minutes	THREE contrasting musical theatre selections from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles, or musical theatre song literature. Only one selection may be chosen from an operetta or musical theatre song literature.
MT 4	HS Musical Theatre – TBB Voices	No Limit – all HS	14 -19	8-10 minutes	THREE contrasting musical theatre selections from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles, or musical theatre song literature. Only one selection may be chosen from an operetta or musical theatre song literature.
CL 3	HS Classical – Treble Voices	No Limit – all HS	14 -19	8-10 minutes	THREE contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English.* One art song in a language other than English. One additional art song or aria.
CL 4	HS Classical – TBB Voices	No Limit – all HS	14 -19	8-10 minutes	THREE contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English.* One art song in a language other than English. One additional art song or aria.
CM 3	HS Commercial Music – All Voices	No Limit – all HS	14 -19	8 minutes	THREE contrasting full songs performed in a CM style(s): At least one ballad and one up tempo included in 3 selections. Only one song may be an original song, instead of a cover. Only one song may be self-accompanied on an acoustic instrument, instead of performing with an instrumental track or a live collaborative pianist.
AS 3	American Negro Spiritual – All Voices	No Limit – all HS	14 -19	8-10 minutes	THREE American Negro Spirituals contrasting by composer, tempo, and text. See approved spirituals repertoire on NATS.org

Lower Post-High School Categories

Number	Category	Length of	Age Limit	Time	Repertoire Requirements
MT 5	Lower Musical Theatre – Treble Voices	1-2 years Post HS	22	10 minutes	THREE contrasting musical theatre selections: from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles, or musical theatre song literature. Only one selection may be chosen from an operetta or musical theatre song literature.
MT 6	Lower Musical Theatre – TBB Voices	1-2 years Post HS	22	10 minutes	THREE contrasting musical theatre selections: from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles, or musical theatre song literature. Only one selection may be chosen from an operetta or musical theatre song literature.
CM 5	Lower Commercial Music – All Voices	1-2 years Post HS	22	10 minutes	THREE contrasting full songs performed in a CM style(s): Only one song may be an original song, instead of a cover. Only one song may be self-accompanied on an acoustic instrument, instead of performing with an instrumental track or a live collaborative pianist.
AS 7	1 st -3 rd year Post HS American Negro Spiritual – All Voices	1-3 years Post HS	23	10 minutes	THREE American Negro Spirituals contrasting by composer, tempo, and text. See approved spirituals repertoire on NATS.org
CL 5A	1 st Year Classical – Treble Voices	1 year Post HS	20	10 minutes	THREE contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English.* One art song in a language other than English. One aria or art song.
CL 6A	1 st Year Classical – TBB Voices	1 year Post HS	20	10 minutes	THREE contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English.* One art song in a language other than English. One aria or art song.

CL 5B	2 nd Year Classical – Treble Voices	2 years Post HS	22	10 minutes	THREE contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English.* One art song in a language other than English. One aria or art song.
CL 6B	2 nd Year Classical – TBB Voices	2 years Post HS	22	10 minutes	THREE contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English.* One art song in a language other than English. One aria or art song.

†PLEASE NOTE: The Hall Johnson Spirituals Competition is held only in NSA audition cycles culminating at the NATS national conference.

The American Negro Spiritual Category is offered in NSA audition cycles culminating at the NATS national summer workshop.

* English must be the original language of the required one art song in English.

†† Singers may hold the music score for oratorio/cantata aria, in exception to the memorization requirement.

Upper Post-High School Categories

Number	Category	Length of Study	Age Limit	Time Limit	Repertoire Requirements
MT 7	Upper Musical Theatre- Treble Voices	3-5 years Post HS	25	12 minutes	FOUR contrasting musical theatre selections: from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles, or musical theatre song literature. Only one selection may be chosen from an operetta or musical theatre song literature.
MT 8	Upper Musical Theatre- TBB Voices	3-5 years Post HS	25	12 minutes	FOUR contrasting musical theatre selections: from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles, or musical theatre song literature. Only one selection may be chosen from an operetta or musical theatre song literature.
CM 7	Upper Commercial Music – All Voices	3-5 years Post HS	25	12 minutes	FOUR contrasting full songs performed in a CM style(s): Up to 2 songs may be original songs, instead of a cover. Up to 2 songs may be self-accompanied on an acoustic instrument, instead of performing with an instrumental track or a live collaborative pianist.
AS 7	1 st – 3 rd yr. Post HS American Negro Spiritual—All Voices	1-3 years Post HS	23	10 minutes	THREE American Negro Spirituals contrasting by composer, tempo, and text. See approved spirituals repertoire on NATS.org
CL 7A	3 rd Year Classical – Treble Voices	3 years Post HS	23	12 minutes	FOUR contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English.* One art song in a language other than English. One aria. One additional selection from the classical repertoire. At least three languages must be represented.
CL 8A	3 rd Year Classical – TBB Voices	3 years Post HS	23	12 minutes	FOUR contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English.* One art song in a language other than English. One aria. One additional selection from the classical repertoire. At least three languages must be represented.
CL 7B	4 th Year Classical – Treble Voices	4-5 years Post HS	25	12 minutes	FOUR contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English.* One art song in a language other than English. One aria. One additional selection from the classical repertoire. At least three languages must be represented.
CL 8B	4 th Year Classical – TBB Voices	4-5 years Post HS	25	12 minutes	FOUR contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English.* One art song in a language other than English. One aria. One additional selection from the classical repertoire. At least three languages must be represented.

Biennial HALL JOHNSON Spirituals Competition

Number	Category	Length of Study	Age Limit	Time Limit	Repertoire Requirements
HJ 7†	Hall Johnson – All Voices <i>†Not active in the 2024-2025 auditions cycle</i>	Post HS undergraduate students only	17-23	12 minutes	THREE contrasting selections from approved Hall Johnson spirituals repertoire. See approved spirituals repertoire on NATS.org

† PLEASE NOTE: The Hall Johnson Spirituals Competition is held only in NSA audition cycles culminating at the NATS national conference. The American Negro Spiritual Category is offered in NSA audition cycles culminating at the NATS national summer workshop.

* English must be the original language of the required one art song in English.

†† Singers may hold the music score for oratorio/cantata aria, in exception to the memorization requirement.

Advanced Categories

Number	Category	Length of	Age Limit	Time Limit	Repertoire Requirements
MT 9	Advanced Musical Theatre – Treble Voices	4+ years Post HS	30	15 minutes	FOUR contrasting musical theatre selections: from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles, or musical theatre song literature. Only one selection may be chosen from an operetta or musical theatre song literature
MT 10	Advanced Musical Theatre – TBB Voices	4+ years Post HS	30	15 minutes	FOUR contrasting musical theatre selections: from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles, or musical theatre song literature. Only one selection may be chosen from an operetta or musical theatre song literature
CM 9	Advanced Commercial Music – All Voices	4+ years Post HS	30	15 minutes	FIVE contrasting full songs performed in a CM style(s): Up to 3 songs may be original songs, instead of a cover. Up to 2 songs may be self-accompanied on an acoustic instrument, instead of performing with an instrumental track or a live collaborative instrumentalist
AS 9	4 th & 5 th yrs. Post HS & Advanced American Negro Spiritual—All Voices	4+ years Post HS	30	12 minutes	FOUR contrasting selections from approved Hall Johnson spirituals repertoire. See approved spirituals repertoire on NATS.org
CL 9A	Lower Advanced Classical – Treble Voices	4-7 years Post HS	22-26	15 minutes	FIVE contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English.* One art song in a language other than English. One operatic aria. One oratorio/cantata aria.†† One additional selection from the classical repertoire. At least three languages must be represented.
CL 10A	Lower Advanced Classical – TBB Voices	4-7 years Post HS	22-26	15 minutes	FIVE contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English.* One art song in a language other than English. One operatic aria. One oratorio/cantata aria.†† One additional selection from the classical repertoire. At least three languages must be represented.
CL 9B	Upper Advanced Classical – Treble Voices	7+ years Post HS	25-30	15 minutes	FIVE contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English.* One art song in a language other than English. One operatic aria. One oratorio/cantata aria.†† One additional selection from the classical repertoire. At least three languages must be represented.
CL 10B	Upper Advanced Classical – TBB Voices	7+ years Post HS	25-30	15 minutes	FIVE contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English.* One art song in a language other than English. One operatic aria. One oratorio/cantata aria.†† One additional selection from the classical repertoire. At least three languages must be represented.

†PLEASE NOTE: *The Hall Johnson Spirituals Competition is held only in NSA audition cycles culminating at the NATS national conference. The American Negro Spiritual Category is offered in NSA audition cycles culminating at the NATS national summer workshop.*

* *English must be the original language of the required one art song in English.*

†† *Singers may hold the music score for oratorio/cantata aria, in exception to the memorization requirement.*

Adult Avocational Categories

Number	Category	Length of Study	Age Limit	Time Limit	Repertoire Requirements
MT 11	Adult Musical Theatre – All Voices	No Limit	18+	10-12 minutes	THREE contrasting musical theatre selections: from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles or musical theatre song literature. Only one selection may be chosen from operetta or musical theatre song literature.
CL 11	Adult Classical – All Voices	No Limit	18+	10-12 minutes	THREE contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English.* One art song in language other than English. One additional art song or aria.
CM 11	Adult Commercial Music – All Voices	No Limit	18+	10-12 minutes	THREE contrasting full songs performed in a CM style(s): Only one song may be an original song, instead of a cover. Only one song may be self-accompanied on an acoustic instrument, instead of performing with an instrumental track or live collaborative pianist.

** English must be the original language of the required one art song in English.*

Non-Traditional Student Categories

Number	Category	Length of Study	Age Limit	Time Limit	Repertoire Requirements
MT 13	Adult Musical Theatre – All Voices	No Limit	18+	10-12 minutes	THREE contrasting musical theatre selections: from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles or musical theatre song literature. Only one selection may be chosen from operetta or musical theatre song literature.
CL 13	Adult Classical – All Voices	No Limit	18+	10-12 minutes	THREE contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English.* One art song in language other than English. One additional art song or aria.
CM 13	Adult Commercial Music – All Voices	No Limit	18+	10-12 minutes	THREE contrasting full songs performed in a CM style(s): Only one song may be an original song, instead of a cover. Only one song may be self-accompanied on an acoustic instrument, instead of performing with an instrumental track or live collaborative pianist.

** English must be the original language of the required one art song in English.*