



Good Labor Day Weekend NATS Region Governors, Chapter Presidents, and Auditions Coordinators,

As the southeast (and the NATS National Office) braces for the arrival of hurricane “Dorian”, we have been working hard to finalize the new NATS Copyright Policy and wanted to get it to you all! You will find it, a link to the NATS Copyright Resource Center, and an outline of the acknowledgement process that will be added in to the registration procedure for student auditions.

Below, you will find:

1. The new **NATS Copyright Policy**
 2. A link to the **NATS Copyright Resource Center**
 3. An outline of the **Acknowledgement Process** that will be added in to the registration procedure for student auditions.
 4. A note on the **Use of Tablets** by collaborative pianists.
 5. The **Checking of Original Scores** at NATS events.
- **Official NATS Copyright Policy for Use of Published Music**
 1. NATS encourages its members, their students, accompanists 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.
 - **NATS Copyright Resource Center**
 1. https://www.nats.org/Copyright_Resources.html
 - **Copyright Acknowledgement for Teachers, Singers, & Pianists**
 1. **Teachers** will log into Auditionware to register their students as normal. As teachers register each singer, they will be asked to acknowledge the NATS Copyright Policy for each singer. (This will simply be a box that teachers will check, right along with the singer’s Name, Category, Etc.)
 2. Once a **Singer** is registered for an event, the singer will receive an email from Auditionware with a link to an Acknowledgement page. (This email will go to the email entered for the singer by the teacher. If the singer is under 18 years of age, it would be best to use a parent/guardian’s email address, as they will need to acknowledge.) The singer (or parent/guardian) will click on the link, which will take them to the Acknowledgement, and there they will click and submit the Acknowledgement of copyright.

- a. Follow-up emails will be automatically sent from Auditionware at regular intervals leading up to an event, until the singer has submitted their copyright acknowledgement.
 3. Once registration closes for an event, each **Collaborative Pianist** who is playing for the event will receive an email from Auditionware with a link to an Acknowledgement page. Note: The collaborative pianist will only receive one email, regardless of the number of students for whom they are playing, rather than one email per student. (This email will go to the email entered for the pianist by the teacher. If the pianist is under 18 years of age, it would be best to use a parent/guardian's email address, as they will need to acknowledge.) The pianist (or parent/guardian) will click on the link, which will take them to the Acknowledgement, and there they will click and submit the Acknowledgement of copyright.
 - a. Follow-up emails will be automatically sent from Auditionware at regular intervals leading up to an event, until the pianist has submitted their copyright acknowledgement.
 4. **Teachers, Students, and Pianists** all need to complete their respective acknowledgements prior to the NATS event.
 5. **Audition Coordinators** will be able to export a report of Student and Pianist acknowledgements from Auditionware to confirm acceptance.
- **Use of Tablets by Collaborative Pianists**
 1. The use of iPads and tablets as musical scores for collaborative pianists during all levels of NATS auditions has been approved and are held to the same standards of copyright as any other musical score used for auditions.
 - a. For clarification on appropriate use of tablets please visit the [NATS Commonly Asked Copyright Questions for Teachers, Accompanists, and Students](#) document located in the NATS Copyright Resource Center.
 - **With our new copyright policy and teacher/student/pianist copyright acknowledgements, it is **NO LONGER NECESSARY** to check for original scores at NATS events.**

It will be vitally important for governors, presidents, and audition coordinators to remind your membership that they will need to inform their singers and their pianists that they need to be on the lookout for and submit the copyright acknowledgement forms prior to their audition(s). **It is also imperative for teachers to enter correct email addresses for both singers and pianists.**

Thank you for your patience and help as we incorporate these new processes. Your time, energy, and effort are all invaluable to our great organization!

Go NATS!

Mark McQuade

NATS Coordinator for Auditions and Competitions