



NSA – National Student Auditions

In February 2019, the NSA Committee sent a survey to all NATS chapter, district, and region auditions officers. Responding to their needs and desires to become more inclusive of ALL singers regardless of gender, the NATS Board voted to make the following changes to the NSA regulations:

1. Audition Category Names have been changed. (click here for complete list: https://www.nats.org/Library/NSA_Files/NSA_Revised_Categories_2019_July_30_color_rev.pdf)
 1. Odd-numbered categories (formerly titled “Women”) are changed to “Treble” to include students singing Soprano, Mezzo, Alto, or Countertenor.
 2. Even-numbered categories (formerly titled “Men”) are changed to “TBB” to include students singing Tenor, Baritone, and Bass.
2. Music theater song literature has been added as an option for one selection of required repertoire.
3. Improvements to the NATS Audition Rubrics:
 1. Change of scoring descriptors from “Lowest,” “Average,” and “Best” to “Developing,” “Advancing,” and “Accomplished.”
 1. Classical Rubric: https://www.nats.org/Library/NSA_Files/NATS_Rubric_Classical_2019_July_30.pdf
 2. Expanded definitions of “Mix” and “Belt” on the Music Theater Rubric
 1. Musical Theater Rubric: https://www.nats.org/Library/NSA_Files/NATS_Rubric_Music_Theater_MUTH_July_30.pdf
 3. Teachers now have access to a Fillable PDF student-information sheet that they can send to all of their students to complete and return, so that teachers have all of the information they will need prior to completing the students’ registrations.
 1. https://www.nats.org/Library/NSA_Files/Student_pre-register_Info_for_teachers_-_Fillable_REV_2019-07-30.pdf
 4. Coming Soon:
 1. A national Contemporary Commercial Music (CCM) Rubric
 2. Classical, CCM, and Music Theater Style Sheets (specific descriptors of individual and varied styles/aspects within each category)

Please access new additions to the **NSA Resource Center**:

- (NEW) Tips for Adjudicating Music Theater Categories of NSA
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbyEkytK1Q4&feature=youtu.be>
- (NEW) Audio Examples of Music Theater Styles (click link & scroll to bottom of page)
 - <https://www.nats.org/nsaresources.html>



TABLETS/ELECTRONIC SCORES

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 standard as any other musical score used for auditions.

COPYRIGHT

Technological advances, which have changed accessibility to music while copyright law has remained stagnant, have created difficult issues for many NATS chapters and regions within our current policy. In response to these concerns, the NATS National Board met with the NATS lawyer to review and discuss the U.S. Copyright Laws, NATS' Copyright Policy, and NATS' liability for copyright infringement. As a result, the board voted to adopt the new policy as drafted by our lawyer. We are currently finalizing revisions in the Copyright policy that will affect both the use of Tablets and the verification of all legal music scores. We have had some delays but hope to send out the new information in the next week. We believe these changes will allow us to protect NATS while also relieving entities of certain constraints.

AUDITIONWARE (NATS Audition Scheduling Software)

Based on feedback we received from NATS auditions officers from around the country, the NATS auditions team and NATS' Executive Director began working with Brad Mills to update the Auditionware site. Brad wants his product to work well for NATS and is quick to make adjustments when asked. He also encourages all auditions chairs to reach out to him if they run into problems in the course of an audition. Brad is always happy to help

In an effort to continue to make Auditionware easier to use for your auditions chairs, Brad Mills has implemented several new features and updates. Below is a detailed list of updates that have been implemented in Auditionware for this year's audition cycle. As always, if you have questions please don't hesitate to reach out to Brad Mills who runs the Auditionware site.

1. PDF uploads are now much easier to display on Home Page (instructions are provided on the website)
2. There are now "Help" buttons related to context of each page for coordinators to access (Anywhere you see a Little Blue Bubble, you can click the bubble for more info/help.)
3. Copy custom email link to all registered students to Dashboard page
4. Online Judging Forms have been reformatted to print on one page (8.5x11)
5. Data flows/instructions are now Provided to help setup the appropriate number of rounds to be scheduled. (Please read them carefully and take NOTE: when it asks how many "Rounds" an audition will have, that means how many "Days of Preliminaries" you have—preliminaries on Thursday and Friday would equal two "Rounds". You indicate a semi-final or final round by checking a box; you do not include them in the NUMBER of ROUNDS.
6. On the Tally Scores page, those singers who have earned an average score of 90 or better will be highlighted in GREEN.



7. Auditions Chairs should enter scores from preliminary rounds into the system before students may be advanced. If they do not, they will receive notification that they have not entered scores.
8. Region Auditions Chairs will now be able to select (and need to do so) the appropriate Equivalent National Category for each of their Region Categories when they set up their auditions in Auditionware.
9. When Teachers are registering their students for an audition, they will now be able to select a "TYPE" –Aria (Opera), Aria (Oratorio), Art Song in English, Foreign Language Arts Song, etc.—for each of their students' pieces. There will be an "Other" option that allows the user to enter another TYPE that doesn't fit the current NSA types (ex. CCM, Jazz, Rock, etc.).

We are also working on an auto-populating database for repertoire selections that will allow teachers to select song titles as they begin to type. This will help eliminate spelling errors, typos, etc. and hopefully speed up the process for teachers. And some even more exciting news for auditions chairs is that Brad plans to spend the next year making his site much more visually appealing and intuitive with much easier functionality.

****Note: There are certain elements, relating to copyright, that have not yet been updated in Auditionware. Therefore, as you are setting up your auditions, please know that these elements will be updated in Auditionware, once we have the final revisions complete.*

YEAR OF WOMEN COMPOSERS

The NATS Advocacy Committee, with the support of the NSA Committee and NATS leadership, is supporting an endeavor to promote diversity in repertoire selection by choosing a different theme biennially. Our first initiative will be vocal music by women composers. We want to encourage the membership to program music by women for the upcoming competition and recital seasons. Our goal is to advance the repertoire of these composers by strong suggestion rather than by requirement. To that end we offer resources on the NATS website: https://www.nats.org/Women_Composers_Initiative.html

Please join us in making this an opportunity to discover, learn, and teach wonderful new repertoire that celebrates the contributions of women composers to our rich song heritage. We ask all chapters, districts and regions to endorse this initiative and include this information in their 2019/20 audition season communication to their members. Some chapters have already decided to offer a special audition award for the best performance of a composition written by a woman.

We encourage NATS entities to add additional repertoire resources to the information already on the NATS web site by sending it to Loraine Sims, Chair of the NATS Advocacy Committee at lsims@lsu.edu.