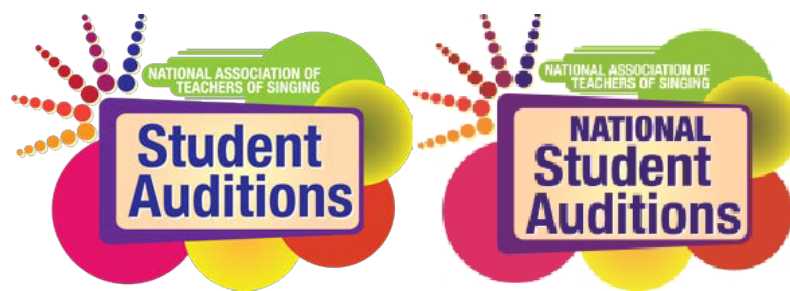


Chapter, District, Region, and National Student Auditions



The National Student Auditions begin at the regional level and progress to the national preliminary round, semifinal round and final round. Regional auditions should offer all of the categories contained in the “Category, Repertoire, Age, and Time Requirements” section of this document. In order to ensure across the board fairness and appropriate rigor to the National Student Auditions, Regions may only advance singers to NSA categories from a regional audition. Exceptions to this regulation must be approved by the NSA Coordinator, VP of Auditions, and NATS Executive Office staff. Winners of Chapter or District auditions may not be automatically advanced to the National Student Auditions.

Conference Year Only – Hall Johnson Spiritual Category

Due to the generosity of the Hall Johnson Estate, a \$2000 award will be given in each national conference year (even-numbered years) to the best performance of a Hall Johnson Spiritual for the conferences from 2016--2036. All interested performers will apply for this category as part of regional student auditions with the top five regional singers advancing to the NSA rounds, as with all other categories. Chapters are also eligible and encouraged to add this competition to chapter auditions. Where applicable, Chapter auditions serve as qualifying rounds for advancement into region auditions.

Complete information including a catalog of works and links to publications related to this special category is available at www.nats.org

Category	Length Of Study	Age limit	Time	Repertoire
Hall Johnson	Undergraduate age women and men	17-23	10-12 minutes	Three contrasting selections from Hall Johnson spiritual repertoire.

Regional and National Student Auditions Categories Length of Study, Repertoire, Age, and Time Requirements

* CATEGORY	LENGTH OF STUDY	AGE LIMIT	* TIME	* REPERTOIRE: all repertoire is sung from memory
1 High School Music Theater Women	No limit	14--19	8 minutes	*Three Contrasting Music Theater Selections from scores of book shows written or intended for fully realized musical productions. (a musical, revue, song cycle or operetta) Only one selection may be an operetta aria.
2 High School Music Theater Men	No limit	14--19	8 minutes	*Three Contrasting Music Theater Selections from scores of book shows written or intended for fully realized musical productions. (a musical, revue, song cycle or operetta) Only one selection may be an operetta aria.
3 High School Women	No limit	14--19	8 minutes	*Three contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One art song in English. One art song in a foreign language. One additional art song or aria.
4 High School Men	No limit	14--19	8 minutes	*Three contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One art song in English. One art song in a foreign language. One additional art song or aria.
5 Lower College Music Theater Women	0--2 post high school	22	10 minutes	Three Contrasting Music Theater Selections from scores of book shows written or intended for fully realized musical productions. (a musical, revue, song cycle or operetta) Only one selection may be an operetta aria.
6 Lower College Music Theater Men	0--2 years post high school	22	10 minutes	Three Contrasting Music Theater Selections from scores of book shows written or intended for fully realized musical productions. (a musical, revue, song cycle or operetta) Only one selection may be an operetta aria.
7 Lower College Independent Studio Women	0--2 years post high school	22	10 minutes	Three contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One aria or art song. One art song in English. One foreign language art song.
8 Lower College Independent Studio Men	0--2 years post high school	22	10 minutes	Three contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One aria or art song. One art song in English. One foreign language art song.
9 Upper College Music Theater Women	3--5 post high school all as undergraduate	25	12 minutes	Four Contrasting Music Theater Selections from scores of book shows written or intended for fully realized musical productions. (a musical, revue, song cycle or operetta) Only one selection may be an operetta aria.
10 Upper College Music Theater Men	3--5 post high school all as undergraduate	25	12 minutes	Four Contrasting Music Theater Selections from scores of book shows written or intended for fully realized musical productions. (a musical, revue, song cycle or operetta) Only one selection may be an operetta aria.
11 Upper College Independent Studio Women	3--5 post high school all as undergraduate	25	12 minutes	Four contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One aria. One art song in English. One foreign language art song. One additional selection. At least three languages must be represented.
12 Upper College Independent Studio Men	3--5 post high school all as undergraduate	25	12 minutes	Four contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One aria. One art song in English. One foreign language art song. One additional selection. At least three languages must be represented.
13 Advanced College Independent Studio Women	4+ post high school	22--30	15 minutes	Five contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One operatic aria. One oratorio/cantata aria. One foreign language art song. One art song in English. One additional selection from the classical repertoire. At least three languages must be represented.
14 Advanced College Independent Studio Men	4+ post high school	22--30	15 minutes	Five contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One operatic aria. One oratorio/cantata aria. One foreign language art song. One art song in English. One additional selection from the classical repertoire. At least three languages must be represented.

Asterisk Clarifications

*CATEGORY	Transgender Policy --Students who self identify as transgender or gender fluid must choose one audition category in Classical and/or Music Theater based on their gender identification at the time of the chapter or regional audition, and select repertoire linked and associated with the gender of that category throughout the corresponding audition season.
*TIME	At the preliminary rounds of chapter, district, or regional auditions, performance times may vary due to size of the auditions. At the preliminary and semi-final round of the national audition, the performance times will be as printed above. The total performance time of the selections for some singers may exceed the category performance time allotment, making it likely that the adjudication panel will be unable to hear all of the repertoire entered by the singer and the adjudication panel will call/signal stop before a selection is concluded.
*REPERTOIRE	High school age categories and younger in Chapter and District auditions may require two or three selections as best serves the needs and tradition of the Chapter or District. Regional and National Auditions will require three selections from High School Categories.
Teacher members in NATS student auditions	NATS teacher members who meet the requirements of a student audition category-- -age and years of study--- may enter student auditions through the NATS member with whom they are currently studying, but they may not enter themselves in the audition. If they enter their students in the audition, they must be available to adjudicate a category as well.

Site Procedures for a NATS Audition

- ❖ Each singer in the same category is allotted the same amount of time to perform.
- ❖ Singers select their first piece to perform.
- ❖ The adjudication panel selects subsequent pieces.
- ❖ Time begins when the singer announces their first piece.
- ❖ Time continues to run between selections.
 - Therefore, in preliminary and semi-final rounds, each adjudication panel chair should expedite a rotation cycle among the panel members for subsequent repertoire selections. Repertoire selections should be made immediately because time continues to run between selections.
- ❖ During the audition, selections are to be sung in their entirety as prepared by the student, WITHOUT suggested edits from adjudicators. For example:
 - requesting a singer start at the B section
 - suggesting a student skip a prepared recitative and start with the aria
 - stopping a student in the middle of a piece to move on to the next piece
- ❖ Repertoire is heard as the time allotment allows. It is possible that not all repertoire will be heard, and/or that the time allotment will end in the middle of a selection. Singers should be made aware of this possibility by their teachers.
- ❖ The audition is completed when the adjudication panel or the timer calls/signals “stop”.

Classical Audition Terminology

Aria	An aria is a solo taken from an opera, oratorio, mass, cantata, zarzuela, operetta, or works titled “concert aria”. Oxford Online definitions will be used for the purposes of this audition. For example, Purcell’s selections from the semi-- operas and masques are considered songs.
24/26/28 Italian Art Songs and Arias	The repertoire found in the 24/26/28 Italian Art Songs and Arias collections may be counted as an aria or an art song in the high school and lower college classical categories. For the singers in the upper college categories and beyond, these pieces may count as an art song ONLY, regardless of origin. Any repertoire found outside of these collections will be considered only as the composer intended, as an art song OR aria.
Memorization	All repertoire, including oratorio, must be sung from memory.
Original Languages	Selections should be sung in original language or in translation if warranted by common performance practice.
Transposition	All arias from opera, oratorio, mass, cantata, operetta, works titled “concert aria,” or music theater selections must be sung in the original or standard published key.
Repertoire/Categories	The word “classical” in this context refers to art songs and arias from the “classical” genre, not limited to the “Classical” period of Mozart and Haydn. In other words, no music theater, pop, soul, jazz, rhythm and blues, etc. Published arrangements of folk songs, spirituals, and traditional hymn tunes in English are widely accepted as a part of the classical genre. Students in classical categories may present one selection of this type to fulfill the English art song requirement.
Judicious Cuts	Piano introductions, piano interludes, piano music after the vocal solo is completed, and internal cuts of opera arias and music theater selections are allowed as in common performance practice. Cuts of verse or verses of selections are not allowed. In the case of strophic pieces, all verses should remain that are traditionally included.
Comment Only	Any student may register to sing for comments only and participate in the preliminary audition round.

Music Theater Audition Terminology

Memorization	All repertoire must be sung from memory.
Original Languages	Selections must be sung in original language or in translation if warranted by common performance practice.
Transposition	Music Theater selections in college categories and older must be sung in the original or standard published key. High school singers and younger may use published transposed keys to accommodate voice change issues only. Any published transposition must retain the composer's intention and style of music, and preserve the character being portrayed in the story and lyrics.
Judicious Cuts	Piano introductions, piano interludes, piano music after the vocal solo is completed, and internal cuts of music theater selections are allowed as in common performance practice. Cuts of verse or verses of selections are not allowed. In the case of strophic pieces, all verses should remain that are traditionally included.
Music Theater Selections	All repertoire must be from the score of a book show written or intended for a fully realized musical production. The production may be a musical (including film musicals), revue, or song cycle (MUTH). A fully realized production includes blocking/acting, dance, costumes, sets, pit orchestra or piano, lighting, sound, or a combination of the aforementioned elements. Revues should thread back to the original production. Various online resources are available to confirm whether a particular selection was written/intended for a fully realized musical production, and teachers are encouraged to consult these resources when selecting repertoire for the auditions. Singers should ensure that contrasting selections represent the spectrum of their vocal and dramatic abilities. This should be exhibited by selecting pieces of varying style periods (pop/rock, contemporary, Golden Age, operetta), composers, and employing a variety of vocalism (belt, mix, legit). (Singers may choose only one operetta aria as one of their selections.)
Comment Only	Any student may register to sing for comments only and participate in the preliminary audition round.

Subcategories for Chapter, District, and Region Auditions, including SC District Specific Categories

Number	Category	Length of Study	Age Range/Limit	Time
1 A	Lower High School Music Theater Women	No limit--- all HS	14---16 9th and 10th Grade	8---10 minutes
2 A	Lower High School Music Theater Men	No limit--- all HS	14---16 9th and 10th Grade	8---10 minutes
1 B	Upper High School Music Theater Women	No limit--- all HS	16---19 11th and 12th Grade	8---10 minutes
2 B	Upper High School Music Theater Men	No limit--- all HS	16---19 11th and 12th Grade	8---10 minutes
3 A	Lower High School Women	No limit--- all HS	14---16 9th and 10th Grade	8---10 minutes
4 A	Lower High School Men	No limit--- all HS	14---16 9th and 10th Grade	8---10 minutes
3 B	Upper High School Women	No limit--- all HS	16---19 11th and 12th Grade	8---10 minutes
4 B	Upper High School Men	No limit--- all HS	16---19 11th and 12th Grade	8---10 minutes
5 A	First Year College Music Theater Women	1 year post high school	20	10 minutes
6 A	First Year College Music Theater Men	1 year post high school	20	10 minutes
7 A	First Year College/Independent Studio Women	1 year post high school	20	10 minutes
8 A	First Year College/Independent Studio Men	1 year post high school	20	10 minutes
5 B	Second Year College Music Theater Women	2 years post high school	22	10 minutes
6 B	Second Year College Music Theater Men	2 years post high school	22	10 minutes
7 B	Second Year College/Independent Studio Women	2 years post high school	22	10 minutes
8 B	Second Year College/Independent Studio Men	2 years post high school	22	10 minutes
9 A	Third Year College Music Theater Women	3 years post high school	23	12 minutes
10 A	Third Year College Music Theater Men	3 years post high school	23	12 minutes
11 A	Third Year College/Independent Studio Women	3 years post high school	23	12 minutes
12 A	Third Year College/Independent Studio Men	3 years post high school	23	12 minutes
9 B	Fourth/Fifth Year College Music Theater Women	4-5 years post high school (all as under graduate)	25	12 minutes
10 B	Fourth/Fifth Year College Music Theater Men	4-5 years post high school (all as under graduate)	25	12 minutes
11 B	Fourth/Fifth Year College/Independent Studio Women	4-5 years post high school (all as under graduate)	25	12 minutes
12 B	Fourth/Fifth Year College/Independent Studio Men	4-5 years post high school (all as under graduate)	25	12 minutes
13 A	Lower Advanced College/ Independent Studio Women	4-7 years post high school	22-26	15 minutes
14 A	Lower Advanced College/ Independent Studio Men	4-7 years post high school	22-26	15 minutes
13 B	Upper Advanced College/ Independent Studio Women	7+ years post high school	25---30	15 minutes
14 B	Upper Advanced College/ Independent Studio Men	7+ post high school	25---30	15 minutes
+ 15 A *	Adult Women	No limit	22+	10-12 minutes
+ 16 A *	Adult Men	No limit	22+	10-12 minutes
+ 17 A *	Adult Music Theater Women	No limit	22+	10-12 minutes
+ 18 A *	Adult Music Theater Men	No limit	22+	10-12 minutes
+ 19 A	CCM Women	No limit	18+	10-12 minutes
+ 20 A	CCM Men	No limit	18+	10-12 minutes

+ Categories 15-20 are SC District ONLY. These categories do not advance to Regional or National levels.

*Adult categories are intended for serious adult avocational musicians.

Chapters, Districts, and Regions may subdivide the categories above in the following ways. Repertoire and time limits must remain the same. Categories can be divided again because of high numbers of students as IA---1, IA---2 etc.

Region and District and Chapter Subdivided Category Numbering System

Number	High School Categories	Number	Lower College Categories	Number	Upper College Categories	Number	Advanced Categories
1A	Lower High School Music Theater Women	5A	First Year Music Theater Women	9A	Third Year Music Theater Women	13A	Lower Advanced College/ Independent Studio Women
2A	Lower High School Music Theater Men	6A	First Year Music Theater Men	10A	Third Year Music Theater Men	14A	Lower Advanced College/ Independent Studio Men
1B	Upper High School Music Theater Women	5B	Second Year Music Theater Women	9B	Fourth/Fifth Music Theater Women	13B	Upper Advanced College/ Independent Studio Women
2B	Upper High School Music Theater Men	6B	Second Year Music Theater Men	10B	Fourth/Fifth Year Music Theater Men	14B	Upper Advanced College/ Independent Studio Men
3A	Lower High School Women	7A	First Year College/ Independent Studio Women	11A	Third Year College/ Independent Studio Women	+ 15A	Adult Women
4A	Lower High School Men	8A	First Year College/ Independent Studio Men	12A	Third Year College/ Independent Studio Men	+ 16A	Adult Men
3B	Upper High School Women	7B	Second Year College/ Independent Studio Women	11B	Fourth/Fifth Year College/ Independent Studio Women	+ 17A	Adult Music Theater Women
4B	Upper High School Men	8B	Second Year College/ Independent Studio Men	12B	Fourth/Fifth Year College/ Independent Studio Men	+ 18A	Adult Music Theater Men
						+ 19A	CCM Women
						+ 20A	CCM Men

+ Categories 15-20 are SC District ONLY. These categories do not advance to Regional or National levels. Categories can be divided again because of high numbers of students as IA---1, IA---2 etc.

Other Audition Categories Defined (not in National Student Auditions)

Category	Study	Age Limit	*Time	Repertoire: all repertoire is sung from memory
Children	No limit	11 and under/below 6th grade	8 minutes	Two or three contrasting age appropriate selections from classical repertoire.
Children's Music Theater	No limit	11 and under/below 6th grade	8 minutes	Two or three contrasting age appropriate Music Theater Selections from scores of book shows written or intended for fully realized musical productions. (a musical, revue, song cycle or operetta) Only one selection may be an operetta aria.
Youth	No limit	11---14 6th - 8th grade	8 minutes	Two or three contrasting age appropriate selections from classical repertoire.
Youth Music Theater	No limit	11---14 6th - 8th grade	8 minutes	Two or three contrasting age appropriate Music Theater Selections from scores of book shows written or intended for fully realized musical productions. (a musical, revue, song cycle or operetta) Only one selection may be an operetta aria.
+ 15A *Adult Women	No limit	22+	10---12 minutes	Three contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One art song in English. One art song in a foreign language. One additional art song or aria.
+ 16A *Adult Men	No limit	22+	10---12 minutes	Three contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One art song in English. One art song in a foreign language. One additional art song or aria.
+ 17A *Adult Music Theater Women	No limit	22+	10---12 minutes	Three contrasting Music Theater Selections from scores of book shows written or intended for fully realized musical productions. (a musical, revue, song cycle or operetta) Only one selection may be an operetta aria.
+ 18A *Adult Music Theater Men	No limit	22+	10---12 minutes	Three contrasting Music Theater Selections from scores of book shows written or intended for fully realized musical productions. (a musical, revue, song cycle or operetta) Only one selection may be an operetta aria.
+ 19A CCM Women	No limit	18+	10---12 minutes	Three contrasting selections from jazz, pop, rock, or other repertoire. Singers may specialize in a particular genre and have contrasting selections within the chosen genre OR may select repertoire from more than one genre.
+ 20A CCM Men	No limit	18+	10---12 minutes	Three contrasting selections from jazz, pop, rock, or other repertoire. Singers may specialize in a particular genre and have contrasting selections within the chosen genre OR may select repertoire from more than one genre.

+ Categories 15-20 are SC District ONLY. These categories do not advance to Regional or National levels.
 *Adult categories are intended for serious adult avocational musicians.

NATS regions, Chapters and Districts are encouraged to create new categories that do not advance to the National Student Auditions that suit their students' needs. For South Carolina District, these categories are designated by the + symbol.