

Student Auditions and Adjudications

At the heart of our student adjudications is "the idea of constructive criticism along with encouragement.... Perhaps one of the greatest ties that binds us together as NATS members is the care we have for the students of our colleagues, as demonstrated at our student auditions." -Roy Delp, past President of NATS, [*Journal of Singing*](#), Vol.57, No.1 p.2

GETTING READY

What are student NATS Auditions?

Each year NATS chapters and regions host Student Adjudications (also referred to as Student Auditions), an exciting experience where singers perform and receive written feedback about their performances. At these events singers meet and hear other singers, NATS teachers get to know their colleagues better, and everyone has the chance to hear a variety of songs. The event begins with a preliminary round, in which students sing for a panel of three adjudicators and perhaps a small audience. Finalists of the preliminary round perform again at the Final Concert which concludes the day. 1st, and 2nd Place winners of the preliminary round are announced during the Final Concert and prizes for Most Promising Singer are awarded.

Who can participate?

Only singers who study with a current NATS Ontario Member can participate. The level of adjudication is determined either by the amount of time singers have studied voice, or by the singer's age or year in school.

What are the levels?

- Category A - Young Singers Gr. 7-8
- Category 1 - High School Women Gr. 9-10
- Category 2 - High School Men Gr. 9-10
- Category 3 - High School Women Gr. 11-12
- Category 4 - High School Men Gr. 11-12
- Category 5 - 1st Year Post-Secondary Women
- Category 6 - 1st Year Post-Secondary Men

- Category 7 - 2nd Year Post-Secondary Women
 - Category 8 - 2nd Year Post-Secondary Men
 - Category 9 - 3rd Year Post-Secondary Women
 - Category 10 - 3rd Year Post - Secondary Men
 - Category 11 - 4th Year Post -Secondary Women
 - Category 12 - 4th Year Post-Secondary Men
 - Category 13 - Graduate School Level/Young Professional Women
 - Category 14 - Graduate School Level/Young Professional Men
 - Category 15 - Mature Beginners
 - Category 16 - Mature Singers
- (Categories 15 and 16 are divided into Men and Women when enough competitors apply.)

NEW

- Category MT- A1 - Musical Theatre High School Women Gr. 9-10
 - Category MT- A2 - Musical Theatre High School Men Gr. 9-10
 - Category MT- A3 - Musical Theatre High School Women Gr. 11-12
 - Category MT- A4 - Musical Theatre High School Men Gr. 11-12
 - Category MT-B1 - Musical Theatre 1st & 2nd Year Post-Secondary Women
 - Category MT-B2 - Musical Theatre 1st & 2nd Year Post-Secondary Men
 - Category MT-B3 - Musical Theatre 3rd & 4th Year Post-Secondary Women
 - Category MT-B4 - Musical Theatre 3rd & 4th Year Post-Secondary Men
- (Categories will be combined if enrolment is four or less.)

**Please read the rules below carefully for each category's specific requirements:
 Only CATEGORIES: A/MTA/MTB/15/16 may have Musical Theatre repertoire.
 CATEGORIES 1-14 are strictly classical repertoire.**

CATEGORIES & REPERTOIRE RULES

Each category represents the student's year in school.
 Singers may enter **ONLY ONE CATEGORY**.
 Winners in Category A are **not** eligible to advance to the Regional Auditions next March.

Category Description:

A Young Singers Gr.7-8

Repertoire: TWO contrasting songs, one of which may be a Musical Theatre solo **appropriate** to the singer. Modern ballads, rock or "pop" songs are not acceptable.

Time Limit: 8 minutes

1 High School Women Gr.9-10

2 High School Men Gr. 9-10

3 High School Women Gr.11-12

4 High School Men Gr. 11-12

Repertoire: **THREE art songs**, one of which must be sung in English, All songs may be sung in English. (An arranged Folk Song is acceptable)

All 17th and 18th century arias may be considered Art Song repertoire for one of the songs (ie. Scarlatti, Vivaldi, Handel)

Time Limit: 10 minutes

5 First Year Post Secondary Women

6 First Year Post Secondary Men

7 Second Year Post Secondary Women

8 Second Year Post Secondary Men

Repertoire: **THREE art songs**

1. One must be a 20th C. composition
2. An operatic aria or oratorio aria, well-suited to the singer's ability, may be substituted for one of the songs.
3. A minimum of **two languages** is required.

Time Limit: 10 minutes

9 Third Year Post Secondary Women

10 Third Year Post Secondary Men

11 Fourth Year Post Secondary Women

12 Fourth Year Post Secondary Men

Repertoire: ONE Opera or Oratorio aria and **THREE art songs** which must include:

1. One 20th Century art song, preferably post-1950 or in a contemporary idiom - Canadian composition strongly recommended.
2. Minimum of **three languages**

Time Limit: 10 minutes

13 Graduate School Level/ Young professional Women

14 Graduate School Level/ Young professional Men

Repertoire ONE operatic and ONE oratorio aria plus **THREE art songs** - minimum of **four languages**. One selection must have been composed **after 1950** or be in a contemporary idiom. Canadian composition strongly recommended.

Time Limit: 12 minutes

15 Mature Beginners- For singers not enrolled in full-time study, AND having received two years or less of private teaching, including any earlier training.

Minimum age requirement is 20.

Repertoire: TWO contrasting songs, one of which may be a Musical Theatre solo, Opera or Oratorio aria, appropriate to the singer. Modern ballads, rock or "pop" songs are not acceptable.

Time Limit: 8 minutes

16 Mature Singers - non-professional. For singers not enrolled in full-time study, AND having received more than 2 years of private teaching, including any earlier training.

Minimum age requirement is 20.

Repertoire: THREE songs or arias, one of which must be in a language other than English. One selection may be a Musical Theatre solo, including Gilbert and Sullivan.

Time Limit: 10 minutes

Mature Beginner (15) and Mature Singer (16) Categories may be divided according to gender at the discretion of the Auditions Committee. Pop, rock, or modern ballad may NOT be used in any class (except Music Theatre).

MUSIC THEATRE A1-4 & B1-4

Singers entering Music Theatre may NOT enter any other category. (Note: Categories A, 15 & 16 allow Music Theatre selections in their repertoire choices.)

MT-A1-4 Music Theatre A High School students

Repertoire: 1. An operetta aria or art song in the original language including English, any period of music
2 . Two selections: 1 ballad & 1 up-tempo

Time limit: 10 minutes

MT-B1-4 Music Theatre B Singers in university, college, conservatory, or private programs who are finished high school.

Repertoire: 1. An operetta aria or art song in the original language including English, any period of music
2 . Two selections: 1 ballad & 1 up-tempo

Time limit: 10 minutes

Please observe new copyright policies.

Photocopies will no longer be permitted in the room.

Adjudicators will not require a second original score.

Accompanists must play from an original score. Failure to follow repertoire requirements correctly or performing with illegal photocopies will result in the student being ineligible to win prizes. (They will receive written comments.)

NATS POLICY ON COPYRIGHT LAWS

The National Association of Teachers of Singing endorses a strict policy regarding copyright laws. The use of photocopied music is prohibited at all NATS sponsored events, from the national to the chapter level.

Exceptions are:

1. Music that is out of print, still under copyright law, with permission from a publisher.
2. Sheet music or books for which the copyright has expired, but are available in CD format. (e.g., CD Sheet Music). **Performers must be prepared to present proof of ownership upon**

request.

3. Sheet music purchased legally from an online vendor. Such music should have either a separate page proving the performer has purchased such OR a copyright notice at the bottom of the music that includes the performer's name. **Performers must be prepared to present proof of ownership upon request.**

4. Music available from approved public domain websites. performers should take particular care when accessing these sites as some do not guarantee that all works are indeed in the public domain. Current approved online public domain sites are: www.imslp.org, www.sheetmusicarchive.net, www.jscholarship.library.jhu.edu.

How do I register?

NATS Ontario Members can register their students at www.natsauditions.com, using the email account that is on file with NATS Ontario Chapter to login. Follow the explanations on the Home Page to register students.

How much does it cost to register a student (NEW for 2015)?

The student registration fee is \$25. No student may enter more than one class.

What is the fee for NATS Ontario Members who send students to the Auditions but who are not able to adjudicate?

NATS Ontario highly encourages all NATS Ontario Members to attend the Auditions for the collegial aspect of the day. However if a NATS Ontario Member is unable to attend the Auditions as an Adjudicator but is sending students there is a Non-Participation Fee as follows:

1-5 students = \$50

6-10 students = \$75

11-15 students = \$100

16-20 students = \$125

Teachers may be excused from these fees if they replace themselves for the day of adjudicating with a colleague. These teachers working as replacements need not be NATS members. You must email the coordinator no later than the registration deadline if you yourself are not able to adjudicate, and must a) pay your fee or b) replace yourself.

How should the registration fee be paid?

Applications are online at www.natsauditions.com. Once all students have been registered, follow the instructions to pay online through PAYPAL.

Cheques may also be posted to NATS Ontario Treasurer, Brooke Dufton:

NATS AUDITIONS
C/O BROOKE DUFTON
121-11 Elm Avenue,
Toronto ON
M4W 1N2

All mailed cheques must be postmarked by OCTOBER 16, 2015, for registration to be complete and students to be eligible to sing.

Can students access the registration page and register themselves?

The registration page is a Members Only Page. Each teacher must input personal information (address/phone #/email) for each of their students in their Member Profile. If a student is given access to their Teacher's Member Profile, they will also be able to access all other students applications and personal information. The program is set up as a site for Teachers to use. Allowing students to use this site is a violation of Privacy Laws, and is discouraged by the executive.

Do students need an accompanist?

Yes. Each student is required to bring their own accompanist, or pay a \$60 fee to use one of the Official Accompanists provided by NATS Ontario. An Official Accompanist (OA) will be chosen for each student - no requests for specific accompanists will be entertained. The \$60 fee includes a 20 minute scheduled rehearsal time on the day of the Auditions.

Accompanists may play for a maximum of seven singers. It is the responsibility of NATS Ontario Members to ensure that this maximum is not enforced. The Auditions Coordinator will communicate directly with accompanists that are over-booked, to confirm which seven singers they are playing for, and the subsequent students will be notified. Singers who do not have an accompanist will have 24 hours to provide the name of a new accompanist.

When is the deadline for registration?

Friday October 16th, 2015

Are original scores required? How many?

Yes. One original score for each composition is required and will be used by the accompanist. No photocopies are allowed in the room. Accompanists may not play from photocopies. Single sheets for bad page turns are permitted. Singers are not required to provide music for the adjudicators.

ON THE DAY

What is the schedule overview for the day?

8:30 am	Registration opens in the main floor lobby of Wilfred Laurier University (Waterloo)
9:00 am	Official Accompanist 20 min rehearsals begin
10:00 am	Adjudicators Meeting
11:00 am	Classes begin
4:30 pm	Approximate ending of all classes
5:30 pm	Approximate time of the Final Concert (Maureen Forrester Hall, WLU)

Where will the auditions be held in November 2015?

John Aird Centre/Recital Hall/Music Building of Wilfred Laurier University, Waterloo

<http://web.wlu.ca/maps/campusmap.php>

May singers rehearse with their accompanist?

All available practise rooms may be used by NATS singers. No practise rooms will be designated for a specific singer or accompanist excepting Official Accompanists. Singers who choose to use an Official Accompanist will be given a 20 minute rehearsal time, most likely in the morning, on the day of the Auditions.

Are there practice rooms?

Yes. The practise rooms are on the 2nd floor.

When students are finished singing, what should they do next?

Students are free and encouraged to watch other classes.

How will students get their adjudications?

When all participants have sung in a class, Adjudicators take their adjudication forms to the Tabulation Room. After processing, the adjudications will be available on a table close to the Registration Desk. This process may take up to one hour following the final performance in the class. Students are responsible to pick up their adjudications before leaving for the day.

When will students know if they are singing in the Final Concert?

The 1st and 2nd, Winners will be posted on the Winners Board in the foyer of the Music Building

approximately one hour following the performance of the final singer in the class.

While only 1st Place Winners sing in the Final Concert, 2nd Place Winners should attend the Final Concert to collect their prizes.

Students invited to sing in the Final Concert are responsible to ensure that their accompanist is available to play in the Final Concert. Students using an ***Official Accompanist***, will be charged an additional fee of \$25 for the Final Concert performance.

What is appropriate attire?

Audition and performance wear only - no jeans.

How will students get their award money?

Winning students should attend the Final Concert to receive all certificates and prize money. Students who are unable to attend the Final Concert, will have their award mailed to their teacher within the month following the auditions.

Who should students thank for their award money?

Winning students should write thank you notes to the scholarship provider of their award. NATS Ontario will provide the name and address of the scholarship provider.

Who can go to the next round of Auditions (regionals)?

Any student of a NATS teacher may attend the Regional Auditions if their teacher is also attending. Winning the Chapter Auditions is not a requirement.