



NATS ONTARIO VOCAL SHOWCASE HANDBOOK 2023

The NATS Ontario Vocal Showcase (Live and Virtual) is an opportunity for singers to perform a set of pieces in one or more of three genres - **Classical Voice (CL), Musical Theatre (MT) and Popular Voice/Commercial Music (CM)**.

At these events singers meet and hear other vocalists, NATS teachers network with their colleagues, and everyone has the chance to hear a variety of repertoire.

Singers may also register for both the Live and Virtual Showcase in the same year, and can present the same (or different) repertoire in these separate streams.

Singers must be registered by and paid for by their teacher - whether a NATS Ontario Member or not (though additional fees apply for non-members).

NATS Vocal Showcase categories are divided by age and fach/voice type.

Live Showcase typically falls on the third weekend of November. Saturday features Classical Voice classes and Sunday features Musical Theatre and Popular Voice/Commercial Music (hereafter CM) classes. Singers may participate in **one or both days in one, two or all genres**. Singers may only enter ONE class in each genre (ie. one category each of CL, MT and CM). Music Theatre and CM classes are held together on Sunday, and singers are able to register in one or both genres. Each day culminates in a Winners Showcase Concert.

Virtual Showcase adjudication happens during the month of November.

For Live Showcase singers in Classical and MT classes, singers must bring their own pianist or indicate the intent to use an Official Accompanist (OA) when registering. Backing tracks are only permitted in CM classes.

For Virtual Showcase singers, live piano accompaniment or tracks are acceptable. Videos need to have been made within the registration opening and deadline dates (approx. 3 months).

Please see class descriptions and FAQs for more specific details.

STATEMENT OF EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

NATS Ontario is dedicated to promoting diversity, inclusion, and accessibility in our artistic and social interactions, and our engagement as a community. NATS Ontario aims to create an environment of understanding and mutual respect for the value and dignity of all persons. We

strive to identify, remove, and prevent barriers that hinder complete and meaningful participation in NATS Ontario activities. All members of the NATS Ontario community share the responsibility of supporting these values and goals. The education and support of our members in the areas of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Anti-Racism is paramount.

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GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS

Live and Virtual NATS Ontario Vocal Showcases will be offered in 2023.

Classical (CL), Musical Theatre (MT) and Popular Voice/Commercial Music (CM) classes are offered. Singers may enter any or all categories as they wish in their appropriate age division and fach/voice type for both Live and Virtual Vocal Showcases.

Please read the category descriptions carefully and refer to the individual categories for specific rules and repertoire requirements. Failure to adhere to class criteria may result in disqualification from placement and scholarships.

Please see Live and Virtual Vocal Showcase information below for copyright rules.

Singers must begin their final piece within the given time limit to qualify for scholarships. Singers may be stopped if they exceed their time limit (the full piece may not be heard).

Singers must sing the repertoire selections that they declared when they registered; no changes to programming may occur after registration closes. Repertoire selections can be sung in any order.

All singers in every category will receive written comments from a panel of judges.

Novice Adult categories are for adult singers who have studied two years or less.

Advanced Adult categories are adult singers who have studied more than two years.

Live Vocal Showcase

Introduction

- It is strongly recommended that singers introduce themselves and ALL of their songs (including composer and larger work/show if applicable) at the beginning of their performance time. This introduction will be included in your allotted performance time. ie. "My name is _____ and today I will sing—Title of Composition—by—Composer—(and if appropriate)—from—Title of Work, followed by —Title of Composition— etc."

Accompaniment

- Accompaniment for Classical and Musical Theatre classes must be with live piano.
- For Popular Voice/Commercial Music classes, live accompaniment or backtracks can be used as accompaniment. Tracks with an audible melody line are not permitted.

Legal Copies of Music

- ONE legal copy of each piece must be present and visible in the performance room (i.e. placed on the piano).
- Pianists may play from the legal copy/original score or photocopies provided the legal copy is present for inspection.
- Repertoire considered public domain may be played from copies obtained from IMSLP.
- Digital copies (ie. purchased from MusicNotes.com) require a proof of purchase receipt (**not a title page**) and should NOT identify the teacher in any way. A receipt should show the title of the piece and the price/payment made.
- Music written by the singer in CM classes is exempt, but the singer should bring a lyric sheet or other written form for the adjudicators' reference.
- Singers who do not bring a legal copy will receive comments but will not be eligible for placement or scholarships. Adjudicators do not require copies of the music, but may request to inspect the legal copy.

Recording

- Videography is permitted with permission from the singer, ie. family members may only record their singer's performance, for the individual categories and the Winners Showcase Concert.

Other Questions?

- See the specific class requirements, FAQs, the homepage of AuditionWare.com, or email showcase@natsontario.org for Live Showcase inquiries.

Virtual Vocal Showcase

Introduction

- The singer should introduce themselves, the class they have entered and their song (including composer and larger work/show if applicable) at the beginning of each performance video. This introduction will be included in your total allotted performance time. ie: "My name is _____, I am enrolled in class _____. I will sing—Title of Composition—by— Composer—(and if appropriate)—from—Title of Work."
- If preferred, singers can insert a title card with this information at the beginning of each video instead of a spoken introduction.
- See pg. 17 for specific recording details

Accompaniment

- Accompaniment for Classical and Musical Theatre classes can be with piano or piano-only backtracks. Instrumental backtracks are not permitted.

- For Popular Voice/Commercial Music classes, live accompaniment or professional backtracks can be used as accompaniment. See class descriptions for specific track requirements.

Legal Copies of Music

- Prior to performing, singers must clearly display to the camera the original music (book, score, sheet music or digital music).
- Digital copies (ie. purchased from MusicNotes.com) require a proof of purchase receipt (**not a title page**) and should NOT identify the teacher in any way. A receipt should show the title of the piece and the price/payment made.
- Music written by the singer in CM classes is exempt.
- Singers who do not display a legal copy will receive comments but will not be eligible for placement or scholarships.

Other Questions?

- See the specific class requirements, FAQs, the homepage of AuditionWare.com, or email showcase2@natsontario.org for Virtual Showcase inquiries.

CLASSICAL VOICE CLASSES

- Suggested repertoire can be found in, but not limited to, the RCM or CC syllabi
- Age-appropriate repertoire, content and suitable lyrics should be taken into consideration when choosing songs
- All repertoire selections must be sung by memory, except for Oratorio/Cantata selections
- No musical theatre or popular/CM songs permitted
- Categories may be combined if numbers warrant

Fach = voicing; S (soprano), M (mezzo/alto), T (tenor), B (bass)

Class Code	Age	Fach	Time Limit	Repertoire Requirements
CV-01	5-6 yrs	ALL	8minutes	TWO contrasting art or folk songs
CV-02	7-8 yrs	ALL	8 minutes	TWO contrasting art or folk songs
CV-03	9-10 yrs	ALL	8 minutes	TWO contrasting art or folk songs
CV-04	11-12 yrs	S/M	8 minutes	TWO contrasting art or folk songs

CV-05	11-12 yrs	T/B	8 minutes	TWO contrasting art or folk songs
CV-06	13-14 yrs	S/M	8 minutes	TWO contrasting art or folk songs
CV-07	13-14 yrs	T/B	8 minutes	TWO contrasting art or folk songs
CV-08	15-16 yrs	S/M	12 minutes	THREE contrasting art or folk songs. One song must be in a language other than English.
CV-09	15-16 yrs	T/B	12 minutes	THREE contrasting art or folk songs. One song must be in a language other than English.
CV-10	17-18 yrs	S/M	12 minutes	THREE contrasting art or folk songs. One song must be in a language other than English.
CV-11	17-18 yrs	T/B	12 minutes	THREE contrasting art or folk songs. One song must be in a language other than English.
CV-12	1st Yr	S/M	12 minutes	THREE contrasting art songs. Minimum of two languages, one selection must be in English. An operatic or oratorio aria may be substituted for one of the art songs.
CV-13	1st Yr	T/B	12 minutes	THREE contrasting art songs. Minimum of two languages, one selection must be in English. An operatic or oratorio aria may be substituted for one of the art songs.
CV-14	2nd Yr	S/M	12 minutes	THREE contrasting art songs. Minimum of two languages, one selection must be in English. An operatic or oratorio aria may be substituted for one of the art songs.
CV-15	2nd Yr	T/B	12 minutes	THREE contrasting art songs. Minimum of two languages, one selection must be in English. An operatic or oratorio aria may be substituted for one of the art songs.

CV-16	3rd Yr	S/M	12 minutes	THREE contrasting selections. Minimum of three languages, one selection must be in English. Two art songs and one Operatic or Oratorio aria required. Canadian composition is strongly recommended.
CV-17	3rd Yr	T/B	12 minutes	THREE contrasting selections. Minimum of three languages, one selection must be in English. Two art songs and one Operatic or Oratorio aria required. Canadian composition is strongly recommended.
CV-18	4th Yr	S/M	12 minutes	THREE contrasting selections. Minimum of three languages, one selection must be in English. Two art songs and one Operatic or Oratorio aria required. Canadian composition is strongly recommended.
CV-19	4th Yr	T/B	12 minutes	THREE contrasting art selections. Minimum of three languages, one selection must be in English. Two art songs and one Operatic or Oratorio aria required. Canadian composition is strongly recommended.
CV-20	Grad	S/M	14 minutes	FOUR contrasting selections. Minimum of four languages, one selection must be in English. One Operatic aria, one Oratorio aria, two art songs, one of which must be post-1960 Canadian composition.
CV-21	Grad	T/B	14 minutes	FOUR contrasting selections. Minimum of four languages, one selection must be in English. One Operatic aria, one Oratorio aria, two art songs, one of which must be post-1960 Canadian composition.
CV-22	NAd (-30)	S/M	12 minutes	THREE contrasting art or folk songs. One song must be in a language other than English.
CV-23	NAd (-30)	T/B	12 minutes	THREE contrasting art or folk songs. One song must be in a language other than English.

CV-24	NAd (30+)	S/M	12 minutes	THREE contrasting art or folk songs. One song must be in a language other than English.
CV-25	NAd (30+)	T/B	12 minutes	THREE contrasting art or folk songs. One song must be in a language other than English.
CV-26	AAdv (-30)	S/M	12 minutes	THREE contrasting selections. Minimum of two languages, one selection must be in English. Repertoire can include art or folk song and one selection may be an operatic or oratorio aria.
CV-27	AAdv (-30)	T/B	12 minutes	THREE contrasting selections. Minimum of two languages, one selection must be in English. Repertoire can include art or folk song and one selection may be an operatic or oratorio aria.
CV-28	AAdv (30+)	S/M	12 minutes	THREE contrasting selections. Minimum of two languages, one selection must be in English. Repertoire can include art or folk song and one selection may be an operatic or oratorio aria.
CV-29	AAdv (30+)	T/B	12 minutes	THREE contrasting selections. Minimum of two languages, one selection must be in English. Repertoire can include art or folk song and one selection may be an operatic or oratorio aria.

MUSICAL THEATRE CLASSES

- Singers are encouraged to choose selections from all areas of musical theatre such as staged musicals, workshops, revues, cabarets, Disney films, movie musicals, Gilbert and Sullivan, new musical theatre works and jukebox musicals like Mamma Mia, Moulin Rouge, etc. (though performance style should be considered and demonstrated)
- When choosing repertoire, it is important to consider whether the material is age and culturally appropriate. Carefully consider the content, lyrics, character, and cultural setting of the work in order to make these decisions. If in doubt, please feel free to contact the appropriate Showcase Coordinator: showcase@natsontario.org for Live Showcase, or showcase2@natsontario.org for Virtual Showcase
- For Classes MT-04 and higher, one selection must be from a staged musical
- For classes MT-08 and higher, singers are encouraged to choose songs from a variety of styles and eras, and it is strongly recommended that a pre-1970's song be included
- All selections must be sung from memory
- Minimal props and costumes are acceptable but will not factor into placements
- No classical or popular/CM songs permitted
- Categories may be combined if numbers warrant

Voice Type: S (soprano), M (mezzo/alto), T (tenor), B (bass)

Class Code	Age	Voice Type	Time Limit	Repertoire Requirements
MT-01	5-6 yrs	ALL	8minutes	TWO contrasting selections - one up-tempo and one ballad.
MT-02	7-8 yrs	ALL	8 minutes	TWO contrasting selections - one up-tempo and one ballad.
MT-03	9-10 yrs	ALL	8 minutes	TWO contrasting selections - one up-tempo and one ballad.
MT-04	11-12 yrs	S/M	8 minutes	TWO contrasting selections - one up-tempo and one ballad.
MT-05	11-12 yrs	T/B	8 minutes	TWO contrasting selections - one up-tempo and one ballad.

MT-06	13-14 yrs	S/M	10 minutes	TWO contrasting selections - one up-tempo and one ballad.
MT-07	13-14 yrs	T/B	10 minutes	TWO contrasting selections - one up-tempo and one ballad.
MT-08	15-16 yrs	S/M	12 minutes	TWO or THREE contrasting selections - one up-tempo and one ballad must be included.
MT-09	15-16 yrs	T/B	12 minutes	TWO or THREE contrasting selections - one up-tempo and one ballad must be included.
MT-10	17-18 yrs	S/M	12 minutes	TWO or THREE contrasting selections - one up-tempo and one ballad must be included.
MT-11	17-18 yrs	T/B	12 minutes	TWO or THREE contrasting selections - one up-tempo and one ballad must be included.
MT-12	1st Yr	S/M	12 minutes	TWO or THREE contrasting selections - one up-tempo and one ballad must be included.
MT-13	1st Yr	T/B	12 minutes	TWO or THREE contrasting selections - one up-tempo and one ballad must be included.

MT-14	2nd Yr	S/M	12 minutes	TWO or THREE contrasting selections - one up-tempo and one ballad must be included.
MT-15	2nd Yr	T/B	12 minutes	TWO or THREE contrasting selections - one up-tempo and one ballad must be included.
MT-16	3rd Yr	S/M	12 minutes	TWO or THREE contrasting selections - one up-tempo and one ballad must be included.
MT-17	3rd Yr	T/B	12 minutes	TWO or THREE contrasting selections - one up-tempo and one ballad must be included.
MT-18	4th Yr	S/M	12 minutes	TWO or THREE contrasting selections - one up-tempo and one ballad must be included
MT-19	4th Yr	T/B	12 minutes	TWO or THREE contrasting selections - one up-tempo and one ballad must be included.
MT-20	NAd (-30)	S/M	12 minutes	TWO or THREE contrasting selections - one up-tempo and one ballad must be included.

MT-21	NAd (-30)	T/B	12 minutes	TWO or THREE contrasting selections - one up-tempo and one ballad must be included.
MT-22	NAd (30+)	S/M	12 minutes	TWO or THREE contrasting selections - one up-tempo and one ballad must be included.
MT-23	NAd (30+)	T/B	12 minutes	TWO or THREE contrasting selections - one up-tempo and one ballad must be included.
MT-24	AAdv (-30)	S/M	12 minutes	TWO or THREE contrasting selections - one up-tempo and one ballad must be included.
MT-25	AAdv (-30)	T/B	12 minutes	TWO or THREE contrasting selections - one up-tempo and one ballad must be included.
MT-26	AAdv (30+)	S/M	12 minutes	TWO or THREE contrasting selections - one up-tempo and one ballad must be included.
MT-27	AAdv (30+)	T/B	12 minutes	TWO or THREE contrasting selections - one up-tempo and one ballad must be included.

POPULAR VOICE/COMMERCIAL MUSIC CLASSES

- Singers will prepare two contrasting songs as per repertoire requirements for each class
- A maximum of ONE song can be an original piece, however the singer - not the song - will receive feedback. If you are singing an original song, please bring at minimum a lyric sheet for Live Showcase. Tabs or charts are strongly encouraged. For Virtual Showcase, please email a pdf of your lyric sheet/tabs/chart to the Virtual Showcase Coordinator at showcase2@natsontario.org which will be sent in confidence to the adjudicators for the class.
- Live accompaniment or professional back-tracks can be used. Please find a high-quality track without background vocals. We understand track options may be limited for less-common CM songs and for this reason, if you cannot find a track without background vocals, please submit your track for approval ahead of the showcase registration deadline to either the Live Showcase Coordinator, or the Virtual Showcase Coordinator. A melody line should not be heard on any track. Recommended back-tracks resource: <https://www.karaoke-version.com>
- For Virtual singers, band accompaniment is permitted however only the singer will receive feedback. Try to choose songs which highlight the singer. The band should be off-camera in the recording and only the singer should be visible. The singer is also welcome to use a recording of their band as a track. Videos need to have been made within the registration opening and deadline dates (approximately 3 months). If the singer is also playing an instrument, they should enter the Self-Accompanied class.
- Age-appropriate repertoire, content and suitable lyrics should be taken into consideration when choosing songs
- For Live Showcase singers, a microphone, amplifier and an acoustic piano will be available and a brief amount of time will be given for a mic check before performance. Singers should bring a **downloaded** track on a phone to be connected by aux cable or dongle (not bluetooth) to a docking station provided. No USB connection is available. It is suggested that singers bring their own connection cables/adaptors if they are able. Phones must be put into "airplane mode" during performance
- For Virtual Showcase singers, microphones are encouraged but not necessary
- For all CM classes, please attempt to purchase and present legal copies, if available. Singers may perform unpublished works (including their own compositions); please bring a lyric sheet with song title and artist credits to the Live Showcase. Consider purchasing unpublished songs' recordings on iTunes or Amazon Music to support these artists
- Please be advised that selections from musical theatre, (eg. such as 'Hamilton' or 'Rent'), belong in the Musical Theatre category and singers singing this repertoire should enter a MT class
- CM songs which are also presented in jukebox musicals (ie. Mamma Mia, Moulin Rouge, etc.) are acceptable, however an understanding of performance style should be considered and demonstrated
- All songs must be sung from memory (except in the Self-Accompanied classes)

- Categories may be combined if numbers warrant

Class Code	Age	Voice Type	Time Limit	Repertoire Requirements
CM-01	5 - 6 yrs	ALL	8 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a JAZZ, POP, ROCK or COUNTRY STYLE.
CM-02	7-8 yrs	ALL	8 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a JAZZ, POP, ROCK or COUNTRY STYLE.
CM-03	9-10 yrs	ALL	8 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a JAZZ style
CM-04	9-10 yrs	ALL	8 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a POP, ROCK or COUNTRY STYLE.
CM-05	11-12 yrs	ALL	10 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a JAZZ style
CM-06	11-12 yrs	ALL	10 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a POP, ROCK or COUNTRY STYLE
CM-07	13-14 yrs	ALL	10 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a JAZZ style
CM-08	13-14 yrs	ALL	10 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a POP, ROCK or COUNTRY STYLE
CM-09	15-16 yrs	ALL	12 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a JAZZ style
CM-10	15-16 yrs	ALL	12 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a POP, ROCK or COUNTRY STYLE
CM-11	17-18 yrs	ALL	12 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a JAZZ style
CM-12	17-18 yrs	ALL	12 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a POP, ROCK or COUNTRY STYLE
CM-13	19-24 yrs	ALL	12 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a JAZZ style

CM-14	19-24 yrs	ALL	12 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a POP, ROCK or COUNTRY STYLE
CM-15	25+ yrs	ALL	12 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a JAZZ style
CM-16	25+ yrs	ALL	12 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a POP, ROCK or COUNTRY STYLE

SELF-ACCOMPANIED CLASS

- Singers will prepare two selections
- A maximum of ONE song can be an original piece, however the singer - not the song - will receive feedback. If you are singing an original song, please bring at minimum a lyric sheet for Live Showcase. Tabs or charts are strongly encouraged. For Virtual Showcase, please email a pdf of your lyric sheet/tabs/chart to the Virtual Showcase Coordinator at showcase2@natsontario.org which will be sent in confidence to the adjudicators for the class.
- Self-accompaniment is required; piano, ukulele or guitar are best
- Covers are allowed
- For Live Showcase singers, a microphone, amplifier and an acoustic piano will be available but please bring your own guitar, ukulele or other instrument of choice. Please arrive with instruments tuned as set-up time is included in the class time limit. A brief amount of time will be given for a mic check before performance.
- For Virtual Showcase singers, microphones are encouraged but not necessary
- For Virtual singers only, band accompaniment is permitted however only the singer (who should be playing an instrument as well) will receive feedback. Try to choose songs which highlight the singer as both a singer and a player. **The band should be off-camera in the recording and only the singer should be visible.** The singer is also welcome to use a recording of their band as a track. Videos need to have been made within the registration opening and deadline dates (approximately 3 months). If the singer is not playing an instrument, they should enter the Popular Voice/Commercial Music Class.
- For all CM classes, please attempt to purchase and present legal copies, if available. Singers may perform unpublished works (including their own compositions); please bring a lyric sheet with song title and artist credits to the Live Showcase. Consider purchasing unpublished songs' recordings on iTunes or Amazon Music to support these artists

- Please be advised that selections from musical theatre, (eg. such as 'Hamilton' or 'Rent'), belong in the Musical Theatre category and singers singing this repertoire should enter a MT class
- CM songs which are also presented in jukebox musicals (ie. Mamma Mia, Moulin Rouge, etc.) are acceptable, however an understanding of performance style should be considered and demonstrated
- Songs do NOT need to be performed from memory
- Categories may be combined if numbers warrant

Class Code	Age	Voice Type	Time Limit	Repertoire Requirements
CM-20	5-6 yrs	ALL	10 minutes	TWO selections
CM-21	7-8 yrs	ALL	10 minutes	TWO selections
CM-22	9-10 yrs	ALL	10 minutes	TWO selections
CM-23	11-12 yrs	ALL	10 minutes	TWO selections
CM-24	13-14 yrs	ALL	12 minutes	TWO selections
CM-25	15-16 yrs	ALL	12 minutes	TWO selections
CM-26	17-18 yrs	ALL	12 minutes	TWO selections
CM-27	19-24 yrs	ALL	12 minutes	TWO selections
CM-28	25+ yrs	ALL	12 minutes	TWO selections

VIRTUAL VOCAL SHOWCASE SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Video submissions need to have been made within the registration opening and deadline dates (approx. 3 months).

If you've never done a self-tape, or have never been trained in self-taping (or just want the review & reminders!) please watch the video at this link.

10 Steps to an Easy & Professional Self-Tape for Singers:

<https://youtu.be/hChU9fquFww>

Recording Location and Attire

- Record your video in the spirit of a live audition or recital performance
- Record in a home or an otherwise appropriate space
- Find an acoustic that is not too live so your performance is heard as “in person”
- Dress professionally and appropriately, as you would for a performance or live audition

Recording Instructions

- Record a **separate unedited video (ie. single-take performance)** for each selection on your repertoire list
- Your camera should record from a fixed position/tripod/steady surface and in a **horizontal frame**
- Face the camera as you would appear to adjudicators in person
- Recordings must clearly show your face and torso from the hips up in your horizontal frame
- Be sure to eliminate all background noise (ie. dishwasher, pets, etc.) before beginning, and check your accompanist or track volume balance with your voice and/or microphone
- Check your lighting so we can see your expressions, posture and gestures
- Splicing, editing, adding reverb or other sound modification is not allowed

- For CM classes only, handheld mics (ie. Shure SM58) are encouraged and permitted but are not necessary
- A separate video for each song should be recorded and uploaded with a separate YouTube link. Do NOT edit songs into one recording/YouTube link

Performance

- The singer should introduce EACH selection at the beginning of EACH video. ie: “My name is _____, I am enrolled in class _____. I will sing—Title of Composition—by—Composer—(and if appropriate)—from—Title of Work.” This introduction will be included in your total allotted performance time. If preferred, singers can insert a title card with this information at the beginning of each video instead of a spoken introduction
- HOLD UP your legal music so it is clearly visible to the camera (and RECEIPT FOR PURCHASE, if applicable - make sure your teacher’s name is NOT visible if they have purchased the music for you). A title page is NOT acceptable proof of purchase and may result in the singer being disqualified from placement and scholarships, but they will still receive feedback. A receipt should show the title of the piece and the price/payment made
- DO NOT reveal the identity of your teacher, school or region
- You must perform each of your selections from memory on your recording (except for singers in a Self Accompanied class, or those singing Oratorio/Cantata repertoire). If an adjudicator suspects the song is not memorized, the singer may be disqualified from placements and scholarships but will still receive written feedback

Accompaniment

- You may use a backing track, band or live piano accompaniment - see more information under each category for specific requirements
- All tracks must be piano-only for Musical Theatre and Classical classes. Instrumental tracks are permitted for CM classes only. See more information under each category for specific requirements
- Check and test the levels for balance between your voice (and microphone if using one for CM classes) and accompaniment to ensure you can be heard

Uploading to YouTube

- You must select “public” or “unlisted” in the Privacy settings found under the Broadcasting and Sharing Options section when uploading your video
- Disable “comments” and also “for kids only”
- Please be advised that “private” and “kids only” videos block adjudicators’ access
- Singers should create their own YouTube channel
- Teachers should not upload videos for singers from their personal YouTube channel as anonymity is important

Invalid Videos

The following video problems makes the video invalid and may disqualify singers from placements and scholarships, although they will receive written feedback:

- Videos revealing the teacher’s identity, the region of the singer, or the school they attend, including those uploaded onto their studio or teacher’s YouTube accounts
- Videos where it is suspected that the singer has not fully memorized their songs (except for singers in a Self Accompanied class, or those singing Oratorio/Cantata repertoire where memorization is not necessary)
- Videos with ‘private’ sharing options (see above)
- Videos that pan and zoom during performances
- Videos that are altered or enhanced

Adjudication Results and Comments

Adjudication sheets will be submitted through www.auditionware.com. Teachers will be able to view and print comment sheets by November 30th, 2023 and may distribute them to singers as they are available. Results will be shared via email by December 3, 2023 . Scholarship money will be distributed via PayPal to the teacher. See pg. 29 for more details.

LIVE and VIRTUAL VOCAL SHOWCASE FAQs

REGISTRATION & REGISTRATION FEES:

When does registration open? What is the deadline for registration?

Registration for both Live and Virtual Showcases opens September 10, 2023

LIVE SHOWCASE Registration closes October 31, 2023 at 11:59pm

VIRTUAL SHOWCASE Registration closes on November 5, 2023 at 11:59pm

You can save your registrations, so you can start them any time after September 10th and add information until the respective deadlines, Oct 31 or November 5th.

If you have tracks to submit for approval, they must be submitted BEFORE the specified showcase deadline above.

When are Virtual Showcase videos due?

Virtual Showcase Videos are also due on the deadline date - November 5, 2023 at 11:59pm - have all YouTube links ready when you submit registration.

You can save your registrations, so you can start them any time after September 10th and add information until November 5th.

How do I register? Do I have to enter all my singers' information every year?

NATS Ontario Members (and non-members) must register their singers via www.auditionware.com. Teachers can login anytime using their credentials, which are initially set-up by the coordinator. To create a new account, email showcase@natsontario.org.

All previous data should be saved under your account (ie. singer's information is maintained year to year). For new singer registrations, we do NOT require singer addresses, phone numbers, etc., so the teacher should enter their own for these prompts.

Do NOT pay fees until completely finished entering ALL singer registrations, as this closes your registration. ONLY once your registration for ALL singers is complete, click "PAY FEES" to be redirected to the payment site through PayPal.

For troubleshooting, login issues, or to set up an account, email showcase@natsontario.org for Live Showcase, or showcase2@natsontario.org for Virtual Showcase.

I'm not a NATS Ontario or NATS member/teacher - can I still enter singers?

Teachers submitting singers need to be residents of Ontario, however the singers submitted by a teacher do not need to be residents of Ontario.

Non-NATS Ontario teachers and Non-NATS teachers can create an Auditionware account via our coordinator. Please email showcase@natsontario.org for Live Showcase, or showcase2@natsontario.org for Virtual Showcase to set up an account.

There is an additional registration fee of \$50.00 when entering singers for Non-NATS Ontario/Non-NATS teachers.

I need help using AuditionWare!

Please watch the video tutorial below for step-by-step instructions:

<https://youtu.be/7NAUfO56j1A>

What is the difference between Novice and Advanced Adult singers?

Novice Adult categories are for adult singers who have studied two years or less.

Advanced Adult categories are adult singers who have studied more than two years.

What are the entry fees for different age levels?

Ages 6 - 12 = \$30

Ages 13 - 18 = \$35

Ages 19 and over = \$40

There is an additional registration fee of \$50.00 when entering singers for Non-NATS Ontario/Non-NATS teachers. Please add this amount to your Registration Total BEFORE processing through PayPal.

Who pays the Registration Fees through PayPal? Do I need a PayPal account?

The TEACHER should pay all Registration Fees, NOT the singer/parent. It is up to the teacher to decide/communicate how they want to be reimbursed by participants. You do not need a PayPal account and can check-out as a “guest” if you choose.

What do I do if I cannot adjudicate the Showcase to which I have sent singers?

For Live Vocal Showcase, please email showcase@natsontario.org AND treasurer@natsontario.org so we are aware of your absentia.

For Virtual Vocal Showcase, please email showcase2@natsontario.org AND treasurer@natsontario.org so we are aware of your absentia.

ADD your Absentee Adjudicator Fee (below) to your Registration Total BEFORE processing through PayPal.

Can I enter singers in both Live and Virtual Showcases? Can one singer enter both Showcases?

Yes, you may enter singers in both Showcases, and singers may enter the same classes and repertoire in both Showcases, if they so choose. Each is its own individual Showcase and treated as such. If you have singers singing in both Showcases, you will be expected to adjudicate for both, or find a suitable substitute, or pay the Absentee Adjudicator Fee.

Can singers access the AuditionWare Registration Page and register themselves?

The AuditionWare registration page is for THOSE WITH A REGISTERED ACCOUNT ONLY. If a singer is given access to their Teacher’s AuditionWare Profile, they will also be able to access all other singers’ registrations and personal information. **Allowing singers to use this site is a violation of Privacy Laws and is discouraged.**

How should the Registration Fees be paid? Do I have to total them?

Do NOT pay any fees until you are completely finished entering ALL singer registrations, as this closes your registration. ONLY once your registration for ALL singers is complete, click "PAY FEES" to be redirected to the payment site through PayPal.

NATS Ontario's PayPal site requires you to enter your total Registration Fees, Non-Member Fees and any Absentee Adjudicator Fees. Please keep track of these* as you register singers so it is easy to add up and enter into the PayPal total owing field. Make sure your settings are in CAD not USD. **The TEACHER should pay all fees for their singers - not the parents/singers.** It is up to the teacher to decide/communicate how they want to be reimbursed by participants.

**For Example: If you are entering two 13 yr olds in the Live showcase who are both using an OA, that is \$30 x 2 PLUS OA Fee of \$60 x 2 = \$180. If you are not a NATS Ontario Member, you would add \$50. If you cannot attend the Live Showcase to adjudicate and cannot find a replacement, you would add the minimum charge (two singers entered) of \$50 for a total of \$280.00 to be paid through PayPal all at once.*

ADJUDICATING & ABSENTEE ADJUDICATOR FEES:

What is the fee for NATS Ontario Members and non-members who send singers to the Live or Virtual Vocal Showcases but who are unable to adjudicate?

If you are unable to attend either the Live and/or Virtual Vocal Showcase as an Adjudicator but are sending singers to Live and/or Virtual Showcase, then there is an Absentee Adjudicator Fee as follows:

\$50.00 minimum fee if entering 1 - 3 singers
 PLUS \$15.00/singer for NATS Ontario Members entering 4+ singers
 OR
 PLUS \$18.00/singer for non-NATS/non-Chapter teachers entering 4+ singers

Withdrawal from adjudicating after the Registration Deadline requires that the teacher find a suitable replacement and inform the coordinator. Replacement adjudicators should have substantial teaching experience in classical, musical theatre, popular voice/commercial music and be a suitable replacement for that judge's skill level.

Can I find a replacement adjudicator to avoid paying the Absentee Adjudicator Fee?

Teachers may be excused from the Absentee Adjudicator Fee if they replace themselves for the Virtual Showcase, or day(s) of adjudicating at the Live Showcase with a colleague.

Teachers working as replacement adjudicators need not be NATS members.

Teachers who are unable to adjudicate must inform the appropriate coordinator and treasurer by email **no later than the registration deadline** and must either pay the Absentee Adjudicator Fee or report a replacement adjudicator. (*continued...*)

Withdrawal from adjudicating after the registration deadline requires that the teacher find a suitable replacement and inform the coordinator and treasurer.

Replacement adjudicators should have substantial teaching experience in classical, musical theatre, popular voice/commercial music and be a suitable replacement for that judge's skill level.

See "***What do I do if I cannot adjudicate the Showcase to which I have sent singers?***" above for more information.

Can I find a replacement adjudicator or pay the Absentee Adjudicator Fee so I can attend the Live Showcase as an Audience Member?

Teachers MAY NOT find a replacement adjudicator for themselves OR pay the Absentee Adjudicator Fee in order to attend the Live Showcase as an audience member. Our festival relies on the participation of 2-3 adjudicators per class and if you are able to be present, then we need your help to make the Showcase possible and fair for all singers.

Can I adjudicate the Virtual Showcase instead of the Live (or vice versa)?

Virtual and Live Showcase adjudicator participation MAY NOT be "swapped" (ie. if you cannot attend Live, you may not adjudicate for Virtual instead). Each is its own individual Showcase and treated as such. If you have singers in both Showcases, you will be expected to adjudicate for both, or find a suitable substitute, or pay the Absentee Adjudicator Fee.

When will teachers receive YouTube links and comment sheets for adjudicating the Virtual Vocal Showcase?

Teachers who are adjudicating will be sent more information about how comment sheets are to be completed. Teachers will be assigned a category of singers. Video links and comment sheets will be available on and submitted via their

www.auditionware.com accounts. Teachers will have approximately 2 weeks to complete adjudications.

What is the deadline for adjudicators to submit their Virtual Vocal Showcase feedback?

The deadline for submitting all Virtual Showcase comment sheets which you are assigned is Sunday, November 26, 2023 at 11:59pm. Placement rankings must be emailed separately to the Virtual Vocal Showcase Coordinator at showcase2@natsontario.org for tabulation.

ACCOMPANISTS & OFFICIAL ACCOMPANISTS (OAs) & Fees:

Do singers need an accompanist?

Yes - there are no a capella classes in either the Live or Virtual Showcases.

Singers may bring their own pianist (unless self-accompanying or using a backtrack for CM classes only) OR use an Official Accompanist (OA). Singers include their pianist on their registration, or select "OA" as their pianist when registering. As there are several OA's, when registering please select any number, ie. OA1, OA2, etc. If the software indicates that this OA is full, continue through the list: OA3, OA4, etc.

How are OA's assigned to singers?

Official Accompanists are hired by NATS Ontario to play for singers at the Live Vocal Showcase. Singers pay for this service at time of registration. The Live Vocal Showcase Coordinator then assigns singers to pianists based on their best knowledge of skill, genre and experience. Every effort is made to pair appropriate pianists with each singer.

How do I pay my accompanist?

If you are bringing your own accompanist/pianist, it is up to the two of you to arrange, but for Live Vocal Showcase, accompanists may only play for a MAXIMUM OF EIGHT (8) CLASSES PER DAY.

For Live Showcase, if you are using an Official Accompanist (OA), the OA's fees must be added to your Registration Total which the teacher will enter into PayPal once they have completed all registrations. OA fees are listed below and based on the number of songs performed and category level. This fee includes a 10 - 30 minute scheduled rehearsal on the day of the Live Vocal Showcase.

Do I get to rehearse with my Official Accompanist (OA) for the Live Vocal Showcase?

The OA fee includes a 10 - 30 minute scheduled rehearsal on the day of your Live Vocal Showcase class. A rehearsal schedule will be sent via email including the contact information of the OA several weeks in advance. OA's may request to have music pdfs emailed to them in advance.

Is there a cap on the number of singers a pianist may accompany? Can I play for my own singer?

Accompanists may play for a maximum of eight (8) classes per day. Teachers may NOT accompany their own singers.

What is the charge for Official Accompanists per class?

Classical Voice

CV01-07	\$50	includes 10 minute rehearsal
CV08 - 19	\$60	includes 20 minute rehearsal
CV22-29	\$60	includes 20 minute rehearsal
CV20 -21	\$80	includes 30 minute rehearsal

Musical Theatre

MT01-05	\$50	includes 10 minute rehearsal
MT06-27	\$60	includes 20 minute rehearsal

Popular/Commercial Music

CM01-06	\$50	includes 10 minute rehearsal
CM07-16	\$60	includes 20 minute rehearsal

Where can singers rehearse with the accompanist they have brought with them? Where are practice rooms?

Practice rooms are typically available on site and may be used by singers to warm-up, etc. Singers should take no more than 15 minutes in these rooms as a courtesy. These spaces are limited so we cannot guarantee rooms for rehearsals with pianists, except for Official Accompanists who will be assigned rehearsals with singers that have requested an OA on their registration.

LEGAL SCORES & TRACKS:

Are legal scores required? How many?

Yes. One legal score (ie. book, printed or digital music purchased online with purchase receipt, etc.) must be present, and visible for each song presented. A receipt should show the title of the piece and the price/payment made. Songs written by the singer in CM Classes are exempt. If you are singing an original song, please bring at minimum a lyric sheet for Live Showcase. Tabs or charts are strongly encouraged. For Virtual Showcase, please email a pdf of your lyric sheet/tabs/chart to the Virtual Showcase Coordinator at showcase2@natsontario.org which will be sent in confidence to the adjudicators for the class. See information for Live and Virtual Showcases in rules and regulations for more information.

Am I allowed to use an instrumental track for a Virtual Showcase Musical Theatre or Classical class?

No. All tracks for Classical and Musical Theatre classes in the Virtual Showcase must be piano only, and an aiding melody line should not be heard. Instrumental tracks are only permitted in CM classes.

Are back-up vocals allowed on a backing track for CM Classes?

Please find a high-quality track without background vocals. We understand track options may be limited for less-common CM songs and for this reason, if you cannot find a track without background vocals, please submit your track for approval ahead of the showcase registration deadline to either the Live Showcase Coordinator, or the Virtual Showcase Coordinator. A melody line should not be heard on any track. Recommended back-tracks resource: <https://www.karaoke-version.com>

Can my band make a track for me to sing with?

Band/instrumental accompaniment is only permitted in CM classes in the Virtual Vocal Showcase. If the singer sings with a band, they may ask their band to record a track for their Virtual Showcase submission. Please read the specific information about recording with a band under the class descriptions.

SCHEDULES, LOCATION & AUDIENCES FOR LIVE VOCAL SHOWCASE:

What is the approximate daily schedule overview for the Live Vocal Showcase?

8:00 am Registration opens
 8:30 am Official Accompanist rehearsals begin
 9:30 am Judges meeting
 10:00 am Classes begin
 3:30 pm Approximate ending of all classes and Scholarship distribution
 4:00 pm Approximate start time of the Winners Showcase Concert
 6:00 pm Approximate end of Concert/end of day

Where will the Live Vocal Showcase be held in November 2023?

Queen's University and The Isabel Bader Centre, Kingston, Ontario

Can I watch my entire class?

Singers (as well as parents and guests) are encouraged to attend the entire class or other classes. Please only enter or exit between singers. Schedules of each class are posted outside rooms in use or at the registration desk.

What should singers do when they are finished singing?

Singers (as well as parents and guests) are welcome to watch other classes and/or visit the Recruitment and Vendors Fair.

Class results will be posted within the hour following the end of the class (once everyone has sung). Results will be posted on the Results Board, near the Registration Desk.

Can I watch my singers/singers' classes?

All teachers will be occupied judging classes during the Vocal Showcase so will most likely be unable to attend their students' class. Parents/guests may record the performance and share it with the teacher so the teacher may watch at a later time.

COMMENT SHEETS, SCHOLARSHIPS & WINNERS CONCERTS:

How will singers receive their comment sheets/adjudications?

For Live Showcase, once all participants have sung in a class, comment sheets are sent to the Tabulation Room. After processing, the comment sheets and placement results 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. Singers are responsible to pick up their comment sheets (and scholarships, if awarded) before leaving for the day.

For Virtual Showcase, comment sheets will be available through the teacher's AuditionWare.com account by November 30, 2023. Announcements of placements as well as a YouTube video link of the first-place performances will be sent to the teachers and adjudicators of virtual participants by December 3, 2023. The link and placements will also be sent to NATS Ontario members via email and posted in the NATS Ontario Facebook Group.

How will singers receive their scholarship money, if awarded?

For the Live Vocal Showcase, 1st and 2nd place singers will give their email address in order to receive their scholarship money via PayPal at approximately 3:30 pm near the registration desk. Teachers may also sign for their singers if necessary. Winners will also receive a congratulatory letter informing them of who donated their scholarship. Winners are encouraged to write a thank you note to the donor indicated in the letter.

For the Virtual Vocal Showcase, scholarship monies will be disbursed to the winner's teacher via PayPal who will pass these monies on to the student(s). Teachers will be notified when the money has been sent to them, and which students receive what amount. Teachers of winners will also receive a congratulatory letter to send to their singers, informing them of who donated their scholarship. Winners are encouraged to write a thank you note to the donor indicated in the letter.

Who should singers thank for their scholarship money?

Winning singers should write thank you notes or emails to the scholarship provider. NATS Ontario will provide this information in the congratulatory letters accompanying scholarships.

When will singers know if they are singing in the Live Winners Showcase Concert?

Winner's names and placements in each category will be posted on the Results Board near the Registration Desk approximately one hour following the performance of the final singer in their class at the Live Vocal Showcase.

While only 1st Place Winners sing in the Final Concert, 2nd Place Winners should attend the Winners Showcase Concert in case the 1st place winner cannot attend. Not all classes/winners of classes are guaranteed to perform in the Showcase concert, and this is left to the discretion of the Vocal Showcase Coordinator. Singers invited to sing in the Winners Showcase Concert are responsible to ensure that their accompanist is available to play for the Winners Showcase Concert. Singers using an Official Accompanist must pay an additional fee of \$25 directly to their OA for the Winners Showcase Concert performance. If the accompanist the singer performed with earlier cannot stay for the Winners Showcase Concert, a designated Concert OA will be provided for the same \$25 rate which the singer will pay.

Can I go backstage to help my singer/singers if they are invited to perform in the Live Winners Showcase Concert?

Teachers MAY NOT be present backstage at any point but are encouraged to attend and support all singers from the audience.

Is there a Winners Showcase Concert for the Virtual Vocal Showcase?

Yes. The Virtual Winners Showcase Concert will be presented via YouTube by Sunday, December 3, 2023. A link to the concert and class results will be sent to teachers via email and posted on the NATS Ontario Facebook Group. When singers are registered, they will be prompted to select the one song/video which they'd like included in the concert if they place first in their class.

OTHER FAQs:

What is appropriate attire? Can I use props and costumes?

Consider your category, vocal style, character, mood, etc. Jeans are acceptable for CM classes but are less-appropriate for classical classes, where more formal wear (ie. dress shirt and pants, “brunch with grandma” dress, etc.) is traditionally chosen. Minimal costumes and props may be used in Musical Theatre classes but will not factor into placements.

Who can progress to the Great Lakes Region Auditions?

Any singer of a NATS teacher may enter the Great Lakes Region Auditions. Winning the NATS Ontario Vocal Showcase is not a requirement.

I'd like to donate to the scholarship fund to support young singers - how do I do that?

Thank you! Scholarships and other donations can be paid via the PayPal button on the **natsontario.org** site OR sent by cheque made out to “NATS Ontario” and mailed to the NATS Ontario Treasurer (see address below). Tax receipts will be issued for all donations of \$20.00 and over.

NATS Ontario Vocal Showcase, %: Jennifer Swanson
2315 Maitland Avenue, Windsor, ON N8P 1Y8

I didn't find what I was looking for in the Handbook or FAQs. Who do I contact?

For Live Vocal Showcase, please email showcase@natsontario.org

For Virtual Vocal Showcase, please email showcase2@natsontario.org

For Financial Inquiries around registration payments through PayPal, please email the respective Showcase Coordinator AND COPY the Treasurer on the email using treasurer@natsontario.org

