

COLORADO-WYOMING NATS

STUDENT AUDITIONS

HANDBOOK



50th Annual Student Auditions
April 14, 2012
Metropolitan State College of Denver
Denver, CO

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I. PURPOSE

A. To offer the students of NATS members:

1. Encouragement toward more diligent preparation of appropriate and distinguished repertoire.
2. An opportunity to perform under conditions designed ideally to combine the best elements of competitive and non-competitive performance.
3. A specific goal, stimulating the desire and incentive for vocal and musical self-improvement.
4. An opportunity to sing before qualified and impartial judges, and to receive careful and constructive criticism.
5. Public recognition of musical talent and vocal achievement.

II. ORGANIZATION

A. Student Auditions are an annual activity officially sponsored by the Colorado-Wyoming Chapter of NATS.

B. These auditions are held under the direct supervision of the President and assisted by the First Vice-President/Hospitality Chair, the Second Vice-President/Auditions Chair, and the Secretary/Treasurer.

C. These auditions are NOT part of the NATS Artist Award auditions (NATSAA).

D. Students may enter both Classical and Musical Theater Divisions.

E. Clarification of categories below:

1. The basis for a student's classification shall be the amount of vocal study, *not* present academic standing.
2. The semester in which the student is currently enrolled will be counted in the total.
3. Summer semesters of study will NOT be counted.
4. Vocal study prior to the age of 18 does not count in the total length of study.
5. For those not attending school but studying privately, one year's study shall be accepted as equal to two semesters.
6. A student does not need to be enrolled in college to sing in college categories.
7. A student who won first place in a category in a previous year's auditions may not reenter that category again in subsequent auditions, but instead must advance to a higher category.
8. Students are permitted to enter the open categories (17-18) only if their age and length of study does not qualify them for another category.
9. A student who won first place in category 18 may continue in that category for evaluation only.
10. Teachers are not permitted to enter the open categories (17-18).
11. The Teachers Category is for NATS members only. There is no entry fee, and no cash prizes are awarded.
12. Students singing for evaluation only will be scheduled within the category that corresponds to their age and length of study, but they will not receive a score.
13. It is the teacher's responsibility to ensure that the category entered is appropriate.
14. Any questions about a student's classification should be cleared with the Auditions Chair.

F. Student Auditions are divided into the following categories:

Category Number/Name	Age	Length of Study
1. High School Men	14-16	
2. High School Men	17-18	
3. High School Women	14-15	
4. High School Women	16	
5. High School Women	17	
6. High School Women	18	
7. Lower College Men	18-21	1-2 semesters (freshman)
8. Lower College Women	18-21	1-2 semesters (freshman)
9. Lower College Men	19-22	3-4 semesters (sophomore)
10. Lower College Women	19-22	3-4 semesters (sophomore)
11. Upper College Men	20-23	5-6 semesters (junior)
12. Upper College Women	20-23	5-6 semesters (junior)
13. Upper College Men	21-25	7-10 semesters (senior)
14. Upper College Women	21-25	7-10 semesters (senior)
15. Graduate Men & Women	to 35	All graduate students with up to 10 years study

Student Audition categories continued:

Category Number/Name	Age	Length of Study
16. Advanced Men & Women	28-35	NATS members, teachers, doctoral candidates, and emerging professionals
17. Open Men & Women	no limit	Adult students with up to 2 years of study
18. Open Men & Women	no limit	Adult students with 3 or more years of study
19. Teachers	35+	NATS members only

III. CLASSICAL DIVISION REQUIREMENTS

A. General Guidelines

1. All categories must include an English language song. The original language of this song must be English. Arias by early English composers will be accepted as songs.
2. All repertoire shall be performed from memory with the exception of oratorio arias. For oratorio arias, an original score may be held.
3. Students are welcome to prepare more selections than the required minimum, if they so choose.
4. Certain repertoire may be appropriate in either the Classical or Musical Theater divisions. The singing style should correspond to the division chosen.

B. Classical Repertoire

High School (Categories 1-6): 3 songs

All songs must be sung in the original language.

Three English-language selections are acceptable, provided English is the original language.

An opera or oratorio aria may be substituted for (only) one art song selection.

1. One Old English or Italian song
2. Two additional songs

College (Categories 7-14): 3 songs

An operatic or oratorio aria may be substituted in (only) one area as long as the required languages and English-language art song are still represented.

Categories 7-10: Two languages (English and one other) must be represented.

Categories 11-14: Three languages (English and two others) must be represented.

1. One Italian, Latin, or Spanish art song
2. One French, German, Slavic, or Scandinavian art song
3. One American or British art song where English is the original language

Graduate and Advanced (Categories 15-16): 6 songs

At least four languages (English and three others) must be represented.

Three copies of the repertoire list must be provided to the judges.

In the Advanced category, it is recommended that musical complexity be represented by extended tonality in at least one selection.

1. One operatic aria
2. One oratorio aria
3. One French art song
4. One Italian or Spanish art song
5. One German, Slavic, or Scandinavian art song
6. One American or British art song where English is the original language

Open Men and Women, Teachers (Categories 17-19): 3 songs

Category 17: Two languages (English and one other) must be represented.

Categories 18-19: Three languages (English and two others) must be represented.

An opera or oratorio aria may be substituted in (only) one area as long as the required languages and English-language art song are still represented.

1. One Italian, Latin, or Spanish art song
2. One French, German, Slavic, or Scandinavian art song
3. One American or British art song where English is the original language

Classical Repertoire, continued:

Evaluation only: 2 songs

While there are no specific requirements, two songs or arias of contrasting styles are suggested. These singers are scheduled with the category most appropriate for level of study to provide the judges with a basis for comparison. However, judges will write comments only (no scores).

IV. MUSICAL THEATER DIVISION REQUIREMENTS

A. General Guidelines

1. Singers should use a stylistically appropriate vocal production. Belting is acceptable.
2. Singers may use props and/or engage in stylistically appropriate movement. Dance choreography is not allowed.
3. All repertoire shall be performed from memory.
4. Repertoire is to be chosen primarily from musicals and film musicals. However, songs composed in a musical theater style, but not from a production are also acceptable. No songs from television, classical art songs, or pop songs are allowed.
5. Contrasting selections are desired. It is recommended that both traditional and contemporary repertoire be represented.
6. Certain repertoire may be appropriate in either the Classical or Musical Theater divisions. The singing style should correspond to the division chosen.

B. Musical Theater Repertoire

High School (Categories 1-6): 2 contrasting selections

College (Categories 7-14): 3 contrasting selections

Graduate and Advanced (Categories 15-16): 4 contrasting selections

Open, Teachers, Evaluation (Categories 17-19): 2 contrasting selections

V. CONDUCT OF AUDITIONS

A. The Student Auditions are not a contest but, rather, a mutual effort to stimulate the highest degree of vocal artistry and technique, adjudication, and evaluation within a climate of genuine concern and encouragement.

B. Professional Etiquette

1. All students should be professional and courteous to all other singers, whether or not they are in direct competition, at all times. This includes before, during, and after Auditions Day.
2. Singers should exhibit proper performance etiquette in both dress and demeanor during the auditions.
3. Students are asked to exercise restraint in the hallway where results are posted. Courtesy to all individuals assisting in Auditions Day is appreciated.

C. Guidelines for pianists

1. Pianists are provided by entrants.
2. Teachers may not accompany their own students.
3. Teachers who accompany the students of others must arrange for a qualified substitute to judge for the time they are not available (see VIII.B for guidelines on substitutes).
4. **Pianists may not play for more than 10 entries.**
5. A student entered in both Classical and Musical Theater divisions is considered to be 2 entries.
6. Pianists who also participate as singers are limited as follows:
 If the pianist is singing in one category, he or she may accompany 8 students.
 If the pianist is singing in two categories, he or she may accompany 6 students.
7. Pianists must play from original scores. (see VII.D.3)
8. The use of a page-turner is allowed.

D. **Two or three rounds of auditions** will be conducted within each category: **Preliminary, Semi-final (if necessary), and Final.**

PRELIMINARY ROUND GUIDELINES

1. Repertoire Performed:

- a. The audition will begin with the singer's choice of song. The student announces his/her audition number and the title and composer of the chosen song.
- b. The judges will choose from the singer's other prepared songs.

High School, College, Open, Teachers, Evaluation:

Judges will hear ONE additional selection (total of 2 selections heard).

Graduate and Advanced:

Judges will hear TWO additional selections (total of 3 selections heard).

Judges may request to hear more than three selections if time allows.

2. Evaluation forms:

- a. Each singer will prepare THREE copies of the evaluation form and present them to the judges at the time of the audition.
- b. Each copy of the evaluation form should list the student's initials, audition number, years studied, age, category number, and titles and composers of musical selections.
- c. Singers in the Graduate and Advanced Categories should also present THREE copies of the prepared repertoire on a separate sheet.

3. Scheduling:

- a. Students will be assigned a specific time to sing.
- b. Singers should be at the door of their assigned adjudication room 10 minutes early, prepared to sing, in the event of a "no show."

4. Time Limits:

- a. 08 minute maximum for High School, College, Open, Teachers, and Evaluation
- b. 13 minute maximum for Graduate and Advanced

5. Scoring (*adjudicated relative to the level of training in each category*):

90-100 is exceptional

85-89 is very good

80-84 is average

70-79 is below average

5. Advancement:

- a. In each category, students with the top five scores will advance to the Final Round.
- b. If there is a tie for fifth place, the tied singers will both advance to the finals.
- c. When categories are large enough to warrant splitting into multiple rooms, the following protocol will be observed:
 - i. When a category is split into two rooms, the top scoring three students from each of the rooms will progress to the **final** round.
 - ii. When a category is split into three rooms, the top scoring three students from each room will progress to a **semi-final** round.
 - iii. When a category is split into two or three rooms, and there is a tie for third place, both tied singers will advance to the next round.
- d. Category 19 (Teachers) will *only* conduct a preliminary round. No semi-finals or finals.
- e. Evaluation-only singers, although singing within other categories, have no score and therefore will not advance.
- f. The Auditions Chair will post the audition numbers of the semi-finalists and finalists as soon as scores have been tabulated.

SEMI-FINAL and FINAL ROUND GUIDELINES

1. Repertoire performed: Each singer will perform ONE song of his/her choice. The singer will announce his/her audition number and the title and composer of the chosen song.
2. No evaluation forms or repertoire lists are used in semi-final and final rounds.
3. Scoring:
 - a. Each judge ranks all the singers heard during the round, with “1” being the best.
 - b. The ranking sheets will be legibly signed by each judge.
 - c. The judges will not confer until after their ranking sheets have been turned in.
 - d. The rankings from all three judges will be combined to determine the final ranking.
4. Advancement (in the case of semi-finals):
 - a. The top FIVE ranked students will advance to the final round.
 - b. If there is a tie for fifth place, the tied singers will both advance to the finals.
 - c. The Auditions Chair will post the audition numbers of the finalists as soon as scores have been tabulated.

D. Awards

1. All students should report to the designated area to wait for the announcement of the winners.
2. Certificates and prizes will be presented at the awards ceremony held at the end of the day.
3. All finalists will receive a certificate of recognition.
4. The top three ranked singers will be the winners for each category.
5. Policies regarding under-enrolled categories:
 - a. If three or fewer entries are **received** in a category, those entries will be combined with the next higher category.
 - b. If four entries are **received** in any category, that category may award first prize only. First prize may be awarded even if fewer than four actually audition due to last minute cancellations.
 - c. If only four singers **audition** in a category, only first prize may be awarded. This will be upheld regardless of the number of entries received in the category.
 - d. If only five singers **audition** in a category, only first and second prizes may be awarded. This will be upheld regardless of the number of entries received in the category.
 - e. If only six singers **audition** in a category, first, second, and third prizes may be awarded. This will be upheld regardless of the number of entries received in the category.
 - f. If six or fewer singers **audition** in a category, the preliminary round will be considered the final round.
 - g. If more than six singers audition in a category, there will be a Final round and all prizes and certificates may be awarded.
 - h. One additional prize may be awarded in extraordinary circumstances at the discretion of the President and Auditions Chair.

VI. ELIGIBILITY

- A. Any student currently studying with an active member in good standing of the Colorado-Wyoming Chapter of NATS, and meeting all other requirements herein, is eligible for competition.
A teacher “in good standing” is:

1. A continuing member whose current National and Chapter dues are up to date by the deadline for Chapter membership renewal. A teacher who has been a Chapter member of NATS in any previous year should be counted as a continuing member.
2. A new member who can supply proof of membership from the National Office. Applications of new members must be complete and filed with both the National Office and the Colorado-Wyoming Chapter Office by the deadline for audition entries. A teacher may become a new member only once.

Eligibility, continued:

B. The NATS Code of Ethics states:

It is unethical to claim as a pupil one having studied less than eight months with the teacher, except where there has been no previous training.

1. A teacher may enter a student, who has studied with him/her less than 8 months, provided that the name of the former teacher is listed on the entry form.
2. Students of one teacher may not be entered under a colleague's name.
3. Students of colleagues who are not NATS members may not be entered under the name of a NATS member.

C. No limit is placed on the number of students entering the auditions.

VII. PARTICIPATION

A. Appropriate fees must accompany each application. There will be no refunds.

B. Checks or money orders should be made out to Colorado/Wyoming NATS.

C. Each student will be assigned an audition number on the official schedule for the auditions. This will serve as the student's ID and admission to all sessions of the Spring Auditions Day except the official business meeting and noon luncheon.

D. Disqualification:

1. Any contestant failing to comply with all the rules and regulations set forth by the Colorado-Wyoming Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing will be considered ineligible for any ranking, awards, or prizes.
2. Any blatant abuse of the copyright law will result in the student's disqualification. These guidelines will be strictly enforced.

3. Pianists must play from original scores, not from photocopies.

APPROVED EXCEPTIONS:

- a. Transpositions, if the original published music is present at the time of the audition.
 - b. CD-ROM editions, with a permissions logo or printout of permissions page.
 - c. Digitally downloaded sheet music obtained from a website, with the following documentation:
 - i. For purchased music, a receipt of purchase or printout of authorized use.
 - ii. For music in the public domain, documentation stating that the music is available for free download.
 - d. Photocopies of out-of-print scores, accompanied by written permission from the publisher or other proof that the score is out of print.
 - e. Pianists may photocopy minimally to facilitate page-turns.
4. It is the singer's right to privacy not to have his/her eligibility discussed in public. If a judge questions a student's eligibility for prizes or awards, the judge is asked to *discreetly* notify the Auditions Chair by including a note with the evaluation form.
 5. Without prejudice, judges must allow a potentially disqualified student to sing, score the audition, and continue with auditions in a timely manner. The Auditions Chair will review all concerns leading to a potential disqualification. The Auditions Chair will determine with certainty whether or not the audition is disqualified before the student advances to the next round.

IX. GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES

- A. **Every teacher who enters students must be available to judge all day.** If, for professional reasons, a teacher cannot attend the auditions, he/she may petition for a waiver of this regulation in writing to the Auditions Chair.
- B. If a teacher is not available to judge, for whatever reason (including illness or previously known professional engagement), then that teacher's students are ineligible for ranking, awards, or prizes.
EXCEPTION: The teacher may arrange for a suitable substitute judge. This person may be a professional colleague not already assigned to judge, or a qualified graduate student, but not necessarily a NATS member. All substitute judges must be approved by the Auditions Chair in advance.
- C. **All judges** are required to attend a meeting one half hour before the first audition.
- D. Teachers shall not judge categories in which they have an entry, unless emergencies require their services in categories where they have only one or two students entered. The Auditions Chair will also avoid having teachers judge students from their own schools, if possible.
- E. Judges are to supply sufficient, appropriate comments to validate the score assigned to each audition.
- F. Judges are to write comments that support a motivating spirit of cooperation in the pursuit of vocal artistry and technique through hearing and being heard in a climate of mutual support and concern. These comments should be consonant with the NATS code of ethics.
- G. If a member of a judging panel is interested in knowing information about a particular contestant, he/she is permitted to ask the singer directly.
A judge **MAY NOT** question or discuss:
1. The name of a student's teacher.
2. The student's eligibility.
3. The student's scores or rankings.
- H. Without prejudice, judges must allow a potentially disqualified student to sing, score the audition, and continue with auditions in a timely manner. The Auditions Chair will review all concerns leading to a potential disqualification. The Auditions Chair will determine with certainty whether or not the audition is disqualified before the student advances to the next round.
- I. Judges shall not confer until after their rating sheets have been turned in.
- J. One judge from each category will bring the judging sheets to the tabulating room as soon as the category auditions are finished. The judge will also bring the audition list, marked to indicate no-shows, for aid in tabulating scores.