

National Student Auditions Categories for National, Region, District, and Chapter Auditions

The National Student Auditions begin at the region level and progress to the national preliminary, semifinal, and final rounds. Singers may only advance to the NSA National Preliminary Round from a region 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 Preliminary Round. When possible, regions should offer all of the categories listed on page 6 of this document.

Audition Category Terminology

CATEGORY	Categories are defined by voice type. Treble: Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, Contralto, Countertenor Voices 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 1 TBB: Tenor, Baritone, Bass Voices 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12
CATEGORY NUMBERS	Categories numbers also reflect the student's level of study. Children–Middle School 1 & 2 , High School (HS) 3 & 4 , Lower: one–two years post-HS 5 & 6 , Upper: three–five years post-HS 7 & 8 , Advanced: post-undergraduate 9 & 10 , Other Adults 11 & 12
LENGTH OF STUDY	Length of Study in Selection of Appropriate Category of Entry Total voice study with a voice teacher (NATS Member or Non NATS Member) either in an independent studio or collegiate/conservatory program or in any combination of them is a determining factor in post-high school categories only. Post-High School Study: Lower: any one or two years of post-high school study; all as an undergraduate. Upper: any three to five years of post-high school study; all as an undergraduate. Counting years of study begins with the first day of post-high school study—meaning the first year of study is in progress. For example, a student in an undergraduate program in their fifth semester of voice study is in their third year of study. Any reasonable portion of a year will be counted as one year—even if the singer stops taking weekly lessons during a portion of that year, excepting if the singer is ill and unable or forbidden to sing during that time for medical reasons.
AGE LIMIT	Age limits are determined at the time of registration for singers in NATS auditions. Singers above the age limit of a category may not compete in that category. If an appropriate category is not available for a singer above the age limit, the singer may sing in that category for comments only. The age and years of study for NSA categories are determined at the region audition and remain the same during that audition season.
REPERTOIRE	High school aged 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. Region and National Auditions will require three selections in all High School Categories.
AUDITIONING TEACHER-MEMBERS	NATS teacher-members who meet the requirements of a student audition category in terms of their 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 in addition to auditioning.

NSA Annual Audition Categories

Classical Audition Terminology

Aria	An aria is a solo from an opera, oratorio, mass, cantata, zarzuela, operetta, or works titled “concert aria.” Oxford Online definitions will be used for the purposes of NATS student auditions. 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 classical categories. For the singers in the upper and advanced categories, these pieces may ONLY count as an art song, 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 must be performed from memory with the exception of Oratorio, Mass, Requiem, and Cantata Arias. Singers may hold music scores for these types of arias as is traditional performance practice.
Original Languages	All selections should be sung in original language or in translation, if warranted by common performance practice.
Transposition	Published transpositions are permitted. Singers are expected to retain the composer's intended style of music and to convey the essence of the character portrayed in the larger work. Performances not fulfilling these requirements may result in lower scores from adjudicators.
Art Song in English	English must be the original language of the art song.
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. No musical theatre, pop, soul, jazz, rhythm and blues, etc. may be entered in the Classical Category. 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 musical theatre selections are allowed as is 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.
Comments Only	Any registered student may elect to sing for comments only and participate exclusively in a preliminary audition. Adjudicators will not score auditions entered for comments only.
Double-Dipping	Singers entering more than one category (Classical, Musical Theatre, Spiritual) in NATS auditions are allowed to sing the same selection in two categories provided that the repertoire requirements of both categories are met. If singers advance in NATS Auditions (chapter, region, national rounds) in more than one category, they may not sing the same selection in multiple final auditions. See specific examples in the MUTH Terminology.

NSA Classical (CL) Categories

TREBLE: Soprano, Mezzo- Soprano, Contralto, Countertenor Voices

TBB: Tenor, Baritone, Bass Voices

CATEGORY		LENGTH OF STUDY	AGE LIMIT	TIME LIMIT	REPERTOIRE
CL 3	High School Classical Treble Voice	No limit	14–19	8 minutes	*Three contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English. * One art song in a language other than English. One additional art song or aria.
CL 4	High School Classical TBB Voice	No limit	14–19	8 minutes	*Three contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English. * One art song in a language other than English. One additional art song or aria.
CL 5	Lower Classical Treble Voice	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 art song in a language other than English.
CL 6	Lower Classical TBB Voice	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 art song in a language other than English.
CL 7	Upper Classical Treble Voice	3–5 years post-high school all as an undergraduate	25	12 minutes	Four contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One aria. One art song in English. * One art song in a language other than English. One additional selection from the classical repertoire. At least three languages must be represented.
CL 8	Upper Classical TBB Voice	3–5 years post-high school all as an undergraduate	25	12 minutes	Four contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One aria. One art song in English. * One art song in a language other than English. One additional selection from the classical repertoire. At least three languages must be represented.
CL 9	Advanced Classical Treble Voice	4+ years post-high school	22–30	15 minutes	Five contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One operatic aria. One oratorio/cantata aria.† One art song in a language other than English. One art song in English.* One additional selection from the classical repertoire. At least three languages must be represented.
CL 10	Advanced Classical TBB Voice	4+ years post-high school	22–30	15 minutes	Five contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One operatic aria. One oratorio/cantata aria.† One art song in a language other than English. One art song in English.* One additional selection from the classical repertoire. At least three languages must be represented.

** English must be the original language of the required one art song in English.*

† Singers may hold the music score for oratorio/cantata aria, in exception to the memorization rule.

Number	Category	Length of Study	Age Range Limit	Time Limit
CL 3A	Lower High School Classical Treble Voice	No limit—all HS	14–16 9th or 10th Grade	8–10 minutes
CL 4A	Lower High School Classical TBB	No limit—all HS	14–16 9th or 10th Grade	8–10 minutes
CL 3B	Upper High School Classical Treble Voice	No limit—all HS	16–19 11th or 12th Grade	8–10 minutes
CL 4B	Upper High School Classical TBB	No limit—all HS	16–19 11th or 12th Grade	8–10 minutes
CL 5A	First Year Classical Treble Voice	1 year post HS	20	10 minutes
CL 6A	First Year Classical TBB	1 year post HS	20	10 minutes
CL 5B	Second Year Classical Treble Voice	2 years post HS	22	10 minutes
CL 6B	Second Year Classical TBB	2 years post HS	22	10 minutes
CL 7A	Third Year Classical Treble Voice	3 years post HS	23	12 minutes
CL 8A	Third Year Classical TBB	3 years post HS	23	12 minutes
CL 7B	Fourth/Fifth Year Classical Treble Voice	4-5 years Post HS (all as an undergraduate)	25	12 minutes
CL 8B	Fourth/Fifth Year Classical TBB	4-5 years Post HS (all as an undergraduate)	25	12 minutes
CL 9A	Lower Advanced Classical Treble Voice	4-7 years post high school	22–26	15 minutes
CL 10A	Lower Advanced Classical TBB	4-7 years post high school	22–26	15 minutes
CL 9B	Upper Advanced Classical Treble Voice	7+ years post high school	25–30	15 minutes
CL 10B	Upper Advanced Classical TBB	7+ post high school	25–30	15 minutes

Chapters, Districts, and Regions may subdivide the categories to accommodate a larger number of entries.

Subdivided categories may be designated as CL 4A–1, CL 5A–2, for example.

Repertoire requirements and time limits must remain the same among subdivisions of any category of auditions.

NATS NSA Classical Subcategories

Repertoire requirements are the same as the number of the corresponding category above

Musical Theatre Audition Terminology

Musical Theatre Selections	Repertoire is selected from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles, and stand-alone musical theatre songs. Only <i>one</i> of the required selections may be an operetta aria or a stand-alone musical theatre song.
Musical Theatre Styles	The singer is expected to select musical theatre songs from varied styles of music including bluegrass, blues, calypso, country, electro-pop, folk, gospel, jazz, legit, operetta, pop, pop-opera, rap, rhythm and blues (R&B), rock, soul, <i>etc.</i> The selected repertoire will engage the singer's ability to access a variety of vocal colors to communicate character and story (<i>see musical theatre rubric</i>). The audition will showcase the full spectrum of each singer's vocal and dramatic abilities.
Transpositions	Published transpositions are permitted, but singers are expected to retain the composer's intended style of music and to convey the essence of the character portrayed in the larger work.
Judicious Cuts	As found in common professional performance practice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuts in piano introductions, piano interludes, piano music after the vocal solo is completed, and dance breaks in musical theatre selections are allowed. • In the case of numerous verses, some verses may be cut.
Original Languages	Selections must be sung in the original language or in translation as warranted by common professional performance practice.
Memorization	All selections must be performed from memory.
Comments Only	Any registered student may elect to sing for comments only and participate exclusively in a preliminary audition. Adjudicators will not score auditions entered for comments only.
Double-Dipping	Singers entering more than one category (Classical, Musical Theatre, Spiritual) in NATS auditions are allowed to sing the same piece in two categories provided that the repertoire requirements of both categories are met. Crossover repertoire in MUTH and classical categories can be used during the same audition—for example, "Lonely House" from <i>Street Scene</i> may be used as an aria in the classical and a selection in MUTH categories...or the same spiritual from Hall Johnson or American Negro Spiritual Categories can be used both as an art song in the classical and a selection in the spiritual categories. If a singer advances in NATS Auditions (chapter, region, national rounds) in more than one category, they may not sing the same selection in multiple finals.
Authentic Performance	A genuine tone unique to each singer for the purpose of sincere communication with no elements of vocal impersonation.

NSA Musical Theatre Categories

CATEGORY		LENGTH OF STUDY	AGE LIMIT	TIME LIMIT	REPERTOIRE: all repertoire is performed from memory
MT 3	High School Musical Theatre Treble Voice	No limit	14–19	8 minutes	*Three contrasting musical theatre selections from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles, or musical theatre song literature. Only <u>one</u> selection may be chosen from an operetta <u>or</u> musical theatre song literature.
MT 4	High School Musical Theatre TBB Voice	No limit	14–19	8 minutes	*Three contrasting musical theatre selections from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles, or musical theatre song literature. Only <u>one</u> selection may be chosen from an operetta <u>or</u> musical theatre song literature.
MT 5	Lower Musical Theatre Treble Voice	0–2 years Post-high school	22	10 minutes	Three contrasting musical theatre selections from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles, or musical theatre song literature. Only <u>one</u> selection may be chosen from an operetta <u>or</u> musical theatre song literature.
MT 6	Lower Musical Theatre TBB Voice	0–2 years post-high school	22	10 minutes	Three contrasting musical theatre selections from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles, or musical theatre song literature. Only <u>one</u> selection may be chosen from an operetta <u>or</u> musical theatre song literature.
MT 7	Upper Musical Theatre Treble Voice	3–5 years post-high school all as an undergraduate	25	12 minutes	Four contrasting musical theatre selections from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles, or musical theatre song literature. Only <u>one</u> selection may be chosen from an operetta <u>or</u> musical theatre song literature.
MT 8	Upper Musical Theatre TBB Voice	3–5 years post-high school all as an undergraduate	25	12 minutes	Four contrasting musical theatre selections from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles, or musical theatre song literature. Only <u>one</u> selection may be chosen from an operetta <u>or</u> musical theatre song literature.

NATS NSA Musical Theatre (MT) Subcategories

Repertoire requirements are the same as the number of the corresponding category above

Number	Category	Length of Study	Age Range Limit	Time Limit
MT 3A	Lower High School Musical Theatre Treble Voice	No limit—all HS	14–16 9th or 10th Grade	8–10 minutes
MT 4A	Lower High School Musical Theatre TBB	No limit—all HS	14–16 9th or 10th Grade	8–10 minutes
MT 3B	Upper High School Musical Theatre Treble Voice	No limit—all HS	16–19 11th or 12th Grade	8–10 minutes
MT 4B	Upper High School Musical Theatre TBB	No limit—all HS	16–19 11th or 12th Grade	8–10 minutes
MT 5A	First Year Musical Theatre Treble Voice	1 year post HS	20	10 minutes
MT 6A	First Year Musical Theatre TBB	1 year post HS	20	10 minutes
MT 5B	Second Year Musical Theatre Treble Voice	2 years post HS	22	10 minutes
MT 6B	Second Year Musical Theatre TBB	2 years post HS	22	10 minutes
MT 7A	Third Year Musical Theatre Treble Voice	3 years post HS	23	12 minutes
MT 8A	Third Year Musical Theatre TBB	3 years post HS	23	12 minutes
MT 7B	Fourth/Fifth Year Musical Theatre Treble Voice	4-5 years Post HS (all as an undergraduate)	25	12 minutes
MT 8B	Fourth/Fifth Year Musical Theatre TBB	4-5 years Post HS (all as an undergraduate)	25	12 minutes

Chapters, Districts, and Regions may subdivide the categories to accommodate a larger number of entries.
Subdivided categories may be designated as MT 3A–1, MT 3A–2, for example.
 Repertoire requirements and time limits must remain the same among subdivisions of any category of auditions.

CATEGORIES ADVANCING

1st – 5th Place Region Award Winners

to the NSA National Preliminary Round

Number	Category	Length of Study	Age Range Limit	Time Limit
MT 3A	Lower High School Musical Theatre Treble Voices	No limit—all HS	14–16 9 th or 10 th Grade	8 minutes
MT 4A	Lower High School Musical Theatre TBB Voices	No limit—all HS	14–16 9 th or 10 th Grade	8 minutes
MT 3B	Upper High School Musical Theatre Treble Voices	No limit—all HS	16–19 11 th or 12 th Grade	8 minutes
MT 4B	Upper High School Musical Theatre TBB Voices	No limit—all HS	16–19 11 th or 12 th Grade	8 minutes
CL 3A	Lower High School Classical Treble Voices	No limit—all HS	14–16 9 th or 10 th Grade	8 minutes
CL 4A	Lower High School Classical TBB Voices	No limit—all HS	14–16 9 th or 10 th Grade	8 minutes
CL 3B	Upper High School Classical Treble Voices	No limit—all HS	16–19 11 th or 12 th Grade	8 minutes
CL 4B	Upper High School Classical TBB Voices	No limit—all HS	16–19 11 th or 12 th Grade	8 minutes
MT 5	Lower Musical Theatre Treble Voices	0–2 years Post-HS	22	10 minutes
MT 6	Lower Musical Theatre TBB Voices	0–2 years Post-HS	22	10 minutes
CL 5	Lower Classical Treble Voices	0–2 years Post-HS	22	10 minutes
CL 6	Lower Classical TBB Voices	0–2 years Post-HS	22	10 minutes
MT 7	Upper Musical Theatre Treble Voices	3-5 years Post-HS (all as an under graduate)	25	12 minutes
MT 8	Upper Musical Theatre TBB Voices	3-5 years Post-HS (all as an under graduate)	25	12 minutes
CL 7	Upper Classical Treble Voices	3-5 years Post-HS (all as an under graduate)	25	12 minutes
CL 8	Upper Classical TBB Voices	3-5 years Post-HS (all as an under graduate)	25	12 minutes
CL 9	Advanced Classical Treble Voices	4 or more years Post-High School	22–30	15 minutes
CL 10	Advanced Classical TBB Voices	4 or more years Post-High School	22–30	15 minutes
HJ alternating BIENNIALY with AS				
HJ 7	Hall Johnson Spirituals Competition All Voice Types	Post-High School	17–23	10–12 minutes
AS 3	American Negro Spiritual Category All Voice Types	No limit	14–19	8 minutes
AS 7	American Negro Spiritual Category All Voice Types	0–3 years Post-High School	23	10 minutes
AS 9	American Negro Spiritual Category All Voice Types	4 or more years Post-High School	30	12 minutes

**Chapters, Districts, and Regions may subdivide the categories to accommodate a larger number of entries.
Subdivided categories may be designated as CL 3A–1, CL 3A–2, for example.
Repertoire requirements and time limits must remain the same among subdivisions of any category of auditions.**

NSA Biennial Auditions

Hall Johnson Spirituals Competition

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 region student auditions with the top five singers from each region advancing to the NSA rounds, as with all other NSA categories. Chapters are also eligible and encouraged to add this competition to chapter auditions. Whenever applicable, chapter auditions may serve as qualifying rounds for advancement to region auditions.

Biennial Hall Johnson Spirituals Competition

(National rounds in this category will be held in even-numbered years)

Category	Length of Study	Age Limit	Time Limit	Repertoire performed from memory
HJ 7 Hall Johnson	Post-High School Ages All voice types	17–23	10–12 minutes	Three contrasting selections from Approved Hall Johnson spiritual repertoire See approved spiritual repertoire below.

For more information about the Biennial Hall Johnson Spirituals Competition, visit:

https://www.nats.org/Hall_Johnson_Spirituals_Competition.html

All approved Hall Johnson spiritual repertoire listed below is available in the following publications

- The Carl Fischer “Hall Johnson Collection” (CF)
- The Hal Leonard Digital Series, “Hall Johnson Concert Spirituals” (HL)
- The G. Schirmer “30 Spirituals” arranged by Hall Johnson (GS)

ONLY REPERTOIRE SELECTED FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST MAY BE SUNG IN THIS CATEGORY

Other selections in the collections listed above are not eligible repertoire in this category.

Ain’t Got Time to Die - HL
City Called Heaven - HL
Crucifixion - CF
Ev’ry Time I Feel de Spirit - HL, GS
Fix Me, Jesus - HL
Give Me Jesus - CF
His Name So Sweet - CF
Honor! Honor! - CF
I Been in de Storm So Long - HL
I Got To Lie Down - CF
I’m Gon’ter Tell God All o’ my Troubles - CF
Le’s Have a Union - HL
My God is So High - HL
My Good Lord Done Been Here - CF
Oh, Glory! - CF
Po’ Mo’ner Got a Home at Las’ - HL, GS
Ride On, King Jesus!- CF, GS
Roll Jerd’n, Roll - HL
Take My Mother Home - CF
Wade in de Water - HL
Witness - CF

All selections listed above are annotated and analyzed in
The Concert Spirituals of Hall Johnson: An Annotated Guide to Interpretation and Performance
by Eugene Thamon Simpson.

Other Audition Categories

Categories Not Yet Advancing to National Student Auditions

Category Number Title	Length of Study	Age Limit	*Time Limit	Repertoire: all repertoire is sung from memory
CL 1 Children	No limit	11 and Younger Below 6 th grade	8 minutes	Two or three contrasting age-appropriate selections from classical repertoire.
MT 1 Children's Musical Theatre	No limit	11 and Younger Below 6 th grade	8 minutes	Two or three contrasting age-appropriate musical theatre selections from musicals (including film musicals), revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles or musical theatre song literature. Only one selection may be chosen from operetta <u>or</u> musical theatre song literature.
CL 2 Youth	No limit	11–14 6 th –8 th grades	8 minutes	Two or three contrasting age-appropriate selections from classical repertoire.
MT 2 Youth Musical Theatre	No limit	11–14 6 th –8 th grades	8 minutes	Two or three contrasting age-appropriate musical theatre selections from musicals (including film musicals), revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles or musical theatre song literature. Only one selection may be chosen from operetta <u>or</u> musical theatre song literature.
CM 1	No limit	11 Below 6 th grade	8 minutes	Two or three contrasting age-appropriate selections from commercial music repertoire.
CM 2	No limit	11–14 6 th –8 th grades	8 minutes	Two or three contrasting age-appropriate selections from commercial music repertoire.
CL 11 *Adult Treble	No limit	22+	10–12 minutes	Three contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One art song in English. One art song in language other than English. One additional art song or aria.
CL 12 *Adult TBB	No limit	22+	10–12 minutes	Three contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One art song in English. One art song in language other than English. One additional art song or aria.
MT 11 *Adult Musical Theatre Treble	No limit	22+	10–12 minutes	Three contrasting age-appropriate musical theatre selections from musicals (including film musicals), revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles or musical theatre song literature. Only one selection may be chosen from operetta <u>or</u> musical theatre song literature.
MT 12 *Adult Musical Theatre TBB	No limit	22+	10–12 minutes	Three contrasting age-appropriate musical theatre selections from musicals (including film musicals), revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles or musical theatre song literature. Only one selection may be chosen from operetta <u>or</u> musical theatre song literature.

***Adult categories are intended for serious adult avocational musicians.**

NATS Regions, Chapters, and Districts are encouraged to create additional categories that do not yet advance to the National Student Auditions to address the needs of their students.