

Chapter, District, Region, and National Student Auditions



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

Conference Year Only - Hall Johnson Spiritual Category

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

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

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

Biennial Only - In Odd Numbered Years -- American Negro Spiritual Category

Category Number and Title	LENGTH OF STUDY	AGE LIMIT	TIME	Voice Type	*REPERTOIRE: all repertoire is sung from memory
16 High School American Negro Spiritual	No limit	14--19	8 minutes	All	Three American Negro Spirituals contrasting by composer, tempo and text. *See publications list
17 First Through Third Year College Age American Negro Spiritual	0--3 years post high school	23	10 minutes	All	Three American Negro Spirituals contrasting by composer, tempo and text. *See publications list
18 Fourth/Fifth Year College Age and Graduate Age American Negro Spiritual	4+ years post high school	30	12 minutes	All	Four American Negro Spirituals contrasting by composer, tempo and text. *See publications list

Student Auditions Categories

Length of Study, Repertoire, Age, and Time Requirements

* CATEGORY Treble: Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, Contralto, Countertenor TBB: Tenor, Baritone, Bass		LENGTH OF STUDY	AGE LIMIT	* TIME	* REPERTOIRE: all repertoire is sung from memory
1	High School Music Theater Treble Voice	No limit	14–19	8 minutes	*Three contrasting music theater selections from musicals (including film musicals), revues, operettas, music theater song cycles or music theater song literature. Only <u>one</u> selection may be chosen from operetta <u>or</u> music theater song literature.
2	High School Music Theater TBB Voice	No limit	14–19	8 minutes	*Three contrasting music theater selections from musicals (including film musicals), revues, operettas, music theater song cycles or music theater song literature. Only <u>one</u> selection may be chosen from operetta <u>or</u> music theater song literature.
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 foreign language. One additional art song or aria.
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 foreign language. One additional art song or aria.
5	Lower Music Theater Treble Voice	0--2 post high school	22	10 minutes	Three contrasting music theater selections from musicals (including film musicals), revues, operettas, music theater song cycles or music theater song literature. Only <u>one</u> selection may be chosen from operetta <u>or</u> music theater song literature.
6	Lower Music Theater TBB Voice	0--2 years post high school	22	10 minutes	Three contrasting music theater selections from musicals (including film musicals), revues, operettas, music theater song cycles or music theater song literature. Only <u>one</u> selection may be chosen from operetta <u>or</u> music theater song literature.
7	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 foreign language art song.
8	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 foreign language art song.
9	Upper Music Theater Treble Voice	3--5 post high school all as undergraduate	25	12 minutes	Four contrasting music theater selections from musicals (including film musicals), revues, operettas, music theater song cycles or music theater song literature. Only <u>one</u> selection may be chosen from operetta <u>or</u> music theater song literature.
10	Upper Music Theater TBB Voice	3--5 post high school all as undergraduate	25	12 minutes	Four contrasting music theater selections from musicals (including film musicals), revues, operettas, music theater song cycles or music theater song literature. Only <u>one</u> selection may be chosen from operetta <u>or</u> music theater song literature.
11	Upper Classical Treble Voice	3--5 post high school all as undergraduate	25	12 minutes	Four contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One aria. One art song in English*. One foreign language art song. One additional selection. At least three languages must be represented.
12	Upper Classical TBB Voice	3--5 post high school all as undergraduate	25	12 minutes	Four contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One aria. One art song in English*. One foreign language art song. One additional selection. At least three languages must be represented.
13	Advanced Classical Treble Voice	4+ post high school	22–30	15 minutes	Five contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One operatic aria. One oratorio/cantata aria. One foreign language art song. One art song in English*. One additional selection from the classical repertoire. At least three languages must be represented.
14	Advanced Classical TBB Voice	4+ post high school	22–30	15 minutes	Five contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One operatic aria. One oratorio/cantata aria. One foreign language art song. One art song in English*. One additional selection from the classical repertoire. At least three languages must be represented.

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

Asterisk Clarifications

<p>*CATEGORY</p>	<p>All categories are defined by voice type. Treble: Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, Contralto, Countertenor TBB: Tenor, Baritone, Bass</p>
<p>*LENGTH OF STUDY</p>	<p>Length of Study in Singer Category Selection for NATS Auditions Voice study with a voice teacher (NATS Member or Non NATS Member) either in an independent studio or collegiate/conservatory program or 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 undergraduate. Upper: any three to five years of post-high school study; all as undergraduate. Counting years of study begins with the first day of post high school study; meaning we are now in the first year of study. Any reasonable portion of a year would be counted as one year. For example, a student in in an undergraduate program in their fifth semester of voice study is in their third year of study. Each reasonable portion of a year of study counts as a full year, even if the singer stops taking weekly lessons during a portion of that year, unless the singer is ill and unable or forbidden to sing during that time for medical reasons.</p>
<p>AGE LIMIT</p>	<p>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 regional audition and remain the same during that audition season.</p>
<p>*REPERTOIRE</p>	<p>High school age categories and younger in Chapter and District auditions may require two or three selections as best serves the needs and tradition of the Chapter or District. Regional and National Auditions will require three selections from High School Categories.</p>
<p>Teacher members in NATS student auditions</p>	<p>NATS teacher members who meet the requirements of a student audition category--- age and years of study--- may enter student auditions through the NATS member with whom they are currently studying, but they may not enter themselves in the audition. If they enter their students in the audition, they must be available to adjudicate a category as well.</p>

Site Procedures for a NATS Audition

Each singer in the same category is allotted the same amount of time to perform. Singers select their first piece to perform and the adjudication panel selects subsequent pieces. Time begins when the singer announces their first piece.

Time continues to run between selections.

Therefore, in preliminary and semi-final rounds, each adjudication panel chair should expedite a rotation cycle among the panel members for subsequent repertoire selections. Repertoire selections should be made immediately because time continues to run between selections.

During the audition, selections are to be sung in their entirety as prepared by the student, WITHOUT suggested edits from adjudicators. For example:

- requesting a singer start at the B section or suggesting a student skip a prepared recitative and start with the aria or stopping a student in the middle of a piece to move on to the next piece

Repertoire is heard as the time allotment allows. It is possible that not all repertoire will be heard, and/or that the time allotment will end in the middle of a selection. Singers should be made aware of this possibility by their teachers.

The audition is completed when the adjudication panel or the timer calls/signals "stop".

Classical Audition Terminology

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

Music Theater Audition Terminology

Memorization	All repertoire must be sung from memory.
Original Languages	Selections must be sung in original language or in translation if warranted by common performance practice.
Transposition	Music Theater selections in college categories and older must be sung in the original or standard published key. High school singers and younger may use published transposed keys to accommodate voice change issues only. Any published transposition must retain the composer's intention and style of music, and preserve the character being portrayed in the story and lyrics.
Judicious Cuts	Piano introductions, piano interludes, piano music after the vocal solo is completed, and internal cuts of music theater selections are allowed as in common performance practice. Cuts of verse or verses of selections are not allowed. In the case of strophic pieces, all verses should remain that are traditionally included.
Music Theater Selections	Repertoire is chosen from musicals (including film musicals), revues, operettas or music theater song cycles all of which are written or intended for a fully realized musical production; <u>and</u> music theater song literature. Only <u>one</u> of the required selections may be chosen from operetta <u>or</u> music theater song literature.
Fully Realized Production	A fully realized production includes blocking/acting, dance, costumes, sets, pit orchestra or piano, lighting, sound, or a combination of the aforementioned elements.
Revues	Revues should thread back to the original production.
Music Theater Styles	Repertoire should ensure that selections represent the spectrum of their vocal and dramatic abilities. This should be exhibited by selecting pieces of varying style periods: pop/rock, contemporary, and golden age, employing a multiplicity of vocal styles (belt, mix, legit).
Comment Only	Any student may register to sing for comments only and participate in the preliminary audition round.

Subcategories for Chapter, District, and Region Auditions

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

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

American Negro Spirituals Category – Biennial Audition Category

The American Negro Spirituals Category will be added to regularly scheduled regional student auditions with the top five regional winners advancing to the NSA rounds, as with all other categories. Chapters are also eligible and encouraged to add this competition to chapter auditions. Where applicable, Chapter auditions serve as qualifying rounds for advancement into region auditions. The American Spiritual Category will alternate with the Hall Johnson Spiritual Category nationally, with the Hall Johnson Category offered in even numbered years.

Category Number and Title	LENGTH OF STUDY	AGE LIMIT	TIME	Voice Type	*REPERTOIRE: all repertoire is sung from memory
16 High School American Negro Spiritual	No limit	14--19	8 minutes	All	Three American Negro Spirituals contrasting by composer, tempo and text. *See publications list
17 First Through Third Year College Age American Negro Spiritual	0--3 years post high school	23	10 minutes	All	Three American Negro Spirituals contrasting by composer, tempo and text. *See publications list
18 Fourth/Fifth Year College Age and Graduate Age American Negro Spiritual	4+ years post high school	30	12 minutes	All	Four American Negro Spirituals contrasting by composer, tempo and text. *See publications list

*Authorized scores of repertoire not found on the publications list, can be vetted/approved by contacting one of the following NATS members:

Alexis Davis-Hazell adavishazell@ua.edu

Barbara Hill-Moore bhmoore@mail.smu.edu

Everett McCorvey everett.mccorvey@uky.edu

Marcia Porter MPorter@admin.fsu.edu

American Negro Spiritual Audition Terminology

Spiritual Definition	Arrangements in classical style of the North American Negro Spirituals, by composers similar to the style of Hall Johnson, R. Nathaniel Dett, Florence Price, Moses Hogan, Edward Boatner, Undine Smith Moore, James Weldon and J. Rosamond Johnson, Margaret Bonds and others. The classical style excludes Gospel, Blues and Jazz music. More extensive definition in NATS FAQ-Student Auditions
Memorization	All repertoire must be sung from memory.
Diction	Because of the idiomatic nature of the spiritual, diction restrictions will be relaxed and standard English pronunciations may be observed. ("de" or "duh" may be replaced with "the" for instance).
Transposition	Published transpositions consistent with the NATS Copyright Policy are allowed.
Spirituals in English	English must be the original language of the selection.
Spiritual Classical Performance Style	The word "classical" in this context refers to singing spirituals in the classical style with only mild

	deviations and interpolation to what is written in the music and without music theater, pop, gospel, contemporary Christian, soul, jazz, rhythm and blues expressions or vocal technique. See the NATS FAQ- Student Auditions for the difference between Spirituals and Gospel Songs
Judicious Cuts	Piano introductions, piano interludes, piano music after the vocal solo is completed, and internal cuts of spiritual selections are allowed as in common performance practice. Cuts of a verse or verses of selections are not allowed. In the case of strophic pieces, all verses should remain that are traditionally included.
Comment Only	Any student may register to sing for comments only and participate in the preliminary audition round.

For NSA Student Auditions NATS Web Site FAQ

What is the NATS' Definition and Terminology of American Negro Spirituals?

The American Negro Spirituals are the folk songs created by the enslaved Africans after their arrival in North America between 1619 and 1860. Although slavery ended with Abraham Lincoln signing the Emancipation Proclamation, which went into effect January 1, 1863, the enslaved people in Texas did not receive the notice until June 19, 1865, hence the Juneteenth Celebration.

The songs created and sung by enslaved women, men and children were born in North America and recant with dignity, resolve and sometimes joy, their stories of life, death, faith, hope, escape, and survival. These melodies and stories have been passed down orally from generation to generation in the plantation fields, in churches and in camp meetings and have presently taken their places on concert hall stages and recital series around the world.

Although most of the composers of the spirituals we now sing are unknown, the melodies and lyrics have been arranged by hundreds of arrangers in many different styles. The spirituals approved for performance in NATS auditions are the classical arrangements of the North American Negro Spirituals and arranged by classical North American composers. The terminology for singing in the American Negro Spiritual category is outlined and defined in the classical Audition Terminology.

While the American Negro Spirituals' geneses are of and by African Americans, they tell the stories in music of the history of our country. NATS encourages all singers to explore, study and perform these beautiful songs.

What is the difference between a Spiritual and a Gospel selection?

The American Negro Spirituals category is only for classical renditions of American Negro Spirituals in the classical art song tradition. Gospel, Contemporary Christian, Jazz and Blues selections are not allowed in this category. In addition, student should sing what is written in the particular arrangement they are using, with only mild deviations and interpolation to what is written in the music. The goal is to celebrate the music and the meaning of the text and not to focus on interpolated histrionics not written in the music. For a more in-depth discussion of the Gospel music, please see the Oxford Online definitions of Gospel music, please refer to the Oxford Online Dictionary entry on Gospel music (37.2.5).

Region and District and Chapter Subdivided Category Numbering System

Number	High School Categories	Number	Lower Post High School Categories	Number	Upper Post High School Categories	Number	Upper Advanced Categories
1A	Lower High School Music Theater Treble Voice	5A	First Year Music Theater Treble Voice	9A	Third Year Music Theater Treble Voice	13A	Lower Advanced Classical Treble Voice
2A	Lower High School Music Theater TBB	6A	First Year Music Theater TBB	10A	Third Year Music Theater TBB	14A	Lower Advanced Classical TBB
1B	Upper High School Music Theater Treble Voice	5B	Second Year Music Theater Treble Voice	9B	Fourth/Fifth Music Theater Treble Voice	13B	Upper Advanced Classical Treble Voice
2B	Upper High School Music Theater TBB	6B	Second Year Music Theater TBB	10B	Fourth/Fifth Year Music Theater TBB	14B	Upper Advanced Classical TBB
3A	Lower High School Classical Treble Voice	7A	First Year Classical Treble Voice	11A	Third Year Classical Treble Voice		
4A	Lower High School Classical TBB	8A	First Year Classical TBB	12A	Third Year Classical TBB		
3B	Upper High School Classical Treble Voice	7B	Second Year Classical Treble Voice	11B	Fourth/Fifth Year Classical Treble Voice		
4B	Upper High School Classical TBB	8B	Second Year Classical TBB	12B	Fourth/Fifth Year Classical TBB		

Categories can be divided again because of high numbers of students as IA---1, IA---2 etc.

Other Audition Categories Defined (not in National Student Auditions)

Category	Study	Age Limit	*Time	Repertoire: all repertoire is sung from memory
Children	No limit	11 and under/below 6th grade	8 minutes	Two or three contrasting age appropriate selections from classical repertoire.
Children's Music Theater	No limit	11 and under/below 6th grade	8 minutes	Two or three contrasting music theater selections from musicals (including film musicals), revues, operettas, music theater song cycles or music theater song literature. Only <u>one</u> selection may be chosen from operetta <u>or</u> music theater song literature.
Youth	No limit	11---14 6th - 8th grade	8 minutes	Two or three contrasting age appropriate selections from classical repertoire.
Youth Music Theater	No limit	11---14 6th - 8th grade	8 minutes	Two or three contrasting age appropriate music theater selections from musicals (including film musicals), revues, operettas, music theater song cycles or music theater song literature. Only <u>one</u> selection may be chosen from operetta <u>or</u> music theater song literature.
*Adult Treble	No limit	22+	10---12 minutes	Three contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One art song in English. One art song in a foreign language. One additional art song or aria.
*Adult TBB	No limit	22+	10---12 minutes	Three contrasting selections from classical repertoire. One art song in English. One art song in a foreign language. One additional art song or aria.
*Adult Music Theater Treble	No limit	22+	10---12 minutes	Three contrasting age appropriate music theater selections from musicals (including film musicals), revues, operettas, music theater song cycles or music theater song literature. Only <u>one</u> selection may be chosen from operetta <u>or</u> music theater song literature.
*Adult Music Theater TBB	No limit	22+	10---12 minutes	Three contrasting age appropriate music theater selections from musicals (including film musicals), revues, operettas, music theater song cycles or music theater song literature. Only <u>one</u> selection may be chosen from operetta <u>or</u> music theater song literature.
CCM Treble	No limit	18+	10---12 minutes	Three contrasting selections from jazz, pop, rock, or other repertoire. Singers may specialize in a particular genre and have contrasting selections within the chosen genre OR may select repertoire from more than one genre.
CCM TBB	No limit	18+	10---12 minutes	Three contrasting selections from jazz, pop, rock, or other repertoire. Singers may specialize in a particular genre and have contrasting selections within the chosen genre OR may select repertoire from more than one genre.

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

NATS regions, Chapters and Districts are encouraged to create new categories that do not advance to the National Student Auditions that suit their students' needs.