9 December 2024

Dear Ohio NATS friends and colleagues:

This letter will provide some helpful information as you navigate the AuditionWare platform to register your students for our Ohio Chapter VIRTUAL Spring 2025 Children and Youth Auditions.

Registration opens on January 14, 2025. Videos must be submitted with your registration. The last day to register, as well as the last day to make changes to repertoire or video submissions, is Monday, January 27, 2025. Results will be announced on February 16, 2025.

BEST PRACTICES FOR RECORDING

Here are some guidelines for best practices regarding **video submission**s per the NATS National Auditions standards:
- You should record videos in the spirit of a live audition or recital performance in LANDSCAPE (not portrait style or vertical orientation).
- You may record in a home, school, church, synagogue, recital hall, rehearsal room, or voice studio with good natural acoustics with or without an audience.
- Your student should dress professionally, as they would for a recital or live audition.
- You may excerpt an unedited video clip of a solo performance with a pianist of a song/aria from a recital performance performed on or after September 1, 2024. However, video excerpts from staged concerts, operas, revues, musicals, or operettas cannot be accepted.
- The camera should record from a fixed, audience-center position as if adjudicators were seated in front of the student. Have the student face the camera as they would face adjudicators in a live audition.
- Your video must clearly show the student's face from the waist upward or more
- Slate/Introduce yourself and your selection at the beginning of each video. Introduce by stating only: I am (Your Name). I will perform (Title of Selection) or I have (Title of Selection) from (Title of Larger Work, if applicable) by (Composer's Name) and (Lyricist's Name).

- Each of the selections must be performed from memory.
- Participants must perform full songs or arias. (16-bar, 32-bar, etc. audition cuts are not accepted).
- The identity, logo, or image of your teacher, school, location must not be spoken or revealed in your video in any way including posters, photographs, reflections in mirrors/glass/shiny surfaces, diplomas, flags, banners, video's titling and description, etc.
- The student's slate may be recorded as part of the performance or recorded separately from the singing, then added to the beginning of the unedited video of the song/aria performed.
- For CM categories, students must perform with a microphone on camera amplifying vocals—using no additional effects/filters. The microphone used on camera may feed directly into the camera or an external amp/speaker.
  - For each song entered your student may choose to: 1. self-accompany from memory on an acoustic instrument, 2. perform with only one live acoustic instrumentalist (a keyboard is accepted as the only acoustic exception), or 3. perform with an instrumental pre-recorded track with no backing vocals.
  - Remember: an acoustic guitar is accepted, but an electric guitar is not.
- If you would like more information about recording singing videos, I encourage you to watch this short video: ▶ Self Tape Dos and Don'ts for Voice .
- For complete guidelines from the National Office, please refer to this document.

Here are the **required YouTube Video Settings**:
- Select "Unlisted" in the privacy settings found under the Broadcasting and Sharing Options, when uploading your video files to YouTube.
- Each video's title should be in the following format: NATS – Singer's Full Name
- Type in the YouTube "Description" for each video: "Title of Selection," Title of LARGER WORK whenever applicable, Composer's Name. If a Musical Theatre or Commercial Music selection, you may ADD: & Lyricist's Name
- Turn off the video comments option on each video uploaded to YouTube.
- Reminder: YouTube Channel Background, Banner, Titles, Logos, and Images must NOT reveal Teacher, School, Location, Studio Names, or Affiliations of the Teacher or the Student auditioning.
- YouTube is the only video uploading platform accepted. (No video auditions uploaded to Vimeo, Flickr, Vevo, or personal websites, etc. will be accepted.)

Note: **The following issues make a video submission unacceptable**.
- Videos uploaded as "private" or "removed by user" obviously cannot be adjudicated

- Videos revealing teacher's identity, image, school, location, voice/music studio; student's school, location in the video submitted OR on the YouTube channel used for uploading videos submitted
- Videos that pan and/or zoom during performances
- Videos using recording equipment that alters the acoustics of the venue or the sound quality of the singer by adding distractingly unrealistic reverb, altering the pitches sung, digitally altering or filtering the vocals either during or after the video is filmed
- Any video audition conducted or side-coached by another person (positioned on or off camera) during the video's recording,
- CL or MT Video Submissions with more than a piano or electric keyboard playing on the accompaniment track
- YouTube submissions monetized on YouTube; ads will delay adjudication and may result in YouTube's blocking or removing the video submitted
- For CM Video Submissions:
  - Videos on which the singer is not performing with a microphone visible on camera to amplify their vocals
  - Videos with backing vocals on the accompaniment track
  - Videos with electric instruments other than one keyboard, or with more than one acoustic instrument providing the live accompaniment, i.e. any handheld percussion instruments like shakers count as one accompanying instrument

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Log in to nats.org, click on your email address at the top right of the screen, and scroll down to the heading "NATS National Student Auditions." Then click on the green button labeled "Auditionware."

Click the green button – "Register for Audition/Conference."

You will be prompted to "select the event you wish to register for;" there should only be one option under the dropdown – "Ohio Chapter Spring Children and Youth Spring 2025."

Follow the prompt to begin registering your students. NOTE: your student's birthdate is required and will dictate which categories you are allowed to select later. You will also need full contact information, including an email address, for each student.

When you get to the "Additional Info" section, you will be prompted to enter your student's "Level/Length of Study." This will determine which Categories are available for selection. If

you don't see the category you plan to register for on the "Category Selection" screen later, please return to this page and change your selection. There is a Length of Study reference chart to assist you in determining which Level to select.

Continue following the prompts. NOTE: when you get to the Category Selection screen, you will find references charts for repertoire and length of study to assist you.

Under the "Pianist Selection" tab, simply select the only option available: Video, Link.

As you enter your student's repertoire, you might find it helpful to refer to the guidelines about musical cuts, copyright policies, terminology, and rubrics. This information can be found [HERE](#).

You can enter repertoire by using the "Search by Title" box. Type the title of the piece; if it has been performed before AuditionWare will automatically fill in most of the required information for you. Otherwise, simply enter the information in each box as requested.

For each selection, copy and paste the **complete web link/URL for each video** matching the selection's title. No extra blank space either before or after the web address, please.
- Check each video submission's link to be sure the video and music are in sync, the volume of the singing is adequate to be adjudicated, and the performance is of a complete selection. The silences before and after your performance may be trimmed.
- Double-check to be certain the video performance matches the selection's title on YouTube and on your entry's registration. Video performances not matching titles may disqualify an audition.

Once you have saved the information, you will be asked if you would like to register your student in another category. If yes, you will be redirected to the Category Selection screen and you can fill out the information for the next category. NOTE: students may sing for multiple categories as long as they fulfill the eligibility criteria for each category. When you have finished registering your student in their chosen categories, you will be asked if you would like to register another student. If so, click yes and you will be redirected to the appropriate screen to register your next student.

Once you have completed all of your students' registrations, click "Complete registration and pay fees." You should expect to see student registration fees of $25.00 per student per category, and the teacher registration fee of $25.00.

All teachers who send students to audition are expected to serve as judges. You will be prompted to indicate your preference as to which categories you feel most qualified to judge as well as your place of employment.

The last page allows you the opportunity to review your registration before checking out. I advise waiting to complete your transaction until all of your registrations are complete. When you click "Go to Payment Page" at the bottom, you will be redirected to the NATS website for payment.

As always, don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or run into any troubles as you go through the registration process.

All my very best,

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