



NATS Southeastern Region (SERNATS) Student Auditions Adjudication Overview and Sample Adjudication Sheet (Revised November 2009)

The Procedures Overview provides a summary of how the SERNATS Regional Auditions are adjudicated. Anyone running Student Auditions within the Southeastern Region may request a more detailed Procedures Manual from the Regional Governor. For specific information about applying or participating in Student Auditions, please see the SERNATS Applications Guidelines, and the SERNATS Auditions FAQ.

Student auditions will be conducted with dignity, efficiency, and with consideration for the performers in accordance with established NATS Audition policies.

ADJUDICATION

- A. Teachers who enter students in the auditions must assist in adjudication, but may not judge their own students. A teacher who declines to judge or who finds it impossible to attend the auditions in their entirety must arrange for a substitute judge. If a substitute judge is not secured by the teacher, the teacher's student (s) will be disqualified.
- B. The optimum number of judges for various categories is three (3). Only experienced voice teachers familiar with the age and level of advancement of the student should be asked to adjudicate.
- C. Since advancement of Student Auditions is regarded as a professional duty for NATS members, normally no fees will be paid for judges. However, when teachers from outside the chapter or region are asked to assist, or when travel costs are excessive or require equalization, or when services rendered are out of the ordinary, certain expenses may be reimbursed by the Auditions Chair out of registration fee funds.
- D. Audition lengths are assigned according to classification numbers.
1. The audition length includes time for transition from one singer to the next; consequently, the audition length does not necessarily represent the total singing time.
 2. Singers may be asked to stop in the middle of a selection in order to conform to allowable time limitations. If the judges feel that there are not adequate seconds left to begin an additional piece, they may opt not to use the entire audition time allotted.
 3. One of the judges will serve as the official time keeper. Audition time limits will be strictly observed.
 4. Allotted Audition Times:
 - Categories 1, 2, 3, 4, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 : eight (8) minutes.
 - Categories 5, 6, 7, 8, 15, 16, 19, 27, 28: ten (10) minutes.
 - Categories 9, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 29, 30, 31, 32: twelve (12) minutes.
 - Categories 13, 14, 20, 33, 34: fifteen (15) minutes.

E. Standard NATS Adjudication forms will be provided. The judges' comments and constructive criticisms will be given to the student's teacher as soon as possible after the judging is completed. No adjudicator may list his/her workplace, telephone number, or address on any adjudication sheet. No singer's address or place of study shall appear on the adjudicator's repertoire sheets.

F. Evaluations and Rankings

1. Each judge shall evaluate four categories for each singer: Voice Characteristics, Techniques, Musicianship, and Artistry. Each judge shall assign an evaluative score to each of the four categories using a rubric of 1 - 6 (1 being highest and 6 being lowest). The judges shall not confer as they decide their scoring.

2. The judges' evaluative scores shall be added together in the tally-room; all singers with an evaluative score of 6 or better from two judges will advance to the Final Round. [Example: Judge A—score of 3, Judge B—score of 7; Judge C—score of 7=singer does not advance to Final Round.] If there are 5 or fewer with the required scores in any classification, all 5 singers shall advance to the Final Round. In classifications where more than 5 singers have the required scores, there shall be a run-off round in which ALL students with the required scores shall sing. They shall sing one song or aria, and a different panel of judges shall rank each singer in order of preference. The rankings shall be averaged in the tally room and the top 5 singers shall be in the finals on Friday evening or Saturday afternoon. In the case of a tie in the run-offs the judges shall consult and rank the tied singers. The evaluative rubric for scoring singers shall be as follows:

1	2	3	4	5	6
Superior	Excellent	Quite Good	Average	Marginal	Weak

3. Classifications with more than 20 singers shall be divided into more than one group. In this case an intermediate run-off round shall be held. The top three singers from each group shall sing one selection from their repertoire sheets for a new set of three judges. The judges shall rank the singers in order of most preferred to least preferred. No more than five candidates shall be selected to participate in the final round.

4. The final round shall be adjudicated by the members present. Ballots shall be provided for this purpose. Awards of 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place for each category shall be determined by the ballot votes. In categories where only one singer is advanced to the Final Round, that singer shall automatically achieve the ranking of First Place.

5. Certificates of merit shall be awarded to all singers in the final round. Monetary awards, as determined at the business meeting during the regional auditions, shall be awarded to all 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.

[SAMPLE] JUDGES' SCORING SHEET –
SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL NATS AUDITIONS

Judging Guidelines: Do not give numerical scores if this audition is “for comment only.” If any judge feels that a singer should be disqualified, all three judges must report to the tally room to resolve the issue before any rankings are assigned.

Evaluative Rubric:

1	2	3	4	5	6
Superior	Excellent	Quite Good	Average	Marginal	Weak

Singer's Name: _____ Category: _____

Voice Characteristics (Native quality and range of the instrument, evenness of scale, vitality, etc.)

Techniques (Flexibility, breath control, diction, vowel purity, language accuracy, intonation, etc.)

Musicianship (Accuracy of rhythm, phrasing, etc., control of tempo and dynamics, etc.)

Artistry (Projection of mood, appropriateness of tonal colors, stage presence, style)

TOTAL SCORE: _____ [A total score of 6 or better (less) qualifies a singer for advancement]

Judges Last Name: _____ Judges Signature: _____