



## **NATS Southeastern Region (SERNATS) Student Auditions Application Guidelines (Revised November 2009)**

**About the Auditions:** The purpose of the SERNATS Student Auditions is to offer students of NATS members encouragement toward the preparation of appropriate repertoire, stimulation toward the achievement of vocal and musical growth, the opportunity to sing before qualified and impartial judges and thereby receive careful constructive criticism, and public recognition of musical talent and vocal achievement. Note: Student Auditions are not part of the NATS Artist Awards (NATSAA); see [www.nats.org](http://www.nats.org) for information about this separate event.

Student Auditions are an annual activity officially sponsored by the Southeastern Region, which includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico, and the American Virgin Islands. Regional Auditions are held annually, usually in the spring, and may be preceded by District or Chapter Auditions. Students with the highest ratings in the District or Chapter Auditions are encouraged to enter the Regional Auditions, although all students of NATS members are eligible to enter the Regional Auditions regardless of participation in District or Chapter Auditions. Membership of the Southeastern Region may, in their annual meeting, revise or amend these guidelines by a simple majority vote. Student auditions will be conducted with dignity, efficiency, and with consideration for the performers in accordance with established NATS Audition policies.

**Student Eligibility:** Any student currently studying with an active member of NATS and who meets all other requirements herein is eligible. Students who have studied with their current teacher for less than eight months may only participate in Category 19 except a) when there has been no previous training, or b) when the student has studied with a NATS teacher in the past 6 months, and gives credit to both the current and previous teacher by listing them both on the registration forms and, if applicable, in the introductions at the conclusion of the Final Round.

**Teacher Eligibility:** Any teacher who is an active member of NATS, and who resides or teaches in the event's region, district or chapter is eligible to enter students and to serve as an adjudicator at the Student Auditions. **Teachers who enter students in the auditions must serve as adjudicators as assigned by the Event Registrar**, but may not judge their own students. Each teacher may only send students from their own studio (studios cannot be combined), and must be available to adjudicate all the days of the event. 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.

**Important Copyright Information: Performers in NATS-sponsored auditions, competitions, recitals, and other activities such as workshops shall perform from lawful editions and shall support and obey the law relative to copyright. Neither singers nor accompanists may use any pages of photocopied music for any reason during the auditions.** Singers who use photocopied music or non-published keys produced on the computer, including use by the accompanist, or who have it in their possession, will be disqualified, *unless* they have written permission from the publisher in their possession and present this to the adjudicators at the time of the audition. For additional information, see the SERNATS Audition FAQ and the NATS Policy on Copyright Laws.

**Securing Accompanists: For the SERNATS Regional Auditions, auditioners are responsible for securing their own accompanists.** A staff accompanist will be available at the audition center for a reasonable fee if one is required. Arrangements must be made for this service by the time of the application deadline. *Please note:* No accompanist may play for more than fifteen auditions (twelve on Friday). One singer singing in two classifications counts as two auditions. Voice teachers may not accompany any singer at the piano at all.

**Expected Attire:** Students singing in every level of the audition are required to dress professionally; students singing in the Final Rounds are not expected to wear formal attire.

**Recording and Photography:** Photographs may be taken by event photographers throughout the event; a photo release is required as part of participation in the Auditions. Participants and guests may take photographs when permitted by event organizers; no video or audio taping of the auditions is allowed.

**Application Information:** Regional application forms are posted when available at [www.sernats.org](http://www.sernats.org). District and chapter applications are posted or distributed separately by those entities. Applications must be filled out completely and mailed *by the teacher* to the registrar by the stated deadline. The application fee and the accompanist fee, if applicable, must accompany each entry in order for the entry to be considered complete. Singers with incomplete entries will not be scheduled for an audition. Checks must be made payable to the appropriate NATS division (e.g. Region, District or Chapter), and must be from the teacher's account; checks from students will not be accepted by the Region.

**Repertoire:** All repertoire must be performed from memory. Vocalises, even a formal work like the Rachmaninoff "Vocalise," may not be sung at the SERNATS auditions. Copyrights are strictly enforced. All music must be accompanied using original scores. See "Important Copyright Information" above. All music should be scored for voice and keyboard unless approved in advance by the Event Coordinator. For additional information regarding scores, see the SERNATS Auditions FAQ. Specific repertoire requirements are listed for each Category in the Classification/Categories List below.

**Classification/Categories: For the purposes of these Auditions 34 Categories have been established. Please note that some categories have been assigned new numbers from those of previous Auditions, and some new categories are available in Music Theater.** A student’s classification shall be determined by the amount of vocal study and not academic standing; however, should the student be affected by the age factor, then age limitations determine the appropriate categories. In all categories, the allotted audition time includes transition time from one song or one singer to the next; the time limit represents the audition time slot, not the total singing time. A student may enter in a music theater classification and a classical music classification; registration fees must be paid for both categories.

The categories below are listed by genre, and by length of study, to facilitate determining the correct category(ies) for each singer.

FOR COMMENTS ONLY: ALL GENRES

General Category: For Comments Only

The “General” category welcomes singers, of any experience level, who wish to sing for written comments and evaluation only; no scores or prizes are given in this category.

**General: All Genres**

| Vocal Study         | Age     | Category Number and Name  | Audition Length | Repertoire  |
|---------------------|---------|---|-----------------|---|
| Any length of study | Any age | <b>Cat. 19. General: Women and Men</b><br>(for written comments only) | 10 min.         | Repertoire requirements and the number of selections are at the option of the teacher. Repertoire may be selected from any genre. |

All remaining categories below are for adjudication and possible placement in the Final Round(s).

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

### High School Categories

Note: when calculating amount of voice study for high school singers, count only years of training during high school.

#### *High School Classical*

| Vocal Study   | Age              | Category Number and Name   | Audition Length | Repertoire Requirements  |
|---|------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| 2 years or less of <b>high school</b> voice study   | Through 19 years | <b>Cat. 1.</b> First or Second Year High School <b>Women</b><br><br><b>Cat. 2.</b> First or Second Year High School <b>Men</b> | 8 min.          | 2-3 pieces.<br>All songs in Categories 1-2 may be sung in English.<br><br><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. One Italian or English art song from the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century.</li><li>2. One or two additional art song(s) at the discretion of the teacher.</li></ol><br>Operatic arias may be chosen only from the SERNATS Cat.1-6 Approved Aria list, available at sernats.org                |
| More than 2 years of <b>high school</b> voice study |                  | <b>Cat. 3.</b> Third or Fourth Year High School <b>Women</b><br><br><b>Cat. 4.</b> Third or Fourth Year High School <b>Men</b> |                 | 2-3 pieces.<br>English plus at least one additional language must be represented.<br><br><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. One Italian or English art song from the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century.</li><li>2. One or two additional art song(s) at the discretion of the teacher.</li></ol><br>Operatic arias may be chosen only from the SERNATS Cat.1-6 Approved Aria list, available at sernats.org |

### College/Private Studies beyond High School Categories

Note: when calculating amount of voice study for college and beyond categories, count only years of training after high school.

#### ***First through Fourth Year College or Private Studies Beyond High School Classical***

| Vocal Study                                   | Age   | Category Number and Name   | Audition Length | Repertoire Requirements   |
|---|---|--|-----------------|---|
| In first year of college/private voice study  | Through 22 years;<br><i>(students 23 and up see Cat. 15-16 under second year studies)</i> | <b>Cat. 5.</b> First Year College/Private <b>Women</b><br><br><b>Cat. 6.</b> First Year College/Private <b>Men</b>                                   | 10 min.         | 3 pieces.<br>English plus at least one additional language must be represented.<br>1. One 17 <sup>th</sup> or 18 <sup>th</sup> century Italian or English song or aria.<br>2. One 20 <sup>th</sup> or 21 <sup>st</sup> century art song in English by a composer from North America or the United Kingdom.<br>3. One additional art song in English, French, German, Italian, or Spanish.<br><br>Operatic arias may be chosen only from the SERNATS Cat. 1-6 Approved Aria list, available at <a href="http://sernats.org">sernats.org</a>                                    |
| In second year of college/private voice study | Through 22 years  | <b>Cat. 7.</b> Second Year College/Private <b>Women</b><br><br><b>Cat. 8.</b> Second Year College/Private <b>Men</b>                                 |                 | 4 pieces.<br>English plus at least one additional language must be represented.<br><br>1. One aria, sacred or secular, in the appropriate language.<br>2. One art song from the 17 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup> century. French, German, Italian or Spanish songs must be performed in the original language; other foreign language songs may be performed in English.<br>3. One 20 <sup>th</sup> or 21 <sup>st</sup> century art song in English by a composer from North America or the United Kingdom.<br>4. An additional selection from one of the above 3 listings. |
|   | 23 years and up <i>(in second OR first year of study)</i>                                 | <b>Cat. 15.</b> First or Second Year Adult College/Private <b>Women</b><br><br><b>Cat. 16.</b> First or Second Year Adult College/Private <b>Men</b> |                 |   |

|   |  |  |         |   |
|---|--|--|---------|---|
| In third year of college/private voice study  | 18 through 25 years;<br><i>(students 26 and up see Cat. 17-18 under fourth year studies)</i> | <b>Cat. 9.</b> Third Year College/Private <b>Women</b><br><br><b>Cat. 10.</b> Third Year College/Private <b>Men</b>                                  | 12 min. | <p>5 pieces.<br/>English plus at least two additional languages must be represented.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. One aria, sacred or secular, in the appropriate language.</li> <li>2. One art song from the 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> century. French, German, Italian or Spanish songs must be performed in the original language; other foreign language songs may be performed in English.</li> <li>3. One art song from the 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> century, in a different language from #2 above. French, German, Italian or Spanish songs must be performed in the original language; other foreign language songs may be performed in English.</li> <li>4. One 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century art song in English by a composer from North America or the United Kingdom.</li> <li>5. An additional selection from one of the above 4 listings.</li> </ol> |
| In fourth year of college/private voice study | 18 through 25 years  | <b>Cat. 11.</b> Fourth Year College/Private <b>Women</b><br><br><b>Cat. 12.</b> Fourth Year College/Private <b>Men</b>                               |         |   |
|   | 26 years and up <i>(in third OR fourth year of study)</i>                                    | <b>Cat. 17.</b> Third or Fourth Year Adult College/Private <b>Women</b><br><br><b>Cat. 18.</b> Third or Fourth Year Adult College/Private <b>Men</b> |         |   |

### Advanced College/Private Studies Beyond Fourth Year Categories

Note: when calculating amount of voice study for college and beyond categories, count only years of training after high school.

#### ***Beyond Fourth Year College or Private Studies Classical***

| Vocal Study   | Age            | Category Number and Name  | Audition Length | Repertoire Requirements  |
|---|----------------|---|-----------------|--|
| <p>In fifth year or beyond of college/private voice study (Doctoral performance majors, professional voice teachers, or NATS members see Cat. 20: Artist)</p> | <p>Any age</p> | <p><b>Cat. 13.</b> Advanced College/Private <b>Women</b></p> <p><b>Cat. 14.</b> Advanced College/Private <b>Men</b></p> | <p>15 min.</p>  | <p>6 pieces.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. One operatic aria in the appropriate language.</li> <li>2. One sacred aria in the appropriate language.</li> <li>3. One German art song (sung in German).</li> <li>4. One French art song (sung in French).</li> <li>5. Choose one from the following:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Early English song,</li> <li>b. Italian art song (or early equivalent), sung in Italian</li> <li>c. Spanish art song (sung in Spanish), or</li> <li>d. Russian or Scandinavian art song sung in the original language or in English.</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. One 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century art song in English by a composer from North America or the United Kingdom.</li> </ol> |

|  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
|  |  | <p><b>Cat. 20. Young Artist Level Women and Men</b><br/> (for doctoral performance majors, professional voice teachers, NATS members, or semi-professional singers. Note: this is a separate event from the NATSAA Competition; NATSAA information is available at nats.org)</p> | <p>At least 13 pieces.<br/> Each group must consist of at least 3 songs.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. One group of 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century English or Italian songs.</li> <li>2. One group of art songs from the French, German, Russian, Scandinavian, or Spanish repertoire, sung in original language.</li> <li>3. One additional group of art songs, in a different language from that chosen for #2 above, sung in original language.</li> <li>4. At least one aria, sacred or secular.</li> <li>5. One group of art songs 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century art songs in English by composer(s) from North America or the United Kingdom.</li> </ol> |
|--|--|--|---|

**MUSIC THEATER (MT)**

For all SERNATS Music Theater categories, repertoire may include Music Theater, Movie Musicals, Operetta (including Gilbert & Sullivan), Zarzuela, and individual pieces performed in theater style (ex. “The Girl in 14-G”).

Note: when calculating amount of voice study for high school singers, count only years of training during high school.

***High School Music Theater***

| Vocal Study   | Age              | Category Number and Name   | Audition Length | Repertoire Requirements   |
|---|------------------|--|-----------------|---|
| 2 years or less of <b>high school</b> voice study   | Through 19 years | <b>Cat. 21.</b> First or Second Year High School MT <b>Women</b>   | 8 min.          | 2-3 pieces, <i>with a minimum of 2 composers represented</i><br><br>1. An up-tempo or ballad music theater selection from a show that premiered before 1965.<br>2. A music theater selection from a show that premiered in 1965 or later, in a contrasting style from that selected for #1 above.<br>3. One additional music theater selection (any period) at the discretion of the teacher.<br><br>There should not be extensive belting in these categories. |
| More than 2 years of <b>high school</b> voice study |                  | <b>Cat. 22.</b> First or Second Year High School MT <b>Men</b><br><br><b>Cat. 23.</b> Third or Fourth Year High School MT <b>Women</b><br><br><b>Cat. 24.</b> Third or Fourth Year High School MT <b>Men</b> |                 |   |

College/Private Studies beyond High School Music Theater Categories

Note: when calculating amount of voice study for college and beyond categories, count only years of training *after* high school.

***First through Fourth Year College or Private Studies Music Theater***

| Vocal Study                                   | Age     | Category Number and Name   | Audition Length | Repertoire Requirements   |
|---|---------|--|-----------------|---|
| In first year of college/private voice study  | Any age | <b>Cat. 25.</b> First Year College/Private Music Theater <b>Women</b><br><br><b>Cat. 26.</b> First Year College/Private Music Theater <b>Men</b>   | 8 min.          | 3 pieces, <i>with a minimum of 2 composers represented</i><br><br>1. An up-tempo or ballad music theater selection from a show that premiered before 1965.<br>2. A music theater selection from a show that premiered in 1965 or later, in a contrasting style from that selected for #1 above.<br>3. One additional music theater selection (any period) at the discretion of the teacher.<br><br>There should not be extensive belting in these categories. |
| In second year of college/private voice study |         | <b>Cat. 27.</b> Second Year College/Private Music Theater <b>Women</b><br><br><b>Cat. 28.</b> Second Year College/Private Music Theater <b>Men</b> | 10 min.         | 4 pieces, <i>with a minimum of 2 composers represented</i><br><br>1. A music theater selection from a show that premiered before 1965.<br>2. A music theater selection from a show that premiered in 1965 or later.<br>3. An up-tempo music theater selection (any period.)<br>4. A ballad music theater selection (any period.)<br><br>There should not be extensive belting in these categories.  |

|   |         |   |         |   |
|---|---------|---|---------|---|
| In third year of college/private voice study  | Any age | <b>Cat. 29.</b> Third Year College/Private Music Theater <b>Women</b>   | 12 min. | 5 pieces, <i>with a minimum of 3 composers represented</i><br><br><ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A music theater selection from a show that premiered before 1965.</li> <li>2. A music theater selection from a show that premiered in 1965 or later.</li> <li>3. An up-tempo music theater selection (any period.)</li> <li>4. A ballad music theater selection (any period.)</li> <li>5. An additional selection from one of the above four listings.</li> </ol> |
| In fourth year of college/private voice study |         | <b>Cat. 30.</b> Third Year College/Private Music Theater <b>Men</b><br><br><b>Cat. 31.</b> Fourth Year College/Private Music Theater <b>Women</b><br><br><b>Cat. 32.</b> Fourth Year College/Private Music Theater <b>Men</b> |         |   |

Advanced College/Private Studies beyond Fourth Year Undergraduate Categories

Note: when calculating amount of voice study for college and beyond categories, count only years of training after high school.

***Beyond Fourth Year College or Private Studies Music Theater***

| Vocal Study  | Age     | Category Number and Name  | Audition Length | Repertoire Requirements   |
|--|---------|---|-----------------|---|
| In fifth year or beyond of college/private voice study | Any age | <p><b>Cat. 33.</b> Advanced College/Private Music Theater <b>Women</b></p> <p><b>Cat. 34.</b> Advanced College/Private Music Theater <b>Men</b></p> | 15 min.         | <p>6 pieces, <i>with a minimum of 4 composers represented</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A music theater selection from a show that premiered before 1965.</li> <li>2. A music theater selection from a show that premiered in 1965 or later.</li> <li>3. An up-tempo music theater selection (any period.)</li> <li>4. A ballad music theater selection (any period.)</li> <li>5. A music theater selection that demonstrates the singer's musical and/or dramatic range.</li> <li>6. An additional selection from one of the above five listings.</li> </ol> |

**For More Information...**

The SERNATS Auditions FAQ contains answers to frequently asked questions about the Auditions; all participants are encouraged to read the FAQ. An Auditions Adjudication Overview document is also available at [www.sernats.org](http://www.sernats.org) with details about how the auditions are adjudicated, and a sample adjudication sheet. A more detailed Procedure Manual for Auditions may be obtained from the Regional Governor by anyone running auditions.

**Questions?** Please see the SERNATS Auditions FAQ posted at [www.sernats.org](http://www.sernats.org). If your question is not covered there, please consult with the Event Registrar.