

National Student Audition Categories in NSA, Regions, Districts, and Chapters

The National Student Auditions begin at the region-level and progress to the national preliminary, semifinal, and final rounds. Region auditions should offer all of the categories contained in the “Category, Repertoire, Age, and Time Requirements” section of this document on pp 9 & 15. Singers may only advance to the National Student Audition 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.



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 regional 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. Regional 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.

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 <i>or</i> 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 MT 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 MT 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, regional, 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	MINIMUM 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 corresponding numbered category above.

Number	Category	Length of Study	Age Range Limit	Minimum Time Limit
MT 3A	Lower High School Musical Theatre Treble Voice	No limit—all HS	14–16 9th or 10th Grade	8 minutes
MT 4A	Lower High School Musical Theatre TBB	No limit—all HS	14–16 9 th or 10th Grade	8 minutes
MT 3B	Upper High School Musical Theatre Treble Voice	No limit—all HS	16–19 11th or 12th Grade	8 minutes
MT 4B	Upper High School Musical Theatre TBB	No limit—all HS	16–19 11th or 12th Grade	8 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.