



September 7, 2019

Greetings colleagues.

Well, we're back and ready for another year of exciting auditions!!!! There have been a few important and exciting changes that you need to be aware of before we can begin. *Some of these changes apply to the classical categories too so please take a look.*

EXCITING NEWS!

- **No more vetting at auditions!** That's right, no more standing in line. *INSTEAD*, pianists and singers will be asked to be on the lookout for, and submit, the **copyright acknowledgement forms** which will arrive via email AFTER registration closes. *These copyright acknowledgement forms must be submitted BEFORE the audition so make SURE we have your correct email so that you can receive and complete these very important forms!*
- **Pianists MAY USE IPADS!!** Hallelujah! National has approved the use of iPads and tablets as musical scores for collaborative pianists during all levels of NATS auditions...but scores are still held to the same standards of copyright as any other musical score used for auditions. **SIDE NOTE:** *keep in mind that NO EXTRA TIME will be given to singers whose pianist experiences technology failures (frozen software, dead batteries, etc)*
- **INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW.....**
Answers to your copyright questions can be found here: [Copyright FAQs](#)

CHANGES IN CATEGORIES

- Odd-numbered categories (formerly titled "Women") are changed to "Treble" to include students singing Soprano, Mezzo, Alto, or Countertenor.
- Even-numbered categories (formerly titled "Men") are changed to "TBB" to include students singing Tenor, Baritone, and Bass.

(Don't worry...it's really easy. Students simply enter the category of their voice type no matter their gender.)

RUBRIC UPDATES

- Scoring descriptors on our Rubrics have been changed from “Lowest,” “Average,” and “Best” to “Developing,” “Advancing,” and “Accomplished.”
- There are now expanded definitions of “Mix” and “Belt” on the Music Theater Rubric. You may review the updated rubric here: [Music Theater Rubric](#)
- Last summer, several NATS members from across the country, including myself, developed a CCM Rubric to help our members judging the CCM category. We consider this a “working document” and it will likely experience changes as we move forward but it is definitely a “jumping off” point. Cal-West used this rubric last spring and it even got a write-up in the Spring Inter-Nos. It can be found on the NC website : [NC NATS CCM RUBRIC](#)
- CCM categories will use microphones this year. This will just be a very basic setup but will allow the CCM singers have a bit more realistic musical experience.

JUDGING and REGISTRATION

- Our chapter has grown exponentially. EXPECT AND PLAN to judge BOTH days if you enter students. It will be ALL HANDS ON DECK moving forward in order to pull this off. (I'm not exaggerating for impact here...this is a fact.)
- Registration fee is still \$25 per student, per category and \$25 for Teacher Registration. Teachers who cannot judge BOTH days will be required to submit a \$50 substitute judge fee AND find a substitute judge. (no changes here...just a reminder)
- **Teachers who were not available to judge both days for the past two consecutive auditions (Fall/Spring), must be available to judge both days this fall in order to enter students.** (again..no change but a reminder)
- **REMEMBER to pay ALL YOUR FEES BY THE REGISTRATION CLOSING DATE** (*registration fee, student registration fee, substitute judge fee (if applicable)*). Failure to do so prevents me from gaining access to AUDITIONWARE and **I cannot begin the scheduling process until all monies have been received.** Please help me get you your schedules in a timely manner by paying your fees by the registration closing date. (*Closing date is Wednesday, October 16th..thanks for asking.*)

OTHER COOL STUFF

- Music theater *song literature* has been added as an option for one selection of required repertoire. You heard correctly, it doesn't have to be from a show...but it DOES have to be a musical theatre STYLE song...no pop music (save that for the CCM category). You may now include songs by Kerrigan and Lowdermilk, Goldrich, etc
- The Hall Johnson Competition will be held this year at our Spring 2020 Auditions so start planning for that.
- Lots of new features in AuditionWare. I encourage you to log in and look around.
- FROM NATIONAL: "The NATS Advocacy Committee, with the support of the NSA Committee and NATS leadership, is supporting an endeavor to promote diversity in repertoire selection by choosing a different theme biennially. Our first initiative will be vocal music by women composers. We want to encourage the membership to program music by women for the upcoming competition and recital seasons. Our goal is to advance the repertoire of these composers by strong suggestion rather than by requirement. To that end we offer resources on the NATS website: https://www.nats.org/Women_Composers_Initiative.html"
- I encourage you to visit the NATS Resource page. It is rich with information. Everything you wanted to know you can find here: [NATS RESOURCES](#). PLUS, there are some fantastic links to MT performances demonstrating "legit", "mix" and "belt." (I've already bookmarked them all. Truly THRILLING stuff!)

Thank you for taking the time to read and digest all of this info. (If you are still reading, you are a special person and your days will be bright and blessed. :))

As you can see, there is nothing complicated here but I wanted to bring you up to date before registration opens on September 16th.

Looking forward to seeing you all again.

Singfully yours,
Wendy L Jones
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