

# Puget Sound Chapter Student Auditions 2025-2026

Former NATS President Roy Delp believed that

“the idea of constructive criticism along with encouragement” is at the heart of our student adjudications. "Perhaps one of the greatest ties that binds us together as NATS members is the care we have for the students of our colleagues, as demonstrated at our student auditions.”

(Journal of Singing, 2000, Vol.57, No.1 p.2)

[https://www.nats.org/national\\_student\\_auditions.html](https://www.nats.org/national_student_auditions.html)

# Puget Sound Chapter & Western WA District ONLINE Student Auditions 2025-2026

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Registration Opens: Dec 15

Registration closes: Dec. 29

Video vetting: Jan. 2-4

Adjudicating: Jan 5-15

Winners announcement: Jan 17

# NSA Timeline 2025-2026

NOTE: ALL online through national prelims

## 1. Puget Sound Chapter + Western WA District online auditions - \$35/\$20

- Registration deadline: Dec. 29
- Adjudication Jan 5-15
- Winners announcement Jan 17 (Winners recital in the spring - date TBA)

## 2. NW Regional Student Auditions - \$20 registration fee

- Registration Feb. 1-Feb. 19
- Adjudication Feb. 8-March 15
- Winners Announced mid-March

## 3. National Student Auditions

- Registration deadline: April 10
- Semi-finals announcement: Mid-May
- July 2-7 2026 Semi finals and finals in San Antonio TX at NATS National Conference

# **ALL TEACHERS ENTERING STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ADJUDICATE.**

**Please put the online adjudication on your calendar now. (Jan 5-15)**

**If it is impossible for a teacher to adjudicate, regardless of reason, that teacher will be required to find a qualified replacement.**

**Students of a non-participating teacher will not be adjudicated unless a replacement adjudicator has been vetted by the auditions chair before the registration deadline of Dec. 29.**

**Teachers entering more than 25 registrations will also be required to find and submit an additional adjudicator before Dec. 29.**

**PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!!**

# NEW THIS YEAR

- Puget Sound and Western WA categories will align 100% with national level.
- If we subdivide large categories at chapter/district level, we'll divide by age.
- The spirituals categories this year will be for **Hall Johnson spirituals only** (no general spirituals categories this year)
- ALL ENTRIES for COMMERCIAL MUSIC MUST USE A DYNAMIC MIC.
- There is a new prize for the national level: The **Gerald Ginsburg Repertoire Prize**, in honor of composer Gerald Ginsburg, will award \$1,000 to a student in the Post High School Classical categories who performs at least one of Ginsburg's compositions in the YouTube, semifinal or final rounds in the NATS National Student Auditions.

# How to Register Your Students in Auditionware

- Log in to the national website at [nats.org](https://nats.org)
- Go to “Member Home”
- scroll down to click on the green AuditionWare button for a single sign-in to [AuditionWare.com](https://AuditionWare.com)

Auditionware will walk you through the registration process.

Be sure to choose the correct event (Puget Sound or Western WA)

It works better in some browsers than others. I recommend Chrome.

Please reach out to Holly or Katie if you are having trouble.

# Puget Sound Chapter vs Western WA District Categories

The following categories will be entered into the Puget Sound Chapter Auditions in Auditionware:

- Children and Youth
- High School
- Adult Avocational

These categories will be entered into the Western WA District Auditions (combined with our friends at the Tahoma Chapter):

- Post-High School (college)
- Advanced
- Nontraditional (Students pursuing or holding degrees in music and whose age or level of study falls outside the limits of other categories)

# Categories that Advance:

All Default NSA Categories of Entry advance to national levels of NSA with  
THESE EXCEPTIONS:

- ALL ADULT NON-TRADITIONAL CATEGORIES
- ALL ADULT AVOCATIONAL CATEGORIES
- THE TWO ADVANCED MUSICAL THEATRE CATEGORIES

NOTE: NSA's Advanced Musical Theatre Singers are encouraged to enter the National Musical Theatre Competition.



# Video Recording & Uploading Guidelines

PLEASE READ the video submission guidelines, and also have your students read them if they are making their own videos!

[https://www.nats.org/Library/NSA\\_Files/2024-25\\_NSA\\_Video\\_Submission\\_Guidelines.pdf](https://www.nats.org/Library/NSA_Files/2024-25_NSA_Video_Submission_Guidelines.pdf)

ALL videos must be in LANDSCAPE format (NOT PORTRAIT) - this is due to YouTube issues.

SLATES ARE MANDATORY! Exact format required is posted on the video submission guidelines.

Slates may be recorded separately and edited into the beginning of a video.

ALL pieces must be performed from memory with the exception of oratorio arias for classical categories.

No identifiable markers are allowed on videos, including the YouTube accounts that they are uploaded to.

READ THE GUIDELINES!

# Accompaniment for Classical and Musical Theatre

Live piano accompaniment OR tracks are allowed.

If using tracks, they must be PIANO ONLY

Teachers may accompany students but **MUST NOT** be visible on camera.

# Accompaniment for CM Categories

For each song entered you 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 non-acoustic exception)
3. perform with an instrumental pre-recorded track with no backing vocals.

Remember: an acoustic guitar is accepted, but an electric guitar is not.

- You may make the same or different accompaniment choices for each selection taking care to follow the NSA Commercial Music requirements for the category entered.
- If your voice teacher is your accompanist, their face must not be visible in the video.

# Microphones for CM categories are MANDATORY!

All singers entering CM categories 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 into an external amp/speaker.

# DOUBLE CHECK YOUR REGISTRATIONS!

- Double and triple check that you have entered your student into the correct category (genre AND level)
- Double check that you've copied and pasted the correct video link for each entry before you complete your registration. NO ONE wants to have to edit things or scramble for the correct information during our vetting period before adjudication begins.
- If you need to collect information from your students before registering them, please do take advantage of the “Student Pre-Registration Information Form” that you can download or print out to help you gather the information you will need for each singer before you register them.

[https://www.nats.org/Library/2023\\_24\\_NSA\\_Docs/Student\\_Pre-Registration\\_Form\\_9-5-23.pdf](https://www.nats.org/Library/2023_24_NSA_Docs/Student_Pre-Registration_Form_9-5-23.pdf)

# ADJUDICATE ACCORDING TO THE **RUBRIC**

When you register through Auditionware, you'll be asked which categories you are comfortable adjudicating. Please only choose age levels and genres that you are experienced in and feel comfortable adjudicating.

Take time to read the **RUBRICS** for each genre. These are available at the NSA Resource Center on the national website.

Remember that we adjudicate each singer as an **individual** against the rubric for their category, not against each other.

Your score should be a whole number that is reflective of the entire audition. It should not be an average of the standards' scores

A score of 90 or above indicates that this student should advance to the next level

# ADJUDICATION BEST PRACTICES

[https://www.nats.org/\\_Library/NSA\\_Files/NATS\\_NSA\\_Best\\_Practice\\_Adjudication\\_Goals\\_Sept\\_6\\_2021.pdf](https://www.nats.org/_Library/NSA_Files/NATS_NSA_Best_Practice_Adjudication_Goals_Sept_6_2021.pdf)

Ask yourself:

- Are my comments helpful—especially from the students and teacher's point of view?
- Do my comments align with the scores (70-100) in the standard headings and the overall score?
- Are my scores relatively low and the comments highly complementary without constructive analysis, assessment or evaluation or concrete suggestions for improvement.
- Conversely, are my scores relatively high and the comments highly critical lacking specificity, empathy or affirmation?

# USE THE NSA RESOURCE CENTER at nats.org!!

<https://www.nats.org/nsaresources.html#running>

Here you will find:

- Category lists, requirements, and resources
- Adjudication resources (rubrics, videos, best practices, forms, sample comments)
- Video resource library
- Full regulations
- FAQs



# QUESTIONS??

Use the Puget Sound SA Handbook on the [psnats.org](https://psnats.org) website.

**Review the NSA FULL REGULATIONS.**

[https://www.nats.org/Library/NSA\\_Files/2025-26\\_NSA\\_Full\\_Regulations.pdf](https://www.nats.org/Library/NSA_Files/2025-26_NSA_Full_Regulations.pdf)

We know it is an extensive document, but most of the answers are in there. When you contact us with your questions, we refer to that document. We are all volunteers.

ALWAYS refer to the NSA Full Regulations and other NSA documents on nats.org for latest updates; DO NOT refer to your old saved copies from previous years.

Can't find what you are looking for? Send Holly an email: [boazhm@plu.edu](mailto:boazhm@plu.edu)

While registration is open between December 15-29, please email BOTH Holly and Katie [katiehstevenson@gmail.com](mailto:katiehstevenson@gmail.com)

# ADJUDICATION TRAINING VIDEOS

Children & Youth Categories:

<https://youtu.be/krCjmYo-cEk?si=VzMXZIRzyXrw3uJC>

Commercial Music Categories:

[https://youtu.be/eir\\_g\\_jfEx8?si=eY2INHUYuyAiULpW](https://youtu.be/eir_g_jfEx8?si=eY2INHUYuyAiULpW)

Musical Theatre Categories:

<https://youtu.be/XTaU28J2qfg?si=Esw6niTwk-kqA140>

Spirituals Categories: <https://youtu.be/aV0THC4xi38?si=9PLzoL7FepI3-oNF>

Classical Categories: <https://youtu.be/GbYYT1RNlcs?si=Eh6soSCPjplH-Kpz>