NSA Annual Audition Categories

Classical Audition Terminology

Aria	An aria is a solo from an opera, oratorio, mass, cantata, zarzuela, operetta, or works titled "concert aria." Oxford Online definitions will be used for the purposes of NATS student auditions. For example, Purcell's selections from the semi-operas and masques are considered songs.
24/26/28 Italian Art Songs and Arias	The repertoire found in the 24/26/28 Italian Art Songs and Arias collections may be counted as an aria or an art song in the high school and lower classical categories. For the singers in the upper and advanced categories, these pieces may ONLY count as an art song, regardless of origin. Any repertoire found outside of these collections will be considered only as the composer intended as an art song OR aria.
Memorization	All repertoire must be performed from memory with the exception of Oratorio, Mass, Requiem, and Cantata Arias. Singers may hold music scores for these types of arias as is traditional performance practice.
Original Languages	All selections should be sung in original language or in translation, if warranted by common performance practice.
Transposition	Published transpositions are permitted. 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. Performances not fulfilling these requirements may result in lower scores from adjudicators.
Art Song in English	English must be the original language of the art song.
Repertoire/Categories	The word "classical" in this context refers to art songs and arias from the classical genre, not limited to the Classical period of Mozart and Haydn. No musical theatre, pop, soul, jazz, rhythm and blues, *etc.* may be entered in the Classical Category. Published arrangements of folk songs, spirituals, and traditional hymn tunes in English are widely accepted as a part of the classical genre. Students in classical categories may present one selection of this type to fulfill the English art song requirement.
Judicious Cuts	Piano introductions, piano interludes, piano music after the vocal solo is completed, and internal cuts of opera arias are allowed as is common performance practice. Cuts of verse or verses of selections are not allowed. In the case of strophic pieces, all verses should remain that are traditionally included.
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 selection in two categories provided that the repertoire requirements of both categories are met. If singers advance in NATS Auditions (chapter, regional, national rounds) in more than one category, they may not sing the same selection in multiple final auditions. See specific examples in the MT Terminology.

CWR Classical Categories

Note: Any or all categories may be split or combined, in order to facilitate judge assignments and to ensure that the audition is self-sustaining. If there are fewer than 5 singers, the division will likely be combined with another similar division (by age and/or by voice type). The target division size is 10-20 singers. If a division is larger than 20 singers, it may be divided (by age and/or by voice type).

	CATEGORY	LENGTH OF STUDY	AGE LIMIT	TIME LIMIT	REPERTOIRE
CL 1	Children's Classical (Non-advancing)	No limit	11 and younger Below 6th grade	8 minutes	Two or three contrasting age-appropriate selections from classical repertoire.
CL 2	Youth Classical (Non-advancing)	No limit	11-14 6th-8th grades	8 minutes	Two or three contrasting age-appropriate selections from classical repertoire.
CL 3A	Lower High School Classical Treble Voice	No limit	14-16 9th or 10th Grade	8 minutes	Three contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English*·. One art song in a language other than English. One additional art song or aria.
CL 3B	Upper High School Classical Treble Voice	No limit	16-19 11th or 12th Grade	8 minutes	Three contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English*·. One art song in a language other than English. One additional art song or aria.
CL 4A	Lower High School Classical TBB Voice	No limit	14-16 9th or 10th Grade	8 minutes	Three contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English*·. One art song in a language other than English. One additional art song or aria.
CL 4B	Upper High School Classical TBB Voice	No limit	16-19 11th or 12th Grade	8 minutes	Three contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English*·. One art song in a language other than English. One additional art song or aria.
CL 5	Lower (College) Classical Treble Voice	0-2 years post high school	22	10 minutes	Three contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English*·. One art song in a language other than English. One additional art song or aria.
CL 6	Lower (College) Classical TBB Voice	0-2 years post high school	22	10 minutes	Three contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English*·. One art song in a language other than English. One additional art song or aria.
CL 7	Upper (College) Classical Treble Voice	3-5 years post high school, all as an undergraduate	25	12 minutes	Four contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One aria. One art song in English*·· One art song in a language other than English. One additional selection from the classical repertoire. At least three languages must be represented.

*English must be the original language of the required one art song in English.

Cal-Western Region
Student Auditions
2021-22

CATEGORY		LENGTH OF STUDY	AGE LIMIT	TIME LIMIT	REPERTOIRE
CL 8	Upper (College) Classical TBB Voice	3-5 years post high school, all as an undergraduate	25	12 minutes	Four contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One aria. One art song in English*. One art song in a language other than English. One additional selection from the classical repertoire. At least three languages must be represented.
CL 9	Advanced Classical Treble Voice	4+ years post high school	22-30	12 minutes	Five contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One operatic aria. One oratorio/cantata aria**. One art song in a language other than English. One art song in English*. One additional selection from the classical repertoire. At least three languages must be represented.
CL 10	Advanced Classical TBB Voice	4+ years post high school	22-30	12 minutes	Five contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One operatic aria. One oratorio/cantata aria**. One art song in a language other than English. One art song in English*. One additional selection from the classical repertoire. At least three languages must be represented.
CL 11	Adult Avocational Classical (Non-advancing)	No limit	22+	12 minutes	Three contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English*. One art song in a language other than English. One additional art song or aria.
CL 12	Non-traditional Student Classical (Non-advancing)	No limit; no graduate degree	25+	12 minutes	This category is for students who seek/finish a degree later in life and don't fit in the traditional age ranges. Three contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English*. One art song in a language other than English. One additional art song or aria.
CL 13	Advanced Classical (Non-advancing) Professional track	No limit	31+	15 minutes	Five contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One operatic aria. One oratorio/cantata aria**. One art song in a language other than English. One art song in English*. One additional selection from the classical repertoire. At least three languages must be represented.
English must be the original language of the required one art song in English. ***Singers may hold the music score for oratorio/cantata aria, in exception to the memorization rule.*					