

2023-24 CWR Conference & Hybrid Auditions VIDEO JUDGING INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for your service to the students!

First round judging is due on **December 7, 2023**

Please remember that this is a cooperative competition and if you do not fulfill your duties on time your students will, unfortunately, be removed from the competition and no refunds given.

Adjudication Preparation: Please read through the NEW judging rubrics for the categories you are judging so you are familiar with the standards against which the students should be judged. They are available at <https://calwestnats.org/judging-and-rubrics>. If you have any technical issues with an entry, please don't comment on them; email auditions@calwestnats.org.

The national team has also created new videos about judging in different genres and age groups. You can find them (and much more) at <https://www.nats.org/nsaresources.html>. Another recommended Adjudication video: <https://youtu.be/vH0XjK8S0ws> This video is only 6 minutes long, and contains a lot of good information about the rubrics and online adjudication.

** All rubrics should be taken in context of the category being judged; the standard for resonance will be quite different for a 12 year old and 22 year old.** Also, we are comparing the students to the rubric, not to each other. This means you can judge the category over several days, if need be.

More detailed instructions are below. **Please be generous and thoughtful in your comments and scoring.**

Log in Process:

1. Go to nats.org and log in.
2. Go to Member Home by clicking on your name in the upper right hand corner.
3. Scroll to the bottom, and click on AuditionNow.
4. Select Cal-Western Regionals and Adjudicator from the two drop down menus on the left.
5. Click on Adjudicate underneath the drop-down menus.
6. The categories you are adjudicating should be listed as Adjudication rooms. Click on the orange button on the right that says **“Adjudicate Round”**.
7. A list of students should come up. Click on the **“Adjudicate performer”** next to the first.
8. The video will appear on the top of the screen with the repertoire on the right. Watch all of

the videos, and enter comments below. Use the sliders on the categories to give scores. Your composite score (beneath the comments) should reflect the sliders, although it does not need to be an exact average. **Whole number scores only.**

9. Click on the orange “**Next Performer**” button. You can also go back to the audition “room” where your score and comments should be visible.
10. When you’ve finished scoring and commenting, you should be able to review your scores and comments, and then submit them in the virtual audition room. Please don’t click on submit until you’ve finished judging.
11. Repeat with each category.

Scoring and Comments:

1. Write constructive comments to encourage the student and offer suggestions for improvement where needed. Your comments will eventually go back to the student, so keep in mind their feelings and level of experience.
 - Make your comments as specific, positive, concise and helpful as possible.
 - Plan to write at least 3 sentences **per selection.**
 - Overly blunt, harsh, or impersonal comments should be avoided.
 - Avoid using terms unique to your own pedagogy; instead refer to the rubric, using terms that will be generally understood.
 - Make sure that the comments reflect the scoring
2. Each of the categories Tone, Breathing/Alignment, Language/Diction, Musicianship/Accuracy, Artistry/Expression and Ensemble (which does not count toward the score) has a bar with a sliding scale from 70-100. You must give a score in each category.
3. The scores given should take into consideration the age and expected experience level of the category. Add in the “for a child,” or “for an upper college student” etc. to your thought process when assigning scores. We want to make sure that our scoring AND our comments encourage students to continue in their studies.
4. Again, we are judging based on the rubric, not one student against the other. That said, the range of scoring should reflect the range of skill in the room. If you don’t have at least one score of 90 or above, you should consider adjusting the range of your scoring.
5. If you have anything to contest, do not note concerns on the judging sheet. Score the singer as if there were no concern. Email your concerns to auditions@calwestnats.org.

Happy Judging!