



Categories, Repertoire, and Terminology

Student Auditions Categories – North Dakota NATS Chapter

CATEGORY NUMBER AND NAME ■ Treble: Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, Contralto and Countertenor ■ TBB: Tenor, Baritone, and Bass		LEVEL/LENGTH OF STUDY	AGE Range/ Limit	TIME in minutes
MT 2	Youth Musical Theatre- All Voices	No Limit – all youth and middle school	0-14	6
CL 2	Youth Classical – All Voices	No Limit – all youth and middle school	0-14	6
MT 3	High School Music Theatre – Treble	No Limit – all HS	14-19	8
MT 4	High School Music Theatre – TBB	No Limit – all HS	14-19	8
CL 3	High School Classical – Treble	No Limit – all HS	14-19	8
CL 4	High School Classical – TBB	No Limit – all HS	14-19	8
MT 5	Lower College/Independent Studio Music Theatre– Treble	1-4 semesters study, post high school	22	10
MT 6	Lower College/Independent Studio Music Theatre – TBB	1-4 semesters study, post high school	22	10
CL 5A	First Year College/Independent Studio – Treble	1-2 semesters of study, post high school	20	10
CL 6A	First Year College/Independent Studio – TBB	1-2 semesters of study, post high school	20	10
CL 5B	Second Year College/Independent Studio – Treble	3-4 semesters of study, post high school	22	10
CL 6B	Second Year College/Independent Studio – TBB	3-4 semesters of study, post high school	22	10
MT 7	Upper College/Independent Studio Music Theatre – Treble	3-5 years of study, post high school	25	12
MT 8	Upper College/Independent Studio Music Theatre – TBB	3-5 years of study, post high school	25	12
CL 7A	Third Year College/Independent Studio – Treble	5-6 semesters of study, post high school	23	12
CL 8A	Third Year College/Independent Studio – TBB	5-6 semesters of study, post high school	23	12
CL 7B	4 th /5 th Year College/Independent Studio – Treble	7-10 semesters of study, post high school (all as undergraduate)	25	12
CL 8B	4 th /5 th Year College/Independent Studio – TBB	7-10 semesters of study, post high school (all as undergraduate)	25	12
CL 9	Advanced College/Independent Studio – Treble	4-7 years of study, post high school (as graduate)	30	15
CL 10	Advanced College/Independent Studio – TBB	4-7 years of study, post high school (as graduate)	30	15
CL 11	Adult/Avocational – Treble	No Limit	18+	10
CL 12	Adult/Avocational - TBB	No Limit	18+	10

Repertoire Requirements by Category

All Repertoire must be sung from memory, with the exception of Oratorio which may be performed using a legal copy of the music (as typical in performance practice).

CATEGORY NUMBER & DESCRIPTION	REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENT
MT 2, MT 3, and MT 4 Youth and High School Music Theatre Categories	TWO contrasting music theatre selections: from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles or music theater song literature. Only <u>one</u> selection may be chosen from operetta <u>or</u> music theater song literature
CL2, CL 3, CL 4, CL 5A, and CL 6A Youth, High School, and First-Year College/Independent Studio Classical Categories	TWO contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English. One other aria or art song.
MT 5 and MT 6 Lower College/Independent Studio Music Theater Categories	THREE contrasting music theatre selections: from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles or music theater song literature. Only <u>one</u> selection may be chosen from operetta <u>or</u> music theater song literature.
CL 5B and CL 6B Second-Year College/ Independent Studio Classical Categories	THREE contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English. One art song in a language other than English. One aria or art song.
MT 7 and MT 8 Upper College/Independent Studio Music Theater Categories	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.
CL 7A, CL 7B, CL 8A, and CL 8B Third, Fourth, and Fifth Year College/ Independent Studio Classical Categories	FOUR contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English. One art song in a language other than English. One aria. One additional selection from the classical repertoire. At least three languages must be represented.
CL 9 and CL 10 Advanced College/Independent Studio Classical Categories	FIVE contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English. One art song in a language other than English. One opera aria. One oratorio/cantata aria. One additional selection from the classical repertoire. At least three languages must be represented.
CL 11 and CL 12 Adult/Avocational Classical Categories	THREE contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English. One art song in language other than English. One additional art song or aria.

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

Common Student Auditions Terminology

Aria	An aria is a solo taken 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 college 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.
Traditional Languages	All selections should be sung in original language or in translation, if warranted by common performance practice.
Art Song in English	English must be the original language of the art song.
Transposition Classical Categories	All arias from opera, oratorio, mass, cantata, operetta, works titled “concert aria,” or music theater selections must be sung in the original or standard published key.
Transposition Music Theater Categories	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 Classical Categories	Piano introductions, piano interludes, piano music after the vocal solo is completed, and internal cuts of opera arias and music theater selections are allowed as in 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.
Judicious Cuts Music Theater Categories	As found in common professional performance practice: - Judicious 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.

NOTE: The complete and official list of Student Auditions Terminology for classical and musical theater categories can be found on [pages 1-5 of the 2024-2025 NSA Full Regulations](#). All repertoire terminology and rules from this NSA document will be enforced at ND-NATS Student Auditions.