



2021 North Dakota NATS

Student Auditions Adjudication

April 7, 2021

Hello all,

Happy Wednesday! Online adjudication is officially open for the 2021 ND-NATS Online Student Auditions and ready for you to jump in. Feel free to do your adjudication at any time of day or night.

ADJUDICATION DEADLINE

The deadline for completing your online adjudication is Wednesday, April 14 at 10:00pm Central Time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I first want to thank our four wonderful volunteer adjudicators this year:

- Kyle Berkley
- John Clodfelter
- Ryan Scoble
- Rick Valentine

I also want to announce that no one has to adjudicate their own students this year and that each category has three adjudicators!!! We are able to do this because we're online and because each adjudicator has, on average, about 20 auditions to get through. Thank you all for your time in this regard - it is making this experience great for each of our students to get wonderful feedback from your colleagues around the state (and in nearby MN and SD).

JUDGING RULES

- Please remember to keep your comments constructive and professional. We want our students to have a good experience through this process.
- **Video watch order:**
 - For ALL categories, you must watch the link that is listed in red FIRST, as it indicates the song or aria with which the student wishes to "start" their audition.
 - For all high school, lower, upper and adult categories (Categories 1-12B; 15-16), please watch the remaining links *in the order they are listed on the form*.
 - For all advanced categories (13 and 14), adjudicators may select the videos in which ever order they see fit after the first selection is completed and as time allows.
- **Category Timings:** You are only required to adjudicate each participant's performances until the expiration of the time limit that is required for each category or whenever their repertoire is finished, whichever comes first. If a participant's audition runs over the allowed time, you do not have to finish watching their videos, but you can simply press pause on the video you're watching and finish your comments



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for that audition and move on to the next participant. **Please remember that deductions or penalizations to a participant's score should NOT be made if a student's total audition is longer OR shorter than the time limit for their category.** As a reminder, here are the time limits for each category:

- Categories 1-4 (High School): 8 Minutes
 - Categories 5-8B (Lower College/Independent): 10 Minutes
 - Categories 9-12B (Upper College/Independent): 12 Minutes
 - Categories 13-14 (Advanced College/Independent): 15 Minutes
 - Categories 15-16 (Adult): 10 Minutes
- **Penalization/Deduction DON'TS.**
This year has presented enormous challenges for everyone. I am personally so thrilled that we are having these auditions and that we can keep our students engaged and active - bravo to each of you for rising to the occasion! While you are welcome to provide constructive criticism regarding anything you see or hear in the auditions, please maintain a spirit of positivity and praise and refrain from penalizing or deducting points from any student's audition based on any of the following factors:
 - **Video/Audio Quality.** Give each student the benefit of the doubt that they used the best equipment at their disposal to make their videos.
 - **Piano accompaniment/Ensemble.** Likewise, access to pianists and quality accompaniment tracks this year has also been wide-ranging. Live accompaniment and recorded tracks are *both* allowed.
 - **The Use or Non-Use of Masks.** Some student auditions were filmed with masks on and some were filmed with masks off. Both are acceptable.
 - **Location of recording.** Some students recorded at home. Others in concert halls or large church sanctuaries. All of them are acceptable.
 - **Category Time Limits.** Please see above regarding Category Timings.
 - **Copyright issues.** Everyone who submitted videos agreed to uphold the NATS copyright policy, and there should not be any problems in this regard.
 - **In general, be generous where you can!** 😊

HOW DO I ACCESS THE AUDITIONS I AM ADJUDICATING?

To find the categories and auditions you need to adjudicate:

1. Login to www.nats.org
2. Click on "Member Home" in the top menu.
3. Scroll down to the middle of the page and click on the green button labeled "NATS Auditions Registration." This opens Auditionware.
4. Make sure the top of the screen says "Chapter: North Dakota" - if it doesn't, click the blue "Change" button and follow that screen to get to the North Dakota Chapter.
5. Click on the blue button labeled "View My Student/Adjudicator Schedule - North Dakota - 2021 ND-NATS Student Auditions."
 - a. If you did not submit students and are a volunteer adjudicator, please click on the link at the bottom of the page titled "View My Student/Adjudicator Schedule."



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6. Everyone should watch the required judging video that is linked at the bottom of the page:

The screenshot shows the AuditionWare website interface. At the top, there are browser tabs for 'AuditionWare LLC - Participant' and 'Audition Scheduler - Scheduling'. The address bar shows 'auditionware.com/nats/new_schedall.php?compid=721'. The main content area is titled 'Participant Schedule All' and is divided into two columns. The left column, 'Printing Functions', contains instructions for printing adjudication comment sheets and buttons for 'View/Print My Participants Schedule', 'Print My Participants Judging Forms', and 'Print My Participants Scores'. Red arrows point to the 'Print My Participants Judging Forms' and 'Print My Participants Scores' buttons with the text 'Don't click on these. You don't need them.' The right column, 'North Dakota - 2021 ND-NATS Student Auditions - Judging Schedule', contains a table with columns 'Day' and 'Room'. Below this, there is a section titled 'North Dakota - 2021 ND-NATS Student Auditions - Schedule' with a table with columns 'Day/Round', 'Category', 'Room', and 'Participant'. At the bottom, there is a section titled 'North Dakota - 2021 ND-NATS Student Auditions - Schedule' with instructions for judges to watch a video. A red circle highlights the link '>> Click Here to Watch Adjudicator Video <<' with the text 'REQUIRED VIEWING!!! (But also helpful, especially if you've never judged online.)'.

Day	Room
1- 04/07/2021	2
1- 04/07/2021	1

Day/Round	Category	Room	Participant
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Judges: Please watch each video in numeric order as intended by each Participant, giving preference to the one identified with an *. Please also be mindful of the time limit for each category.
IMPORTANT: Adjudicators are required to watch this 18 min. video created by the National office.
>> Click Here to Watch Adjudicator Video <<

7. After you have watched the video, please click on the button stating that you have watched the video.
8. Scroll further down the page and click on the links to open participant's videos in a separate tab in your browser to view performances. Begin to adjudicate.
9. When you are ready to enter comments into the online adjudicator's form for a participant, click on the button labeled "Add" under the Judge Score column.
- Make sure your score markers in the sub-categories of Tone, Breathing/Alignment, Language/Diction, Musicianship/Accuracy, and Artistry/Expression match your overall score that is input at the bottom of the form. For example, it would be very strange to receive subcategory scores in the mid-90s and then an overall average in the 80s (or vice versa).
 - Overall scores are on a scale of 70 (low) to 100 (high). Please review the attached classical and musical theater rubrics to know where to score each participant.
 - Please use whole numbers only in the overall score for each singer - no decimals.



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- d. You can save your work by clicking “submit” at the bottom of any adjudicator’s form and return to the form later to update it, change scores, add more comments, etc. However if you click on “cancel” your work will not be saved.
- e. None of the scores or comments will be considered final until 10:00pm Central on Wednesday, April 14. You have until this deadline to make as many changes to your adjudicating as you like.

HELPFUL HINTS

- For those of you who take a while to write your comments (like me), I find it helpful to keep a running Word document open where I can write whatever comments I want and then copy and paste them into the electronic adjudicator’s form for each singer. This way, you can keep a running record of all the participants in each category and my word document doubles as a back-up record in case something funky happens with the technology.
- Adjudication rubrics for both Classical and Musical Theater categories are attached in case you would like to review those documents before or during judging.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS - WHEN WILL I GET TO SEE MY STUDENTS’ COMMENT SHEETS?

Awards will be announced at our chapter meeting on Saturday, April 17 at 11:00am Central Time. All adjudicators’ comment sheets will be emailed as PDFs to individual teachers the week of April 18-25. You will receive those comment sheets directly from me.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions about the adjudication process, please feel free to contact me.

Happy NATSing,
Kelly

KELLY W. BURNS, DMA
Vice President and Auditions Chair
North Dakota NATS
kelly.w.burns@ndsu.edu