



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
**TEACHERS
OF SINGING**

National Capital Region Chapter

STUDENT VOCAL FESTIVAL SYLLABUS AND GUIDELINES

We are pleased to present the Winter, 2024 National Capital Region Student Vocal Festival in person!

When: Fri/Sat/Sun - February 9th, 10th and 11th, 2024

Where: Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre - 355 Cooper Street, Ottawa

For more information, please contact:

Student Vocal Festival Chairperson: Dr. Andrea Kovago, at festival.natsncr@gmail.com

NOTE: THIS IS A LIVING DOCUMENT. The details subject to change are those pertaining to application format and schedule only.

Version Date: 11/12/2023 *Subject to change/update

DATES AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

1. The NCR-NATS Student Vocal Festival is open to all students from NATS and non-NATS members. See below for more information.
2. **Due date for submissions is Wednesday, November 15th, 2023 at 11:59pm** (*Payment must also be received by this deadline*)
3. **Final Due date for any and all program adjustments is Friday, December 15th, 2023 at 11:59pm**

*** LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED ***

GENERAL INFORMATION

NATS TEACHERS:

- Those teachers registering students for the Student Vocal Festival must be members in good standing of both the National and Chapter levels of NATS at the time of registration and at the time of the Festival as well. Only NCR Chapter members can take part in the NCR Student Vocal Festival at the NATS Members rate. **Lapsed or expired members will not benefit from NATS status and must apply as non-NATS members.**
- If a student has been studying with a sponsoring teacher for fewer than eight (8) months, acknowledgement of the former teacher(s) both on the application form and in any public announcements must be made.
- Teachers of the NATS - NCR who have entered students are required to serve as adjudicators as part of their membership. ***If the Teacher of an entered student is unavailable to adjudicate, a fee of \$50 will apply in their absence.***
- Members of the NATS - NCR not entering students are asked to be available to adjudicate as part of their membership.

STUDENTS OF NATS TEACHERS:

- There is a \$45 non-refundable application fee per registered class. Fees must be received within 24 hours of registration. Payments will be accepted by e-transfer (treasurer.natsncr@gmail.com). **An additional service charge of \$5 per application will be applied to those who choose to use PayPal.** A link to the PayPal portal can be found on the Student Vocal Festival webpage at nats-ncr.com/festival.

NON-NATS TEACHERS::

- Teachers who are not members of NATS may enter students in the Student Vocal Festival. They must follow the same rules as NATS members but a non-NATS teacher fee of \$55 applies. Fees must be received within 24 hours of registration. Payments will be accepted by e-transfer (treasurer.natsncr@gmail.com). **An additional service charge of \$5 per application will be applied to those who choose to use PayPal.** A link to the PayPal portal can be found on the Student Vocal Festival webpage at nats-ncr.com/festival.

STUDENTS OF NON-NATS TEACHERS:

- There is a \$55 non-refundable application fee per registered class. Fees must be received within 24 hours of registration. Payments will be accepted by e-transfer (treasurer.natsncr@gmail.com). **An additional service charge of \$5 per application will be applied to those who choose to use PayPal.** A link to the PayPal portal can be found on the Student Vocal Festival webpage at nats-ncr.com/festival.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Teacher Registration Form: Please click the Teacher Registration Form link on the Student Vocal Festival webpage at nats-ncr.com, fill out the fillable PDF Teacher Registration Form confirming your status as a Member in good standing at both the NATS national level and NCR chapter level, and submit it along with the Teacher Student Roster PDF of all of your students participating in the festival to festival.natsncr@gmail.com.

Student Registration Form: Please click the Student Registration Form link on the Student Vocal Festival page at nats-ncr.com, fill out the fillable PDF Student Registration Form and submit it to festival.natsncr@gmail.com.

Collaborative Pianist Registration Form: Please click the Collaborative Pianist's Registration Form link on the Student Vocal Festival webpage at nats-ncr.com, fill out the fillable PDF with your contact information and submit it to festival.natsncr@gmail.com.

PRIZES AND DONATIONS:

- Students who have won their category will receive a monetary award. Performers in the Final Round Concert are eligible for the additional monetary award for the *Most Outstanding Performance* in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior divisions, for both Classical and Musical Theatre categories.
- Winners are determined by all NATS members in attendance at the Final Round Concert. Each NATS member will be asked to indicate their preferences on the provided form. Members may vote for their student(s) for the Most Outstanding Performance awards in each category.
- A student must participate in the Final Round Concert to be eligible for the Most Outstanding Performance award.

The NATS – National Capital Region Chapter funds all unsponsored Prizes awarded to category and division winners. If you know of any individual(s), business(es), or association(s) that might be interested in supporting these awards and scholarships, please provide the President with more information. *Tax receipts available.*

CONDUCT OF THE STUDENT VOCAL FESTIVAL:

Once all applications have been received, the Student Vocal Festival Chairperson will prepare a schedule. This schedule will be posted on the Chapter's website (nats-ncr.com) in advance of the Festival. Note: these schedules are subject to change - please regularly check the website for new versions of the schedule.

Students must check in at the Registration Desk at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the start time for their class. Although a time is associated with each student for the convenience of scheduling the collaborative pianists, the student should in no way consider this to be the time that they will perform. Students must be available to sing when the panel is ready to hear them at any time after the start time of their class. Last minute adjustments happen all the time – every effort will be made to keep the posted schedule as current as possible. Please ask about any known changes as you check in.

Adjudicators will know only the names and repertoire of the contestants. Teachers may not adjudicate classes in which they have students performing.

Audiences are welcome for all rounds of the Student Vocal Festival. There is no admission fee to the Preliminary Rounds. For the Final Round Concert, a small admission fee is charged at the door. Students who have participated in the Student Vocal Festival at any level will be admitted free of charge.

PROCESS OF THE PRELIMINARY ROUNDS:

- In the Introductory Category, Classical Categories 1- 15, and in all Musical Theatre Categories, singers will perform their full programme as submitted on their application form. Singers in Classical Categories 16-20 will begin with one (1) selection of their own choice; additional material from the submitted programme will then be selected by the panel of adjudicators to fit within the time limits for the category. **Students who sing repertoire not on their adjudication form will be adjudicated, but will not be considered for advancement to the Final Round Concert.** Adjudicators independently evaluate each performance and prepare a written assessment. After tabulation, these written assessments will be available at the Registration Desk. The names of the students advancing to the Final Round Concert will be posted on a bulletin board located near the Registration Desk a short time after the end of the sub-category or category. Categories with more than twelve (12) participants will be split into sub-categories, (e.g. 15A, 15B). If desired, a student may sing for adjudicators' comments only. (Indicate this choice by checking **"Sing for adjudication only"** on the Student Application Form.) **The student will then receive written assessments from the adjudicators, but will not be ranked or considered for advancement to the Final Round Concert. In addition, students who will not be available to compete after the Preliminary Round are encouraged to enter "Sing for adjudication only" on their application forms.**

PROCESS OF THE FINAL ROUND CONCERT:

- In the Junior and Intermediate Divisions* the winners of their categories or sub-categories will perform in the Final Round Concert. In the Senior Division, advancement is at the discretion of the adjudicators. In the unlikely event of a tie in the Preliminary Round, both students will perform for the category at the Final Round Concert and the winner will be determined by the NATS members in attendance. Each finalist will sing one selection of their own choice. Students are required to remain until the results are announced.

*When category enrolment is 3 or under, the NCR Chapter of NATS reserves the right to combine like classes for the purpose of awarding prizes. Categories 9 and 10 in the Intermediate Categories - Classical Repertoire advance at the adjudicator's discretion.

In keeping with National Guidelines, the Student Vocal Festival is held to:

- create a collegial and supportive atmosphere that encourages artistic singing excellence;
- provide constructive written feedback from a panel of experienced and impartial professionals including, but not limited to, NATS members in good standing;
- recognize and honour outstanding performances; and,
- inspire and encourage students and teachers to continue their dedication to, and growth in the art of singing.

COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS:

Teachers may not accompany their own students. It is the teacher/student's responsibility to arrange for and pay their own collaborative pianist. The Student Vocal Festival takes no responsibility in this matter and does not provide a list of collaborative pianists, as it may be wrongly construed as an approved list. Because of time limitations, teachers should encourage judicious cuts in introductions, interludes, and postludes.

COPYRIGHT REQUIREMENTS:

Members and non-members alike shall ensure that students and collaborative pianists adhere to the *Canadian Copyright Act* and NATS Copyright Policy (to the extent compatible with Canadian law).

ADDITIONAL TERMINOLOGY:

Aria: For the purpose of this Student Vocal Festival an aria will be defined as a solo taken from an opera, operetta, oratorio, mass, or cantata. Works titled "concert aria" will also be considered arias.

Classical 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. In other words, no musical theatre, pop, soul, jazz, rhythm and blues, etc.

Folk Songs: Please note that arranged folk songs are acceptable and appropriate repertoire choices for Classical Categories at all levels in this Student Vocal Festival. **Folk Songs are not acceptable or appropriate repertoire choices for Musical Theatre Categories at any level.**

Baroque Songs: The repertoire found in the 24/26/28 Italian Art Songs and Arias collections and similar collections (e.g. songs listed by RCM or Conservatory Canada) will be considered as art songs and therefore acceptable repertoire choices for the Student Vocal Festival in the Junior and Intermediate Divisions. In the Senior Division categories where a distinction is made between song and aria, Baroque arias from operas in the recognized modern performance canon will be considered arias. All others count as art songs.

Judicious Cuts: Piano introductions, piano interludes, piano music after the vocal solo is completed, and internal cuts of opera arias 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.

Memorization: All repertoire, including oratorio, must be sung from memory.

Musical Theatre Selections: All repertoire must be from a show that has been produced (i.e. a show that has received a stage production). The production may be a musical, revue, stand-alone musical theatre song, or song cycle. Singers should ensure that contrasting selections represent the spectrum of their vocal and dramatic abilities. For example, this may be exhibited by selecting pieces of varying style periods (e.g. pop/rock, contemporary, Golden Age) and/or employing a variety of vocalism (e.g. belt, mix, legit). For the purposes of this Student Vocal Festival material by American Operetta composers (e.g. Herbert, Friml, Romberg), the works of Gilbert and Sullivan, and the works of European operetta composers (e.g. Lehár, Strauss, Offenbach) sung in English translation will be considered suitable repertoire choices for one (1) selection in Musical Theatre categories. Material by American Operetta composers (e.g. Herbert, Friml, Romberg), the works of Gilbert and Sullivan, and the works of European operetta composers (e.g. Lehár, Strauss, Offenbach) sung in the original language will also be considered suitable repertoire choices for classical categories that allow operetta. However, students may not use the same selection for classical and musical theatre categories.

Original Languages: Selections should be sung in original language or in translation if warranted by common performance practice. See Musical Theatre definition above for exceptions.

Transposition: All arias from opera, oratorio, mass, cantata, operetta, or works titled "concert aria" must be sung in the original key or an alternate key based on common performance practice. All other repertoire, including Musical Theatre Selections, may be transposed to suit the singer's voice.

FESTIVAL SYLLABUS
CATEGORIES & REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS

A student may enter **only one** of the following Classical Categories (Categories 1-20) and **only one** Musical Theatre Category (Categories 21-27). The “age range” refers to the student’s age on **1 January 2024**. A student entering the Senior Division should read the descriptions of the categories carefully. Please also note that in Category 9 (Novice 12-18), Category 10 (Adult singer 19+) and in all Senior Classical Categories (13 through 20), advancement to the Final Round Concert is at the adjudicators’ discretion.

Junior Categories: Classical Repertoire

Category Description and Age Range	Time Limit (mins)	Repertoire Requirements
Category 1: Introductory Classical – competitive OR non-competitive, Boys and Girls, 10 and 11	6	This category is competitive OR non-competitive and participants will not be ranked but will receive written adjudications. No prizes will be awarded. Two (2) contrasting age-appropriate art songs from classical repertoire, one (1) of which must be sung in English or French. An arranged folk song may be substituted for one (1) of the art songs. Baroque arias, including but not limited to those listed in the RCM or CC syllabus, will be considered as art songs and therefore acceptable repertoire choices for this Festival. Students wishing to sing musical theatre selections must enter Category 21, the Introductory Musical Theatre category.
Category 2: Girls, 12	6	Two (2) or three (3) contrasting age-appropriate art songs from classical repertoire, one (1) of which must be sung in English or French. An arranged folk song may be substituted for one (1) of the art songs. Baroque arias, including but not limited to those listed in the RCM or CC syllabus, will be considered as art songs and therefore acceptable repertoire choices for this Festival.
Category 3: Girls, 13	6	Two (2) or three (3) contrasting age-appropriate art songs from classical repertoire, one (1) of which must be sung in English or French. An arranged folk song may be substituted for one (1) of the art songs. Baroque arias, including but not limited to those listed in the RCM or CC syllabus, will be considered as art songs and therefore acceptable repertoire choices for this Festival.
Category 4: Boys, 12-15 (unchanged voice)	6	Two (2) or three (3) contrasting age-appropriate art songs from classical repertoire, one (1) of which must be sung in English or French. An arranged folk song may be substituted for one (1) of the art songs. Baroque arias, including but not limited to those listed in the RCM or CC syllabus, will be considered as art songs and therefore acceptable repertoire choices for this Festival.
Category 5: Boys, 12-13 (changed voice)	6	Two (2) or three (3) contrasting age-appropriate art songs from classical repertoire, one (1) of which must be sung in English or French. An arranged folk song may be substituted for one (1) of the art songs. Baroque arias, including but not limited to those listed in the RCM or CC syllabus, will be considered as art songs and therefore acceptable repertoire choices for this Festival.
Category 6: Women, 14	8	Three (3) contrasting age-appropriate art songs from classical repertoire, one (1) of which must be sung in English or French. An arranged folk song may be substituted for one (1) of the art songs. Baroque arias, including but not limited to those listed in the RCM or CC syllabus, will be considered as art songs and therefore acceptable repertoire choices for this Festival.
Category 7: Women, 15	8	Three (3) contrasting age-appropriate art songs from classical repertoire, one (1) of which must be sung in English or French. An arranged folk song may be substituted for one (1) of the art songs. Baroque arias, including but not limited to those listed in the RCM or CC syllabus, will be considered as art songs and therefore acceptable repertoire choices for this Festival.
Category 8: Men, 14-15 (changed voice)	8	Three (3) contrasting age-appropriate art songs from classical repertoire, one (1) of which must be sung in English or French. An arranged folk song may be substituted for one (1) of the art songs. Baroque arias, including but not limited to those listed in the RCM or CC syllabus, will be considered as art songs and therefore acceptable repertoire choices for this Festival.

Intermediate Categories: Classical Repertoire

Category Description and Age Range	Time Limit (mins)	Repertoire Requirements
Category 9: Novice, 12-18 years of age	8	<p>Category 9 is designed for students who have never competed at any level in the NCR Student Vocal Festival. These students may enter Category 9 only once. Students who are studying voice in university may not enter this category (see Senior Categories). Students with a university degree in voice, or those who hold an advanced Conservatory Certificate (Gr. 10 and above) may not enter this category.</p> <p>Two (2) contrasting art songs from classical repertoire, one (1) of which must be sung in English or French. An arranged folk song may be substituted for one (1) of the art songs. Baroque arias, including but not limited to those listed in the RCM or CC syllabus, will be considered as art songs and therefore acceptable repertoire choices for this Festival. In this category, advancement to the Final Round Concert is at the adjudicators' discretion.</p>
Category 10: Adult Singer, 19 years of age and older	8	<p>Category 10 is designed for the amateur student who began their vocal studies as an adult. Students who are studying voice in university may not enter this category (see Senior Categories). Students with a university degree in voice, or those who hold an advanced Conservatory Certificate (Gr. 10 and above) may not enter this category.</p> <p>Two (2) contrasting art songs from classical repertoire, one (1) of which must be sung in English or French. An arranged folk song may be substituted for one (1) of the art songs. Baroque arias, including but not limited to those listed in the RCM or CC syllabus, will be considered as art songs and therefore acceptable repertoire choices for this Festival. In this category, advancement to the Final Round Concert is at the adjudicators' discretion.</p>
Category 11: Women, 16-17	10	<p>Three (3) contrasting art songs from classical repertoire, one (1) of which must be sung in English or French. An arranged folk song may be substituted for one (1) of the art songs. Baroque arias, including but not limited to those listed in the RCM or CC syllabus, will be considered as art songs and therefore acceptable repertoire choices for this Festival.</p>
Category 12: Men, 16-17	10	<p>Three (3) contrasting art songs from classical repertoire, one (1) of which must be sung in English or French. An arranged folk song may be substituted for one (1) of the art songs. Baroque arias, including but not limited to those listed in the RCM or CC syllabus, will be considered as art songs and therefore acceptable repertoire choices for this Festival.</p>

Senior Categories: Classical Repertoire

Please note that in all Senior Categories advancement to the Final Round Concert is at the adjudicators' discretion. It is recommended that no individual piece exceed six (6) minutes in length. In Senior Categories 13-20 the time limit on the application form refers to the maximum time length of material that will be heard by the adjudicators, and not to the total time length of selections as listed on the form.

Category Description and Age Range	Time Limit (mins)	Repertoire Requirements
Category 13: Women, 18-19 (University Student or Private Studio)	10	<p>Three (3) contrasting art songs from classical repertoire, one (1) of which must be sung in English or French. An arranged folk song may be substituted for one (1) of the art songs. Baroque arias, including but not limited to those listed in the RCM or CC syllabus, will be considered as art songs and therefore acceptable repertoire choices for this Festival. A minimum of two languages is required for this category.</p>
Category 14: Men, 18-19 (University Student or Private Studio)	10	<p>Three (3) contrasting art songs from classical repertoire, one (1) of which must be sung in English or French. An arranged folk song may be substituted for one (1) of the art songs. Baroque arias, including but not limited to those listed in the RCM or CC syllabus, will be considered as art songs and therefore acceptable repertoire choices for this Festival. A minimum of two languages is required for this category.</p>
Category 15: Women, 20-21 (University Student or Private Studio)	12	<p>Three (3) contrasting art songs from classical repertoire, one (1) of which must be sung in English or French. An arranged folk song may be substituted for one (1) of the art songs. Baroque arias, including but not limited to those listed in the RCM or CC syllabus, will be considered as art songs and therefore acceptable repertoire choices for this Festival. A minimum of two languages is required for this category.</p>

Senior Categories: Classical Repertoire Cont'd

Category Description and Age Range	Time Limit (mins)	Repertoire Requirements
Category 16: Men, 20-21 (University Student or Private Studio)	12	Three (3) contrasting art songs from classical repertoire, one (1) of which must be sung in English or French. An arranged folk song may be substituted for one (1) of the art songs. Baroque arias, including but not limited to those listed in the RCM or CC syllabus, will be considered as art songs and therefore acceptable repertoire choices for this Festival. A minimum of two languages is required for this category.
Category 17: Women, 22-24 (University Student or Private Studio)	20	Four (4) contrasting selections from classical repertoire, one (1) of which must be sung in English or French. The selections must include: one (1) aria, two (2) art songs in two (2) different languages, and one (1) additional selection. At least three (3) languages must be represented. An arranged folk song may be substituted for one (1) of the art songs or the additional selection. Baroque arias from operas in the recognized modern performance canon will be considered arias; all others count as an art song for this Festival..
Category 18: Men, 22-24 (University Student or Private Studio)	20	Four (4) contrasting selections from classical repertoire, one (1) of which must be sung in English or French. The selections must include: one (1) aria, two (2) art songs in two (2) different languages, and one (1) additional selection. At least three (3) languages must be represented. An arranged folk song may be substituted for one (1) of the art songs or the additional selection. Baroque arias from operas in the recognized modern performance canon will be considered arias; all others count as an art song for this Festival.
Category 19: Any Voice, 25 and older (University Student or Private Studio)	20	<p>Category 19 is for the serious older student who is working at an advanced level. Students singing professionally or seeking professional engagements must enter Category 20. Amateur or hobby singers should enter Category 10.</p> <p>Four (4) contrasting selections from classical repertoire, one (1) of which must be sung in English or French. The selections must include: one (1) aria, two (2) art songs in two (2) different languages, and one (1) additional selection. At least three (3) languages must be represented. An arranged folk song may be substituted for one (1) of the art songs or the additional selection. Baroque arias from operas in the recognized modern performance canon will be considered arias; all others count as an art song for this Festival..</p>
Category 20: Graduate School (in Performance) Level and Above, Any Voice (University Student or Private Studio)	25	<p>Category 20 is for the career-track student. Any student who is currently in vocal performance studies at the graduate level or has completed graduate study in vocal performance must compete in this category regardless of age.</p> <p>Five (5) contrasting selections from classical repertoire, one (1) of which must be sung in English or French. The selections must include: one (1) opera or operetta aria, one (1) aria from a sacred work, two (2) art songs in two (2) different languages, and one (1) additional selection. At least three (3) languages must be represented. An arranged folk song may be substituted for one (1) of the art songs or the additional selection. Baroque arias from operas in the recognized modern performance canon will be considered arias; all others count as an art song for this Festival.</p>

Junior Categories: Musical Theatre

Please note that there is no gender division in the Musical Theatre Categories

Category Description and Age Range	Time Limit (mins)	Repertoire Requirements
Category 21: Introductory Musical Theatre – competitive OR non-competitive, 10 and 11	8	Two (2) contrasting age-appropriate Musical Theatre selections. Please refer to Additional Terminology (page 3 of these guidelines) for repertoire requirements. Students who have previously competed in Musical Theatre Categories in the NATS Vocal Festival, must enter Category 22, regardless of age.
Category 22: Musical Theatre, 12-13	8	Two (2) contrasting age-appropriate Musical Theatre selections. Please refer to Additional Terminology (page 3 of these guidelines) for repertoire requirements.
Category 22N: Musical Theatre, 12-13. Novice Singer.	8	Category 22N is designed for the beginning Musical Theatre singer. Two (2) contrasting age-appropriate Musical Theatre Selections. Please refer to Additional Terminology (page 3 of these guidelines) for repertoire requirements. Students who have previously competed in Musical Theatre Categories in the NATS Vocal Festival, or who have undertaken main roles in any musical presented in public, must enter Category 22.
Category 23: Musical Theatre, 14-16	8	Two (2) contrasting Musical Theatre selections. Please refer to Additional Terminology (page 3 of these guidelines) for repertoire requirements.
Category 23N: Musical Theatre, 14-16	8	Category 23N is designed for the beginning Musical Theatre singer. Two (2) contrasting Musical Theatre Selections. Please refer to Additional Terminology (page 3 of these guidelines) for repertoire requirements. Students who have previously competed in Musical Theatre Categories in the NATS Vocal Festival, or who have undertaken main roles in any musical presented in public, must enter Category 23.

Intermediate Categories: Musical Theatre

Category 24: Adult Musical Theatre, 21 and older	10	Two (2) contrasting Musical Theatre selections. Please refer to Additional Terminology (page 3 of these guidelines) for repertoire requirements. Category 24 is designed for the amateur student who began their vocal studies as an adult. Students who are studying voice in university, those with a university degree in voice, or those who hold an advanced Conservatory certificate (Gr. 10 and above), must enter category 25, 26, or 27 depending on age.
Category 25: Musical Theatre, 17-18	8	Two (2) contrasting Musical Theatre selections. Please refer to Additional Terminology (page 3 of these guidelines) for repertoire requirements.

Senior Categories: Musical Theatre

Category 26: Musical Theatre, 19-20	10	Two (2) contrasting Musical Theatre selections. Please refer to Additional Terminology (page 3 of these guidelines) for repertoire requirements.
Category 27: Musical Theatre, 21 and older	10	Two (2) contrasting Musical Theatre selections. Please refer to Additional Terminology (page 3 of these guidelines) for repertoire requirements. Category 27 is for the serious student who is working at an advanced level and is open to university students pursuing vocal studies in any genre. Singers who began their studies as an adult should enter Category 24.