

Full NSA Video Recording Guidelines

Recording Location

Record your submission as you would a live audition or recital. Videos may be recorded in a home, school, church, synagogue, recital hall, rehearsal room, or voice studio with suitable acoustics, with or without an audience. Dress professionally as you would for an audition or recital; costumes and inappropriate attire are not permitted.

You may submit an unedited video of a performance before a live audience, provided you can be clearly seen and heard in the video, the video was recorded after September 1st of the current NSA audition season, and the accompaniment and microphone requirements for the category are met. Remember to record and attach your verbal slate.

Recording

- Record in LANDSCAPE (horizontal) orientation from a fixed, audience-centered position.
- Face the camera as you would face adjudicators in a live audition.
- Keep your face and at least your upper body visible in the frame; adjust as needed to capture your performance and avoid excessive headroom.
- Include the required slate either as part of the recording or edited onto the beginning of the otherwise unedited performance video.
 - I am (Your Name)
 - I will perform (Title of Selection)
 - from (Title of Larger Work when applicable)
 - by (Composer's Name)
- All video auditions must be recorded on or after September 1 of the current NSA competition year.
- Submit a separate, unedited video for each song or aria
- Videos cannot:
 - pan or zoom during a performance
 - use recording equipment that alters the acoustics of the venue or the sound quality of the singer by adding distractingly unrealistic reverb, altering the pitches sung, digitally altering or filtering the vocals either during or after the video is filmed

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IMPORTANT: Teachers will register qualifiers for NSA

- Moving forward, the student's primary teacher will be responsible for entering qualifying singers into the National Student Auditions YouTube Preliminary Round and completing all required post-qualification materials, with the exception of the NATS Minor Chaperone Form, which will continue to be completed separately.

Video Audition - Performance

- Each video requires that the singer complete their slate as outlined above.
- Perform each of your selections from memory in your video, unless performing Oratorio or Cantata arias where you can hold an original score as is standard performance practice.
- Participants in ALL NSA Categories must perform complete songs or arias. Performing from 16-bar, 32-bar, student versions, audition cuts, etc., are not accepted and will result in ITA.
- YouTube channel background, banner, titles, logos, and iImages must NOT reveal teacher, school, location, NATS chapter, region, studio names, or affiliations of the teacher or the student auditioning.

NSA Collaborative Musicians in CL and AS Categories

- Perform with a live collaborative pianist whenever possible. If one is unavailable, a piano-only accompaniment track may be used.
- If your voice teacher serves as the pianist, their face and identity must not be visible in the video.
- Pianists must perform on piano or keyboard using memory or a copyright-compliant score.
- A page-turner (other than your voice teacher) may appear on camera if needed.

Full NSA YouTube Setting Guidelines

YouTube Video Settings

YouTube is the only video platform accepted. (No video auditions uploaded to Vimeo, Flickr, Vevo, or personal websites, etc. will be accepted.)

- You MUST upload your video in LANDSCAPE/HORIZONTAL ORIENTATION or the platform will automatically qualify the video as a SHORT and the recording will not be eligible for adjudication.
- Select “Unlisted” in the privacy settings found under the Broadcasting and Sharing Options, when uploading your video files to YouTube. No other settings are accepted in NSA.
- Each video’s title should be in the following format: NATS NSA – Singer’s Full Name
- All video titles must be the same at all levels of NSA. Video titles must not contain any reference to chapter, , or region, school, teacher, etc.
- Type in the YouTube “Description” for each video:
 - I DO NOT OWN THE COPYRIGHT TO THE MUSIC PERFORMED IN THIS VIDEO. THIS IS A STUDENT AUDITION NOT FOR PROFIT OR MONETIZATION.
 - Title of Selection”
 - Title of LARGER WORK whenever applicable
 - Composer’s Name
 - if a Musical Theatre selection, ADD: & Lyricist’s Name
- Turn OFF the video comments option on each video uploaded to YouTube.
- YouTube Channel Background, Banner, Titles, Logos, and Images must NOT reveal Teacher, School, Location, NATS chapter//region, Studio Names, or Affiliations of the Teacher or the Student auditioning.

Please follow these guidelines

- Corrections to invalid videos, broken video links, and incorrect video links will not be accepted after the submission deadline.
- Whenever possible, invalid video submissions will be adjudicated for comments only.
- Invalid video submissions are Ineligible To Advance to the next level of auditions.

Full NSA Video Submission Guidelines

Before Adding Your Video Links

Prior to pasting video links into AuditionNow, it is the responsibility of the NATS member entering the singer to:

- confirm that you have the required slate for each video
- confirm that the video was uploaded and plays in landscape orientation
- confirm that the video and music are in sync;
- confirm that the volume of the singing is adequate to be adjudicated;
- confirm that the performance is of a complete selection.
 - Extended silences before and after your performance may be trimmed.

It is essential to confirm that the video performance matches the selection's title on YouTube and on your entry's registration. Copy and paste errors duplicating links make an audition Ineligible To Advance.

Confirming Video Links

- NSA National Qualifying Round Video submissions are always due on the 2nd Friday of April.
- Whether using AuditionNow or AuditionWare, the teacher will need to paste the individual web link/URL for each YouTube video to upload under the correct repertoire item on the platform
- Do not paste video links with a space before or after the link
- Upload 2, 3, 4, or 5 separate videos matching the number of selections required in your NSA Category of Entry.
- Confirm that there are not any copy and paste errors nor duplicate links well in advance of the deadline.

Full NSA Video ITA Considerations

Invalid Video Considerations

Teachers and singers are responsible for ensuring that all repertoire, video recordings, submissions, and registration materials comply with NSA requirements. Failure to meet these requirements will result in a singer being designated Ineligible to Advance (ITA). Careful review before submission allows adjudicators to focus on the singer's artistry and performance rather than avoidable procedural or technical issues.

The following issues make a video submission and singer's entry Ineligible to Advance to subsequent rounds:

- YouTube & Access Issues
 - Videos uploaded as private or public
 - Videos removed by the user or by YouTube for copyright infringement
 - YouTube submissions that are monetized
 - Copy and Paste issues, duplicate video links, and failure to override a link from a previous audition
- Repertoire & Eligibility Issues
 - Repertoire that violates the NSA Guidelines
 - Video submissions of repertoire not vetted, approved and performed in the region category that qualified the singer for National Preliminaries
 - Videos recorded before September 1 of the 2026/2027 NSA audition cycle
 - Videos that are incomplete; full songs are required
- Identity & Confidentiality Violations
 - Videos revealing the identity, image, school, location, studio, or affiliation of the teacher, singer, NATS chapter or region that might be included in the YouTube channel, title, description, reflections, posters, diplomas, banners, flags, etc.
- Recording & Technical Violations
 - Videos without the required spoken slate
 - Videos recorded in portrait orientation
 - CM Videos that did not utilize an external speaker for amplification of the solo vocals - no direct mic to video is acceptable
 - CM videos that recorded with multiple microphones or headset/diva mics
 - AS, CL, MT videos that use an amplified microphone in the recording
 - Videos that pan or zoom during the performance or that use multiple cameras
 - Videos using audio or video processing that alters the singer's sound, pitch, or acoustics through filters, effects, excessive reverb, or digital manipulation
- Performance Rule Violations
 - Videos in which the singer appears to be reading or using written aids
 - Videos conducted or side-coached by another person during the recording
- Accompaniment Violations
- Other violations listed in the division category guide