

NATS National Student Auditions Categories of Entry updated 8-23-23



TERMINOLOGY & ABBREVIATIONS

- Treble**—Soprano, Mezzo-soprano, Contralto, & Countertenor Voices
- TBB**—Tenor, Baritone & Bass Voices
- MT**—Musical Theatre
- CL**—Classical Art Songs & Arias
- CM**—Commercial Music
- AS**—American Negro Spirituals
- HJ**—Hall Johnson
- HS**—High School

- **Categories ADVANCING to National NSA Rounds in the 2023/24 Audition Cycle**

- **Subdivided categories ADVANCING to nationals by combining into a single category in the NSA National Rounds**

FOR EXAMPLE: **CL 1A** and **CL 1B** combine into one category, **CL 1**, in the national levels of NSA. If a region subdivides these categories, then up to 10 students (up to 5 from each subdivision) may advance to each combined category in the national YouTube round.

AN EXCEPTION: Some highly populated and/or disparate subdivisions do advance as individual national categories without combining—these national level subdivisions are independent categories. For example: **CL 3A** and **CL3B** are independent national categories and do not combine to become CL 3 at the national levels of NSA. See page 2.

- **Categories that MUST be subdivided in NSA regions to advance independently to the NSA National Preliminary Round.**
- **Categories that alternate biennially and also ADVANCE to National NSA Rounds in alternate years**
- **Categories NOT advancing to the NSA National Rounds**

CHILDREN & YOUTH CATEGORIES (any length of study)

Number	Category	Age Range / Limit		Time Limit	Repertoire Requirements
CATEGORIES 1 & 2 — CHILDREN & YOUTH					
MT 1	Children Musical Theatre—All Voices	11 & under	below 6 th grade	6 minutes	TWO contrasting age-appropriate musical theatre selections from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles or musical theatre song literature. Only one selection may be chosen from operetta or musical theatre song literature.
MT 2	Youth Musical Theatre—All Voices	11–14	6 th – 8 th grade	6 minutes	
CL 1	Children Classical—All Voices	11 & under	below 6 th grade	6 minutes	TWO contrasting age-appropriate selections from classical repertoire.
CL 2	Youth Classical—All Voices	11–14	6 th – 8 th grade	6 minutes	
CM 1	Children Commercial Music—All Voices	11 & under	below 6 th grade	6 minutes	TWO contrasting age-appropriate selections performed in a CM style(s).
CM 2	Youth Commercial Music—All Voices	11–14	6 th – 8 th grade	6 minutes	
Subdivided Categories 1 & 2 — Children & Youth					
MT 1A	Children Musical Theatre Lower—All Voices	9 & under in MT 1	below 6 th grade	6 minutes	Same as above
CL 1A	Children Classical Lower—All Voices	9 & under in CL 1	below 6 th grade	6 minutes	Same as above
CM 1A	Children Commercial Music Lower—All Voices	9 & under in CM 1	below 6 th grade	6 minutes	Same as above
MT 1B	Children Musical Theatre Upper—All Voices	10–11 in MT 1	below 6 th grade	6 minutes	Same as above
CL 1B	Children Classical Upper—All Voices	10–11 in CL 1	below 6 th grade	6 minutes	Same as above
CM 1B	Children Commercial Music Upper—All Voices	10–11 in CM 1	below 6 th grade	6 minutes	Same as above
MT 2A	Youth Musical Theatre Lower—All Voices	11–12 in MT 2	6 th – 8 th grade	6 minutes	Same as above
CL 2A	Youth Classical Lower—All Voices	11–12 in CL 2	6 th – 8 th grade	6 minutes	Same as above
CM 2A	Youth Commercial Music Lower—All Voices	11–12 in CM 2	6 th – 8 th grade	6 minutes	Same as above
MT 2B	Youth Musical Theatre Upper—All Voices	13–14 in MT 2	6 th – 8 th grade	6 minutes	Same as above
CL 2B	Youth Classical Upper—All Voices	13–14 in CL 2	6 th – 8 th grade	6 minutes	Same as above
CM 2B	Youth Commercial Music Upper—All Voices	13–14 in CL 2	6 th – 8 th grade	6 minutes	Same as above

HIGH SCHOOL CATEGORIES

Number	Category	Length of Study	Age Range / Limit	Time	Repertoire Requirements	
CATEGORIES 3 & 4 — HIGH SCHOOL						
MT 3	HS Musical Theatre—Treble Voices	No limit – all HS	14–19	8–10 minutes	THREE contrasting musical theatre selections from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles, or musical theatre song literature. Only one selection may be chosen from an operetta or musical theatre song literature.	
MT 4	HS Musical Theatre—TBB Voices	No limit – all HS	14–19	8–10 minutes		
CL 3	HS Classical—Treble Voices	No limit – all HS	14–19	8–10 minutes		
CL 4	HS Classical—TBB Voices	No limit – all HS	14–19	8–10 minutes		
CM 3	HS Commercial Music—Treble Voices	No limit – all HS	14–19	8–10 minutes	THREE contrasting full songs performed in a CM style(s): At least one ballad and one up tempo included in 3 selections. Only one song may be an original song, instead of a cover. Only one song may be self-accompanied on an acoustic instrument, instead of performing with an instrumental track or a live collaborative instrumentalist.	
CM 4	HS Commercial Music—TBB Voices	No limit – all HS	14–19	8–10 minutes		
AS 3†	HS American Negro Spiritual—All Voices <i>Not Active in 2023/24 Audition Cycle</i>	No limit – all HS	14–19	8–10 minutes	THREE American Negro Spirituals contrasting by composer, tempo, and text. See approved spirituals repertoire on NATS.org	
Subdivided Categories 3 & 4 — High School						
MT 3A	Lower HS Musical Theatre—Treble Voices	No limit – all HS	14–16	9 th & 10 th grades	8–10 minutes	<i>Same as above</i>
MT 4A	Lower HS Musical Theatre—TBB Voices	No limit – all HS	14–16	9 th & 10 th grades	8–10 minutes	
MT 3B	Upper HS Musical Theatre—Treble Voices	No limit – all HS	16–19	11 th & 12 th grades	8–10 minutes	<i>Same as above</i>
MT 4B	Upper HS Musical Theatre—TBB Voices	No limit – all HS	16–19	11 th & 12 th grades	8–10 minutes	
CL 3A	Lower HS Classical—Treble Voices	No limit – all HS	14–16	9 th & 10 th grades	8–10 minutes	<i>Same as above</i>
CL 4A	Lower HS Classical—TBB Voices	No limit – all HS	14–16	9 th & 10 th grades	8–10 minutes	
CL 3B	Upper HS Classical—Treble Voices	No limit – all HS	16–19	11 th & 12 th grades	8–10 minutes	<i>Same as above</i>
CL 4B	Upper HS Classical—TBB Voices	No limit – all HS	16–19	11 th & 12 th grades	8–10 minutes	
CM 3A	Lower HS Commercial Music—Treble Voices	No limit – all HS	14–16	9 th & 10 th grades	8–10 minutes	<i>Same as above</i>
CM 4A	Lower HS Commercial Music—TBB Voices	No limit – all HS	14–16	9 th & 10 th grades	8–10 minutes	
CM 3B	Upper HS Commercial Music—Treble Voices	No limit – all HS	16–19	11 th & 12 th grades	8–10 minutes	<i>Same as above</i>
CM 4B	Upper HS Commercial Music—TBB Voices	No limit – all HS	16–19	11 th & 12 th grades	8–10 minutes	
When the number of entries becomes large American Negro Spiritual may be split into Upper & Lower Ages. The same system would be used: AS 3A & AS 3B and/or AS 4A & AS 4B.						

LOWER POST HIGH SCHOOL CATEGORIES

Number	Category	Length of Study	Age Limit	Time	Repertoire Requirements
CATEGORIES 5 & 6 — LOWER POST HIGH SCHOOL					
MT 5	Lower Musical Theatre—Treble Voices	1–2 yrs. Post HS	22	10 minutes	THREE 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 or musical theatre song literature.
MT 6	Lower Musical Theatre—TBB Voices	1–2 yrs. Post HS	22	10 minutes	
CL 5	Lower Classical—Treble Voices	1–2 yrs. Post HS	22	10 minutes	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.
CL 6	Lower Classical—TBB Voices	1–2 yrs. Post HS	22	10 minutes	
CM 5	Lower Commercial Music—Treble Voices	1–2 yrs. Post HS	22	10 minutes	THREE contrasting full songs performed in a CM style(s): Only one song may be an original song, instead of a cover. Only one song may be self-accompanied on an acoustic instrument, instead of performing with an instrumental track or a live collaborative instrumentalist.
CM 6	Lower Commercial Music—TBB Voices	1–2 yrs. Post HS	22	10 minutes	
AS 7 [†]	1 st – 3 rd yr. Post HS American Negro Spiritual—All Voices <i>Not Active in the 2023/24 Audition Cycle</i>	1–3 yrs. post HS	23	10 minutes	THREE American Negro Spirituals contrasting by composer, tempo, and text. See approved spirituals repertoire on NATS.org
Subdivided Categories 5 & 6 — Lower Post High School					
MT 5A	1 st yr. Musical Theatre—Treble Voices	1 yr. post HS	20	10 minutes	Same as above
MT 6A	1 st yr. Musical Theatre—TBB Voices	1 yr. post HS	20	10 minutes	
CL 5A	1 st yr. Classical—Treble Voices	1 yr. post HS	20	10 minutes	Same as above
CL 6A	1 st yr. Classical—TBB Voices	1 yr. post HS	20	10 minutes	
CM 5A	1 st yr. Commercial Music—Treble Voices	1 yr. post HS	20	10 minutes	Same as above
CM 6A	1 st yr. Commercial Music—TBB Voices	1 yr. post HS	20	10 minutes	
MT 5B	2 nd yr. Musical Theatre—Treble Voices	2 yrs. post HS	22	10 minutes	Same as above
MT 6B	2 nd yr. Musical Theatre—TBB Voices	2 yrs. post HS	22	10 minutes	
CL 5B	2 nd yr. Classical—Treble Voices	2 yrs. post HS	22	10 minutes	Same as above
CL 6B	2 nd yr. Classical—TBB Voices	2 yrs. post HS	22	10 minutes	
CM 5B	2 nd yr. Commercial Music—Treble Voices	2 yrs. post HS	22	10 minutes	Same as above
CM 6B	2 nd yr. Commercial Music—TBB Voices	2 yrs. post HS	22	10 minutes	

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The American Negro Spiritual Category is offered in NSA audition cycles culminating at the NATS national summer workshop.

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

†† Singers may hold the music score for oratorio/cantata aria, in exception to the memorization requirement.

UPPER POST HIGH SCHOOL CATEGORIES

Number	Category	Length of Study	Age Limit	Time	Repertoire Requirements
CATEGORIES 7 & 8 — UPPER POST HIGH SCHOOL					
MT 7	Upper Musical Theatre—Treble Voices	3–5 yrs. post HS not in a grad prog	25	12 minutes	FOUR contrasting musical theatre selections: from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles, or musical theatre song literature. Only one selection may be chosen from an operetta or musical theatre song literature.
MT 8	Upper Musical Theatre—TBB Voices	3–5 yrs. post HS not in a grad prog	25	12 minutes	
CL 7	Upper Classical—Treble Voices	3–5 yrs. post HS not in a grad prog	25	12 minutes	
CL 8	Upper Classical—TBB Voices	3–5 yrs. post HS not in a grad prog	25	12 minutes	
CM 7	Upper Commercial Music—Treble Voices	3–5 yrs. post HS not in a grad prog	25	12 minutes	
CM 8	Upper Commercial Music—TBB Voices	3–5 yrs. post HS not in a grad prog	25	12 minutes	
AS 7 [†]	1 st –3 rd yr. Post HS American Negro Spiritual—All Voices (4 th yr. or more post HS students enter the AS 9 advanced category) <i>Not Active in the 2023/24 Audition Cycle</i>	1–3 yrs. post HS	23	10 minutes	THREE American Negro Spirituals contrasting by composer, tempo, and text. See approved spirituals repertoire on NATS.org
Subdivided Categories 7 & 8 — Upper Post High School					
MT 7A	3 rd yr. Musical Theatre—Treble Voices	3 yrs. post HS	23	12 minutes	<i>Same as above</i>
MT 8A	3 rd yr. Musical Theatre—TBB Voices	3 yrs. post HS	23	12 minutes	
CL 7A	3 rd yr. Classical—Treble Voices	3 yrs. post HS	23	12 minutes	<i>Same as above</i>
CL 8A	3 rd yr. Classical—TBB Voices	3 yrs. post HS	23	12 minutes	
CM 7A	3 rd yr. Commercial Music—Treble Voices	3 yrs. post HS	23	12 minutes	<i>Same as above</i>
CM 8A	3 rd yr. Commercial Music—TBB Voices	3 yrs. post HS	23	12 minutes	
MT 7B	4 th & 5 th yr. Musical Theatre—Treble Voices	4–5 yrs. post HS not in a grad prog	25	12 minutes	<i>Same as above</i>
MT 8B	4 th & 5 th yr. Musical Theatre—TBB Voices	4–5 yrs. post HS not in a grad prog	25	12 minutes	
CL 7B	4 th & 5 th yr. Classical—Treble Voices	4–5 yrs. post HS not in a grad prog	25	12 minutes	<i>Same as above</i>
CL 8B	4 th & 5 th yr. Classical—TBB Voices	4–5 yrs. post HS not in a grad prog	25	12 minutes	
CM 7B	4 th & 5 th yr. Commercial Music—Treble Voices	4–5 yrs. post HS not in a grad prog	25	12 minutes	<i>Same as above</i>
CM 8B	4 th & 5 th yr. Commercial Music—TBB Voices	4–5 yrs. post HS not in a grad prog	25	12 minutes	

Biennial HALL JOHNSON SPIRITUALS COMPETITION

Number	Category	Length of Study	Age Limit	Time	Repertoire Requirements
HALL JOHNSON SPIRITUALS COMPETITION					
HJ 7 [†]	Hall Johnson—All Voices	post HS undergraduate students only	17–23	12 minutes	THREE contrasting selections from approved Hall Johnson spirituals repertoire. See approved spirituals repertoire on NATS.org

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ADVANCED CATEGORIES

Post-Baccalaureate Students

Number	Category	Length of Study	Age Limit	Time	Repertoire Requirements
CATEGORIES 9 & 10 — ADVANCED					
MT 9	Advanced Musical Theatre—Treble Voices <i>Consider NATS National Musical Theatre Competition</i>	4+ yrs. post HS	30	15 minutes	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.
MT 10	Advanced Musical Theatre—TBB Voices <i>Consider NATS National Musical Theatre Competition</i>	4+ yrs. post HS	30	15 minutes	
CL 9	Advanced Classical—Treble Voices	4+ yrs. post HS	30	15 minutes	FIVE contrasting selections from classical repertoire: One art song in English.* One art song in a language other than English. One operatic aria. One oratorio/cantata aria.†† One additional selection from the classical repertoire. At least three languages must be represented.
CL 10	Advanced Classical—TBB Voices	4+ yrs. post HS	30	15 minutes	
CM 9	Advanced Commercial Music—Treble Voices	4+ yrs. post HS	30	15 minutes	FIVE contrasting full songs performed in a CM style(s): Up to 3 songs may be original songs, instead of a cover. Up to 2 songs may be self-accompanied on an acoustic instrument, instead of performing with an instrumental track or a live collaborative instrumentalist.
CM 10	Advanced Commercial Music—TBB Voices	4+ yrs. post HS	30	15 minutes	
AS 9 ⁺	4 th & 5 th yrs. Post HS & Advanced American Negro Spiritual—All Voices <i>Not Active in the 2023/24 Audition Cycle</i>	4+ yrs. post HS	30	12 minutes	FOUR contrasting selections from approved Hall Johnson spirituals repertoire. See approved spirituals repertoire on NATS.org
Subdivided Categories 9 & 10 — Advanced					
MT 9A	Lower Advanced Musical Theatre—Treble Voices	4–7 yrs. post HS	22–26	15 minutes	Same as above
MT 10A	Lower Advanced Musical Theatre—TBB Voices	4–7 yrs. post HS	22–26	15 minutes	
MT 9B	Upper Advanced Musical Theatre—Treble Voices	7+ yrs. post HS	25–30	15 minutes	
MT 10B	Upper Advanced Musical Theatre—TBB Voices	7+ yrs. post HS	25–30	15 minutes	
CL 9A	Lower Advanced Classical—Treble Voices	4–7 yrs. post HS	22–26	15 minutes	Same as above
CL 10A	Lower Advanced Classical—TBB Voices	4–7 yrs. post HS	22–26	15 minutes	
CL 9B	Upper Advanced Classical—Treble Voices	7+ yrs. post HS	25–30	15 minutes	
CL 10B	Upper Advanced Classical—TBB Voices	7+ yrs. post HS	25–30	15 minutes	
CM 9A	Lower Advanced Commercial Music—Treble Voices	4–7 yrs. post HS	22–26	15 minutes	Same as above
CM 10A	Lower Advanced Commercial Music—TBB Voices	4–7 yrs. post HS	22–26	15 minutes	
CM 9B	Upper Advanced Commercial Music—Treble Voices	7+ yrs. post HS	25–30	15 minutes	
CM 10B	Upper Advanced Commercial Music—TBB Voices	7+ yrs. post HS	25–30	15 minutes	

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ADULT AVOCATIONAL CATEGORIES

Students neither pursuing nor holding a degree in music and not working as professional musicians

Number	Category	Length of Study	Ages	Time	Repertoire Requirements
CATEGORIES 11 & 12 — ADULT AVOCATIONAL					
MT 11	Adult Musical Theatre—Treble Voices	No Limit	18 +	10–12 minutes	THREE contrasting musical theatre selections: from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles or musical theatre song literature. Only one selection may be chosen from operetta or musical theatre song literature.
MT 12	Adult Musical Theatre—TBB Voices	No Limit	18 +	10–12 minutes	
CL 11	Adult Classical—Treble Voices	No Limit	18 +	10–12 minutes	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.
CL 12	Adult Classical—TBB Voices	No Limit	18 +	10–12 minutes	
CM 11	Adult Commercial Music—Treble Voices	No Limit	18 +	10–12 minutes	THREE contrasting full songs performed in a CM style(s): Only one song may be an original song, instead of a cover. Only one song may be self-accompanied on an acoustic instrument, instead of performing with an instrumental track or live collaborative pianist.
CM 12	Adult Commercial Music—TBB Voices	No Limit	18 +	10–12 minutes	

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NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT CATEGORIES

Students pursuing or holding degrees in music and whose age or level of study falls outside the limits of other categories

Number	Category	Length of Study	Ages	Time	Repertoire Requirements
CATEGORIES 13 & 14 — NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENTS					
MT 13	Adult Musical Theatre—Treble Voices	No Limit	18+	10–12 minutes	THREE contrasting musical theatre selections: from musicals including film musicals, revues, operettas, musical theatre song cycles or musical theatre song literature. Only one selection may be chosen from operetta or musical theatre song literature.
MT 14	Adult Musical Theatre—TBB Voices	No Limit	18+	10–12 minutes	
CL 13	Adult Classical—Treble Voices	No Limit	18+	10–12 minutes	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.
CL 14	Adult Classical—TBB Voices	No Limit	18+	10–12 minutes	
CM 13	Adult Commercial Music—Treble Voices	No Limit	18+	10–12 minutes	THREE contrasting full songs performed in a CM style(s): Only one song may be an original song, instead of a cover. Only one song may be self-accompanied on an acoustic instrument, instead of performing with an instrumental track or live collaborative pianist.
CM 14	Adult Commercial Music—TBB Voices	No Limit	18+	10–12 minutes	

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PLEASE NOTE: NATS encourages chapters and regions to create additional categories to address the inclusivity and diversity of all students and repertoire. Additional categories should be created to meet the needs of that entity's membership. Currently, any additional chapter or region categories cannot advance to the national levels of our NSA.