

Online Recording Guidelines for Auditions

Online (Virtual) Auditions (Due date for submissions February 15, 2021)

Online auditions will be conducted just like live auditions, judging assignments will be made accessible on the Auditionware site. Judges will review, critique, score and complete comment sheets for each singer in their assigned category. These will be submitted through the Auditionware site. Winners will be announced with certificates and checks being mailed to the teacher.

Video Recording Instructions: Provided by the National board and NSA Regional and National Student Auditions

Recording Location

You should record your video in the spirit of a live audition or recital performance. You may record in a home, school, church, synagogue, recital hall, rehearsal room, or voice studio with good natural acoustics with or without an audience. You should dress professionally, as you would for a recital or live audition. Microphones or recording devices should not be seen in the recording.

Recording Instructions

Recording

- You should record a separate unedited video for each selection on your repertoire list.
- Recording devices can be Phones, Tablets, Computer, and Digital Camera -no editing is allowed.
- Your camera (recording device) should record from a fixed position as if three adjudicators were seated in front of you. You should face straight forward to the camera as you would appear to adjudicators in a live audition.
- Your video recordings must clearly show your face and most of your upper body.
- No editing or enhancing of videos. Adding reverb, pitch adjustment etc. is not permitted.

Accompanist

Due to the unprecedented nature of the times in which we find ourselves, with growing travel restrictions, limited or no face-face teaching with only online instruction, and wide-spread health concerns, we know it will be nearly impossible for many to meet and record videos with live accompanists during this time. Therefore, during this crisis NATS will allow students to record audition videos using pre-recorded tracks such as found on Appcompanionist, Hal Leonard's Virtual Library, or other similar sources that offer piano-only accompaniments. YouTube Karaoke Tracks are also acceptable, as long as they are piano only. NO orchestrated tracks or tracks with other instruments or voices will be acceptable, and would result in disqualification. It will also be acceptable to use tracks that are recorded by your teacher or your pianist (who know you and your interpretation). Additionally, in this extreme circumstance, should student and teacher be in the same location, a teacher may accompany a singer in the recording, but the teacher should not be visible in the recording directly or on any reflected surface (mirror, piano surface, etc.). Please note that this will not be an accepted precedent for future auditions, but is rather an isolated exception necessitated by a highly unusual global crisis. Because of this, videos will not be required to show the pianist. All other guidelines outlined in the video

submission guidelines at <https://www.nats.org/NSA - You Tube Round Video Submissions.html> will apply and must be followed.

Performance

- A separate video will be submitted for each required selection as outlined for each category.
- Introduce yourself and the selection at the beginning of each video. I am (*student name*) and will sing—Title of Composition---by—Composer—and if appropriate—from---Title of Work. The identity of your teacher, school should not be revealed.
- You must perform by memory on each submitted recording.
- No repertory changes allowed once registration is closed. Submitted recordings by singer must be what are listed on the adjudication sheet.

Preparing the YouTube Video

Settings

- Please note that you must select "**unlisted**" and disable "**Content for Children**" in the Privacy settings found under the broadcasting and Sharing Options section when uploading your video file to YouTube.
- If you select "private," adjudicators will not be able to access your submission(s).
- Student will provide the YouTube URL links to the instructor who will paste each link in the student's registration application in Auditionware.

Submission

- Must be completed by teacher.
- In Auditionware under the student's application, provide the YouTube link for each video that corresponds to the appropriate repertoire selection – either 3, 4, or 5 total selections, depending on your national, regional or chapter category.
- Please double check and review the links for each video to make sure they work before submitting your student's application. Changes may be made up to the close of registration.

Invalid Videos

The following video problems would make them invalid.

- Videos revealing the teacher's identity, the region of the singer, or the school they attend.
- Videos with "private" sharing options (see above).
- Videos that pan and zoom during performances.
- Videos using recording equipment that alters the acoustics of the venue or the sound quality of the singer by adding/subtracting reverb or altering the pitches being sung.
- Videos that are digitally altered.