

NATS Cascade Chapter

Revisions and Updates for Festivals

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Committee Members

Nancy Olson-Chatalas

April Duvic

Beverly Park

Natalie Gunn



**Effective
2012**

Summary of Recommended Revisions for NATS Cascade Festivals:

We, the 2011 Festival Update Committee, respectfully submit our recommendations to revise the Guidelines for our Cascade Chapter Festivals. We have researched other chapters' guidelines, and have also consulted the National Guidelines for Best Practices, published in 2009.

Our goal was to create categories, divisions, and repertoire guidelines that best reflect our needs as a chapter, the best interests of our students, and also to align with the upcoming National Progressive Student Auditions. We wish to create groups of around 15-20 singers each for the sake of managing scheduling, adjudication assignments, and the equity of competition. Therefore, we recommend that age alone will be the defining term for Categories, regardless of school enrollment. Secondly, time-studied will serve as the Division, as necessary. Using the online scheduling software, the Festival Chair(s) will be responsible for grouping singers in like Categories and Divisions. For prepared singers new to competitive experiences, we'd like to remind teachers to offer the 'Comments Only' option.

We discussed the suggestion to hold a High School Festival event separate from Adult / College Festival. We decided that that a separation may polarize teachers of primarily HS or primarily college/adult students, and we wish to avoid that. Also, we would like to encourage younger singers to watch and learn from the older students. We do wish to grow the Festival to three days and develop more of a Conference agenda, providing further educational opportunities for both teachers and students.

For scheduling, our goal is to hold the Spring Festival in March, and the Fall Festival in November. We recommend eventually, perhaps beginning in 2014, holding the Classical Festival in the Fall, and the Musical Theater Festival in the Spring.

As for Host venues, we would like to explore renting adjacent churches or other appropriate spaces when considering smaller campuses to host what will become larger Festivals.

Categories: (Classical) Defined by age at the time of the Festival.

YOUNG ADULTS (High school or college enrollment status are no longer a consideration.)

Ages 15-23

ADVANCED ADULTS (Formerly called Career Path. These students show professional potential, or have some experience singing professionally.)

Ages 24+

RECREATIONAL ADULTS

I: Ages 24+

II: Ages 55+

Divisions: (Classical)

We recommend that the minimum time studied for each category be 3 months (or one college term). To clarify, 'total time studied' is time studied with NATS teachers only. As usual, if a student has studied less than 8 months with the present teacher, the previous NATS teacher must also be listed. We recommend that the 'Career Path 55+' division be eliminated.

YOUNG ADULTS: Divide further as necessary.

- a) 3 months (or one college term) – 1 year
- b) 1 - 2 years
- c) More than 2 years

ADVANCED ADULTS: Divide further as necessary.

RECREATIONAL ADULTS: Divide further as necessary.

Classical Repertoire Guidelines:

We recommend adding a fifth song to the Advanced Category: An art song composed in or after 1950 (not an arrangement of a folk song). To be in line with the way most other auditions operate, we recommend that singers perform the first selection of their choosing, and then sing others as requested by the judges within their audition time slot (10, 12, or 15 minutes). Students must list the timed duration of each song on the adjudication form. It is our desire to hear as much singing as possible.

YA: Age 15-18 Prepare three songs. Singer chooses the first; judges select second or third as time permits. Each singer gets a 10 minute audition. Students are encouraged to use two or more languages. One selection must be in English.

1. A selection written before 1800
2. A 19th century art song
3. A 20th century art song (Folk song arrangements are acceptable.)

YA: Age 19-23 Prepare four songs. Singer chooses the first; judges select others as time permits. Each singer gets a 12 minute audition. Students are encouraged to use two or more languages. One selection must be in English.

1. A selection written before 1800
2. An aria from an oratorio or opera, or a 19th century song (original language)
3. A 19th or 20th century art song
4. A 20th century art song

Advanced: Prepare five songs. Singer chooses the first; judges select others as time permits. Each singer gets a 15 minute audition. Students must use three or more languages. All selections must be sung in the original language.

1. A selection written before 1800
2. An aria from an oratorio or opera
3. A 19th century art song
4. An art song in English
5. An art song composed in or after 1950 (not an arrangement of a folk song)

Recreational: Prepare three songs. Singer chooses the first; judges select others as time permits. Each singer gets a 10 minute audition. Students are encouraged to use two or more languages. One selection must be in English.

1. A selection written before 1800
2. A 19th century art song
3. A 20th century art song

Categories: (Musical Theater) Defined by age at the time of the Festival.

To reflect MT industry practice, we recommend that Adult students select representative repertoire for their appropriate “age group.” For all Categories and Divisions, each singer will present all three songs in a 12 minute audition time.

YOUNG ADULTS (High school or college enrollment status are no longer a consideration.)

Ages 15-23

ADULTS

Adults ages 24+

I) Group: “Age 25-35”

II) Group: “Over 40”

Divisions: (Musical Theater)

We recommend that the minimum time studied for each category be 3 months (or one college term). To clarify, ‘total time studied’ is time studied with NATS teachers only. As usual, if a student has studied less than 8 months with the present teacher, the previous NATS teacher must also be listed.

YOUNG ADULTS: Divide further as necessary.

- a) 3 months (or one college term) – 1 year
- b) 1 - 2 years
- c) More than 2 years

ADULTS: Divide further as necessary.

Musical Theater Repertoire Guidelines: (unchanged from 2011)

- 1) A selection composed in 1940 or before, which may include operetta.
- 2) A selection composed between 1941-1980.
- 3) A selection composed from 1981-present.

At least two of the three must be from staged works. If you would like to use three songs from staged works that is fine. The minimum is two. That means that the third song may be chosen from: movie musical or cabaret.

Opera is not included. There is no art song required, but one of the three may be an art song if it is theatrical, as would be used in cabaret performance. (Meaning= YES: Overweight, Overwrought Over You; NO: Du bist die Ruh.)