

Mississippi Chapter National Association of Teachers of Singing Judging Procedures

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Teachers may not accompany their own students.
2. The judge's sheet must be signed and contestant information verified at the beginning of the audition.
3. Accompanists must play from original music. The penalty for not having the originals is immediate disqualification by the judging panel. [In the case where the accompanist is using music purchased and printed online, or printed from CD Sheet Music, a copy of the copyright license page must be present. The judges may ask to see the license page.] If a situation arises where neither the originals nor the license pages are available during the audition, the judges will inform the student that he or she has been disqualified. Judges will document the event on their Adjudication Sheets and return them with the other forms to the Auditions Chair. A representative from the center will inform the Auditions Chair of the disqualification.
4. Except for the lack of original music, the Auditions Chair is the only person authorized to penalize or disqualify a singer. Judges do not penalize or disqualify singers. Judge every participant on his or her merits alone. If there is a question from the judges (i.e., inappropriate repertoire, etc.), please document all questions and forward to the Auditions Chair.
5. If a question arises about classification, contact the Auditions Chair before the audition when possible.
6. All songs must be sung from memory. The penalty for not doing so is eventual disqualification by the Auditions Chair. Notify the Auditions Chair at the end of the session if a singer has used music in the audition.
7. Maintain consistency between written comments and scoring.
8. The first name listed on the judging assignment sheet is the chair of that session. That person is responsible for picking up the audition packet and returning it to the Auditions Chair. As you collect completed sheets, collate them, verifying audition number, score, and signature.
9. Do not make unnecessary comments to singers. Do not share comments or scoring information with other judges.
10. No adjudicator may list his or her institute, telephone number, or address on any adjudication sheet.

PRELIMINARY ROUND

1. The preliminary round is not competitive. Draw no comparisons from singer to singer.
2. Singers must present copies of their Preliminary Forms to give to each of the three judges. Preliminary Forms should include audition number, category, age, and titles of repertoire with composers and language of their selections.
3. Singers begin with a piece of their choice. The judges will select a second piece to be performed from the repertoire sheet. In categories 13-16, the judges may choose a third selection if time allows.
4. Write constructive and meaningful comments that are generally encouraging in nature. Disparaging remarks are inappropriate and contrary to the spirit of the MS Chapter of NATS.
5. Please mark the appropriate blank, showing whether the singer should advance to the semifinal round.

SEMIFINAL ROUND

1. The Semifinal Round is competitive. Singers perform on a first-come, first served basis with consideration given to accompanists' schedules. Singers announce and sing one song of their choice.
2. Judges compare singers and assign numerical scores according to the following standard:

98-100	Superb
95-97	Excellent
90-94	Good; worthy of finals
85-89	Worthy of semifinals, but not finals
80-84	Questionable semifinalist
3. The top four scores and ties in each category normally advance to the finals. However, a total score of 270 is necessary for advancement.

FINAL ROUND

1. Singers announce and sing one piece of their choice, not to exceed four minutes in length. Time starts when the accompanist begins playing. Singers will be stopped without penalty after four minutes.
2. Singers are ranked 1-4 with 1 being the best. In case of ties, singers receive the higher award. In classes with fewer than four singers, the highest possible ranking is awarded.