

NATS Teacher Contact:
Kimberly James
Intermountain Governor
intermountain@nats.org
347.766.1373



Student Applicant Contact:
Pamela Bathurst
E. Washington District Governor
pamelab@uidaho.edu

NATS NATIONAL STUDENT AUDITIONS: Intermountain Regionals 2016 Official Rules & Guidelines

NOW WITH UPDATED DEADLINES!

To be fair to all participants, these rules must be followed explicitly without exception.

The links to the on-line Official Teacher Form and the Student Form for the Intermountain Regional Round of the National Student Auditions (NSA) will be emailed to all active Intermountain Region NATS members. Payments are able to be sent via the postal service or PayPal (fees may apply). This document will be posted to the [IM Regional website](#) so that your students can access the information.

1. Applying singers must be students of NATS members who are in good standing at the national level with the National Association of Teachers of Singing. Students of non-NATS members are not eligible for this competition. **Important – national membership dues must be paid in full before February 1, 2016 for students to be eligible to participate. No exceptions.*
2. **TEACHER FORM DEADLINE:** by midnight, Sunday February 21, 2016. This is tremendously helpful if you can fill it out by deadline. If not, teacher forms must be received by Friday, February 26, 5pm MST.
3. **STUDENT FORM/APPLICATION DEADLINE:** by midnight, Sunday February 28, 2016. Late submissions will not be accepted. Click here to access the online application.
4. **APPLICATION FEE DEADLINE:** with application via PayPal (\$20CAD/\$25USD) or \$25 in US funds (check or money order) must be received by Monday, February 29, 2016. Point number 23 contains more information on fees.
5. Winners in each division may be asked to provide proof of age to verify registration in the correct category.

6. **Final results** will be announced via email to teachers and posted on the Intermountain Region web site *hopefully* by Sunday, April 3, 2016, 11:59pm MST. Teachers will receive their students' comments from the judges via e-mail to share with their students. This is our region's first time to participate, so we appreciate your patience in this new process.
7. **Regional finalists in each age category** will be eligible to submit video auditions to the online NATS National YouTube screening round. Official guidelines, fees, rules, and deadline dates can be found at http://www.nats.org/national_student_auditions.html.
8. **Each student's complete video entry** must be posted at www.youtube.com with the link provided on the entry form. For information on posting videos, please explore the Help section found on the YouTube homepage.

General guidelines for video entries follow, and applicants are encouraged to test various locations and microphone/camera placements for best results before recording a final submission.

- a. The video must clearly show your face and body (and the pianist.) A fixed camera position throughout, showing your face and most of your body, is preferable.
- b. Singers must sing from memory on the audition video entries. If a singer's performance is not memorized, the entry will be disqualified.
- c. You must sing with a live pianist in your video entry. Your pianist must be visible in your video. Although Ensemble is a comment-only category, please be advised that the quality of the accompanist's playing can affect your singing and the overall impression of the performance.
- d. The video should be in the spirit of a recital or audition. It may be shot in a home, school, church, synagogue, recital hall, or some other appropriate location, with or without an audience.
- e. Please take into account the acoustics of the room. A small room with dead acoustics may be detrimental for classical submissions but appropriate for musical theater submissions. Overly live rooms should be avoided for all submissions.
- f. Take all necessary precautions to avoid audio distortion in your submission, as this can be greatly detrimental to the vocal quality of the singing. Check levels at both extremes of the dynamic and pitch ranges.
- g. The performance recorded for the video entry must be acoustic and not amplified. The only microphone(s) involved should be for recording.

- h. You and your pianist should dress appropriately, as you would for a recital or an audition. Please seek guidance for your teacher if you have questions about appropriate audition attire.
 - i. To get an idea of what makes a successful NSA audition video, you are encouraged to search YouTube for videos from applicants who made it to the National level. A search for individual names, found on the NSA Resource area, and “National Student Auditions” via YouTube provides numerous examples.
9. **Accompanists must not use photocopies.** Pianists accompanying singers must play from original and legal publications. Singers are responsible for the accompanist's compliance with this strict rule. Exceptions cannot be made to facilitate page turns; we recommend using a page turner. Entries with visible illegal photocopies will be disqualified. Photocopying music is illegal. The purchase of a publication does not grant the right to photocopy for rehearsal or performance with a pianist. The use of LEGALLY downloaded and purchased copies in compliance with the NATS Copyright Policy is allowed. It is assumed that all singers were in compliance with the policy at the time of their region audition and videos should be made as if singers are at a live NATS audition.
10. **Cuts are acceptable to stay within time limits.** Judicious cuts to shorten piano introductions, interludes, and endings as well as long ensemble sections within a piece are encouraged. Take care to make logical cuts.
11. **All verses of strophic songs** must be sung.
12. It will not be necessary to announce the selections and other information on the videos. Thus, the entire adjudication time (8, 10, 12, or 15 minutes depending on category) can be devoted to the actual performance.
13. **For Intermountain Region auditions, in all categories, your videos must be titled as follows:**
- Your video title will read:
Intermountain Region NATS 2016 Your Name (# of #)
- Your description will read:
Intermountain Region NATS 2016 Your Name (# of #)
Category
Selection title, name of larger work (if applicable), and composer
- Here is an example for a female in Category VII (lower college/ind.):
- Your video title will read:
Intermountain Region NATS 2016 Jane Doe (1 of 3)
- Your description will read:
Intermountain Region NATS 2016 Jane Doe (1 of 3)

Category VII

“Voi che s’apete” from Le Nozze di Figaro by W.A. Mozart

Note capitalization and spacing. If your entry strays from these titling instructions, you risk being disqualified.

17. **Video editing during a selection is not allowed.** The only editing allowed in the audition video would be to edit out someone obviously starting or stopping the video recording.
18. Each singer should **submit all required songs with separate links.** This will allow the judges to quickly access each selection in the judging process and is the procedure required should the singer advance to the National auditions.
19. Please note that this year (2016) **singers must use the same repertoire** at the Intermountain Regional round for the National rounds. From the NSA FAQ: “This year the requirements at the Regional level should exactly match the national requirements. Therefore the repertoire from the regional audition is required for the National Student Auditions.”
20. In the **official online student entry form**, please provide the links with the web addresses of your videos posting by copying the YouTube URL into the application entry field. Double check that the link provided is correct and opens.
21. **Please note that you must select “Public” in the Privacy settings** found under the Broadcasting and Sharing Options section when uploading your video file to YouTube. If you select “Unlisted” or “Private” your submission will be invalid. Please only enter the Intermountain Regional auditions if you are comfortable posting a public video on YouTube. This directive complies with NSA procedures at the National level.
22. For additional information on NSA video submissions, see <http://www.nats.org/NSA - You Tube Round Video Submissions.html>.
23. The **audition registration fee** is:
 - a. \$20CAD/\$25USD via PayPal via <http://paypal.me/intermountainnats> (please click “friends and family” so that NATS doesn’t incur additional fees) **OR**
 - b. \$25 USD only (money order, wire, or check) made payable to Intermountain NATS (include applicant’s name in the memo) and mailed to:

Kimberly James, NATS Intermountain Region
UM School of Music
32 Campus Dr.
Missoula, MT 59812

Checks MUST be received by Monday, February 29, 2016 for applications to be considered complete and passed forward for adjudication.

For the 2016 Intermountain Regionals, **only 1 fee will be charged for entry in 1-2 categories.** In other words, students competing in 2 categories do not need to pay an additional fee at this level of competition.

Information for Teachers

1. Judging

All teachers submitting students are required to participate in adjudicating the online auditions. Please do not request an exception to this policy. Judges will receive all adjudication materials which adhere to the National Student Auditions process via email by Friday, March 5. If a sufficient number of judges are not available, the Intermountain Regional Governor, in consultation with Intermountain Regional Board, will seek additional adjudicators from among the regional membership. Decisions made will be final.

2. Accompanying Students

Per NATS policy guidelines on all competitions, teachers are not allowed to accompany their students at any level of national competition.

3. A helpful FAQ regarding the NSAs can be found at

[http://www.nats.org/Frequently Asked Questions - NSA.html](http://www.nats.org/Frequently%20Asked%20Questions%20-%20NSA.html).

Progressing from the Intermountain Regional Round

The National Student Auditions begin at the regional level and progress to the national preliminary round, semifinal round and final round. Regional auditions should include all of the categories contained in the "Categories, Repertoire, Age, and Time Requirements" section of the NSA guidelines document. In order to ensure across the board fairness and appropriate rigor to the National Student Auditions, regions may only advance singers to NSA categories from a regional audition. Exceptions to this regulation must be approved by the NSA Coordinator, NATSAA VP NATS and Office Staff. Winners of Chapter or District auditions may not be automatically advanced to the National Student Auditions. Each Region advances the top five singers in each category to the National Preliminary Round - YouTube Screening (i.e., five each from Lower College Men, Lower College Women, etc.). In the event of ties, all singers with top five outcomes may advance. In Regions where audition categories are subdivided according to the regulations above, the top five singers from each eligible regional category will advance to the National Preliminary Round - YouTube Screening (i.e., five each from regional Freshman Women, five each from regional Sophomore Women for a total of ten to compete in Lower College Women at the National Preliminary Round - YouTube Screening). At the time of application for the National Student Auditions, the Regional Governor or Regional Auditions Chair should forward the repertoire list of the singers and certify that the repertoire submitted was the same repertoire that the singer submitted at the regional level. Music Theater students who exceed the age limits for the College/Independent Studio Music Theater categories are encouraged to enter the National Music Theater Competition.

Questions & Additional Information

Student Applicants: for questions about topics beyond those covered, please speak with your teacher. If he/she cannot help you, contact Pamela Bathurst, E. Washington District Governor, at pamelab@uidaho.edu.

NATS Teachers: for questions about topics beyond those covered, please contact Kimberly James, Intermountain NATS Governor, via intermountain@nats.org. Also, your Chapter Presidents and District Governors should be able to answer most questions regarding this process.

Information regarding the Intermountain Region's auditions will be posted at <http://imnats.weebly.com>. Be sure to go over the materials at the NSA Resource Center available at http://www.nats.org/national_student_auditions.html.

If any information in this document conflicts with NSA guidelines, please notify Kimberly James. The National guidelines supersede these.