

DFW NATS
SPRING AUDITIONS
SPRING 2026

DFW NATS AUDITIONS



dfwnats.org

SPRING 2026 AUDITIONS

Casey L. Carter, auditions chair
Edgar Sierra, asst. auditions chair

TODAY'S OUTLINE

DFW NATS
SPRING AUDITIONS
SPRING 2026



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2026 Auditions Schedule

DFW NATS
SPRING AUDITIONS
SPRING 2026



All times listed are CENTRAL TIME

Monday, 2 February

Registration Opens

Friday, 20 February, 4:00 PM

DFW Registration Closes

All registration information including repertoire must be completed and all fees must be paid.

Tuesday, 3 March

Auditions Schedule Published

Friday, 6 March

Music Theatre & Commercial Music Divisions

Saturday, 7 March

Classical Divisions.



FEES

DFW NATS
SPRING AUDITIONS
SPRING 2026



Conference Registration for NATS Members (Entering Students): \$25

Conference Registration for NATS Members (No Students): \$20

Student Audition Entry Fees: \$25

Pianist Change (after Registration Deadline): \$15 per student entry

Saturday Membership Meeting Lunch: \$18 (salad or sandwich box with dessert and beverage)

Gluten-Sensitive and Vegan options available.



Friday, March 6 Schedule

DFW NATS
SPRING AUDITIONS
SPRING 2026



Commercial Music and Musical Theatre

- **2:00 PM – Judges Meeting for teachers entering students in the Commercial and Musical Theatre rounds**
- **3:00 PM – Preliminary Rounds Begin.**
- **6:30 PM* – Finalists Announced (Top five singers from each category will advance to the final rounds)**
- **7:00 PM* – Finals begin. Multiple final rounds will run at the same time.**
- **8:30 PM* – Commercial Music and Musical Theatre Awards**
 - ***(all times are approximate depending on the number of student entries and available adjudicators)**



Saturday, March 7 Schedule

DFW NATS
SPRING AUDITIONS
SPRING 2026



Classical Categories

- **8:30 AM – Judges Meeting for teachers entering student in the Classical rounds**
- **9:30 AM – Preliminary Rounds Begin.**
- **12:30 PM – Spring DFW Membership Meeting**
- **1:30 PM – Master Class with Nicholas Perna (UC Colorado) NATS Vice President of Outreach. Host of the VocalFri Podcast.**
- **2:30 PM* - Finalists Announced (Top five singers from each category will advance to the final rounds)**
- **3:15 PM* – Finals begin. Multiple final rounds will run at the same time.**
- **5:30 PM* – Classical Awards**
 - ***(all times are approximate depending on the number of student entries and available adjudicators)**

Auditions Location

Collin College - Wylie Campus

**391 Country Club Road
Wylie, Texas 75098**

**All events held in the
Student Center Building
(Building C)**

**Parking: Use Parking Lot D/
Conference Center Parking**

**DFW NATS
SPRING AUDITIONS
SPRING 2026**

**NATIONAL
Student
Auditions**
National Association of Teachers of Singing



Saturday, 1:30 PM

Master Class with Nicholas Perna

Director of Vocal Pedagogy at UC Boulder

NATS Vice President of Outreach

Host of the VocalFri Podcast

**Audition details will be shared
with the membership in early
February. Students must be
entered in one or more
categories in order to audition
for master class placement.**



NEW this year!

DFW NATS
SPRING AUDITIONS
SPRING 2026
Tenn. Region
Classical Auditions
Fall 2025



- New repertoire requirements: all repertoire entered must be contrasting by composer, tempo, and text.
 - You cannot enter two selections by the same composer, poet, etc.

A close-up photograph of several hands of different skin tones working together to assemble a large puzzle made of light-colored wooden pieces. The hands are positioned around the puzzle, some holding pieces in place while others reach in to add new ones. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white surface.

ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION

**Student participation in the DFW NATS Student Auditions:
DFW NATS is dependent on the following:**

- The student's teacher must be a NATS member in good standing with current chapter dues paid to DFW NATS.
- The student must meet the requirements of classification for a specific category.
- If the student has studied with the teacher for less than eight months, the teacher must provide the name of the former teacher (unless there has been no previous training).
- If the student has multiple voice teachers (concurrent or supplemental), the teacher must provide the name of the additional teacher(s).

NOTE:

- It is unethical to enter a student of another teacher in the Student Auditions. Any students discovered to be so entered will be disqualified immediately.



ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION

For ALL Categories in the Children, Youth, High School, Collegiate, Advanced, and Adult divisions:

**REGISTRATION CLOSES
FRIDAY, 20 February, 4:00 p.m.**

All registration materials including complete repertoire lists, minor chaperone forms, collaborative pianist information, and payment of fees.



A close-up photograph of several hands of different skin tones working together to assemble a large puzzle made of light-colored wooden pieces. The hands are positioned around the puzzle, with some holding pieces in place and others reaching to add new ones. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white surface.

ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION

NUMBER OF STUDENT ENTRANTS

Each teacher may enter:

- A maximum of ten (10) students in the Children, Youth, College, Adult, and Advanced divisions for the Commercial Music and Music Theatre Division Auditions.
- A maximum of ten (10) students in the Children, Youth, College, Adult, and Advanced divisions for the Classical Division Auditions.

LIMITS FOR COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS

EACH PIANIST MAY PLAY FOR A
TOTAL OF TEN STUDENT ENTRIES.

- PIANISTS CAN PLAY FOR A TOTAL OF TEN SINGERS ENTERED ON FRIDAY IN THE MUSICAL THEATRE AND COMMERCIAL MUSIC CATEGORIES.
- PIANISTS CAN PLAY FOR A TOTAL OF TEN SINGERS ENTERED ON SATURDAY IN THE CLASSICAL CATEGORIES.





ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION

PREVIOUS WINNERS

Previous First Place winners are NOT eligible to enter the classification in which they won. However, they are permitted to enter the next higher classification.

Assuming they meet all other eligibility requirements, there are THREE exceptions to this rule:

1. Previous First Place winners of categories 1, 2, 3 and 4 may re-enter those categories
2. Previous First Place winners of categories 7 and 8 (Fourth/Fifth Year SPRING) may re-enter those categories during their fifth year of undergraduate studies
3. Previous First Place winners of categories 9 or 10 (Advanced SPRING) may re-enter those categories

A background image showing several hands of different skin tones reaching in from the left side, placing and connecting yellow puzzle pieces on a white surface. The puzzle pieces are interlocking and form a partial border along the left edge of the slide.

ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION

ATTENDANCE

The Student Auditions are offered only to students of those members who attend the conference.

Remember that if you enter students in the auditions, you **MUST** attend the entire series of auditions for the divisions which you are entering students, attend the judges meeting for the divisions you are entering students, and be available for judging assignments for the entire competition day in which you are entering students.



ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION

**The Judges Meeting for the
Music Theatre and Music Theatre Divisions
will be: Friday, March 6 at 2:00 pm.**

Teachers must be in attendance at the judges meeting in order for their students to be able to compete.

**The Judges Meeting for the
Classical Divisions
will be: Saturday, March 7 at 8:30 AM**

Teachers must be in attendance at the judges meeting in order for their students to be able to compete.



National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS)
National Student Auditions (NSA)
**Permission for Participation of a Minor
in NATS Live Events**

STUDENT'S FULL LEGAL NAME _____

ADULT CHAPERONE NAME _____

the chaperone designated here may be a parent/guardian, but may not be a NATS teacher

CHAPERONE'S CELL PHONE _____

As the parent and/or legal guardian of the above named student, I give my permission for the adult chaperone stated above to bear all legal, health, and safety responsibilities for the welfare of this student during their participation in NATS events, including, but not limited to, all NATS Student Auditions at the Chapter, Region, and National level occurring in the 2023-2024 student audition cycle at locations specified by each entity of NATS. I hereby release, acquit and forever discharge NATS, its officers, members, employees, and event venues from any and all claims, demands, rights, promises, damages and liabilities arising out of or in connection with this student's participation in and/or attendance at NATS events in the calendar years 2023-2024.

The chaperone will take responsibility for this student's and their chaperone's appropriate and respectful behavior, including:

- attend scheduled events on time, in the correct location, and with all required materials
- cause no disruption of NATS events, including no extraneous noise immediately outside or inside audition, announcement, and/or event spaces
- refrain from the use of profanity and/or derogatory/hurtful remarks toward other students, adjudicators, instrumentalists, or other event personnel
- respect the authority of all individuals helping to make each event run smoothly
- abstain from all use of tobacco, drugs, and/or alcohol, which are strictly prohibited
- follow NATS rules for cell phone use at NSA events: 1. Silence cell phones during auditions, announcements, and other events in progress. 2. Cell phones will be permitted OUTSIDE event venues and before and/or after scheduled events. 3. Cell phones must be out of sight during events (screens dark on silent mode, with the exceptions of when silenced phones video or audio record any audition or announcement not being professionally filmed by a NATS-contracted videographer and of course, medical emergencies. These rules will be strictly enforced. Anyone who does not abide by these rules will have their phones confiscated.

Signature of Chaperone _____

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian _____

Parent/Guardian cell phone _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

Date of signature _____

ALL FIELDS MUST BE FILLED.

**ELIGIBILITY AND
PARTICIPATION**

Children, Youth & High School Singers

Beginning with the 2023-2024 audition cycle, NATS requires a Minor Chaperone Form to allow permission for participation. After registration closes, a form will be requested of all participants under the age of 18.

Chaperones cannot be the teacher nor pianist.
Chaperones CAN care for a flock of singers.

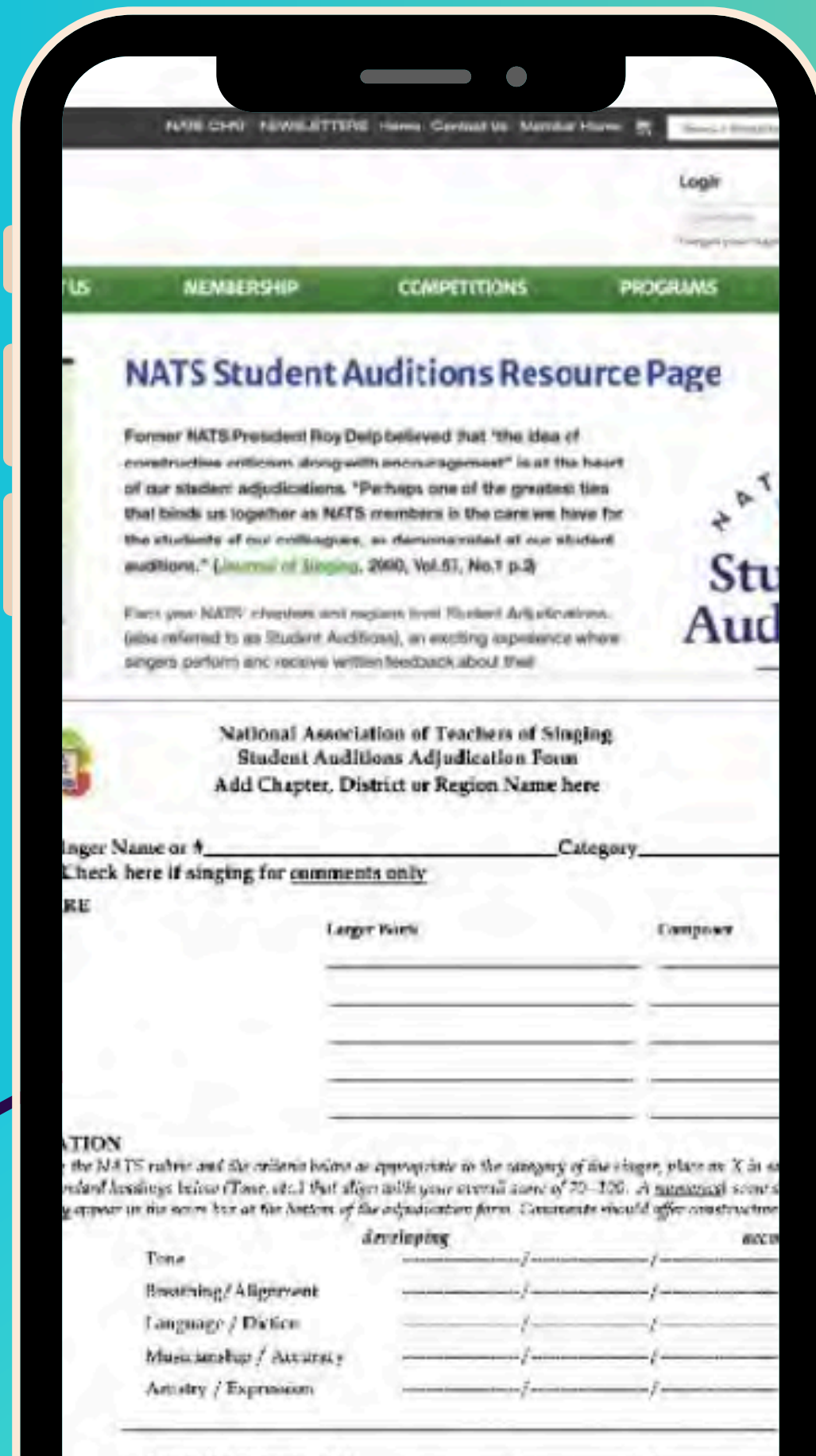
The form requires complete information with mobile numbers and signatures. Don't miss the top portion.



NSA GUIDELINES

National guidelines, including
video explanations and
templates for judging forms,
are available at:

<https://www.nats.org/nsaresources.html>



REGISTRATION

NATS.ORG

Registration is through
AuditionWare,
accessed through the
Member Home
page of the NATS
website:
www.nats.org

LOOK AHEAD

Make sure your NATS
membership is in good
standing (dues paid) at a
minimum several days
before registration is
set to close. It takes 24-48
hours to process dues and
have that reflected on the
registration website, to
allow you to
register.

BE READY


- Fillable Student Information Sheet
- A unique email address and telephone number for EACH student including minors
- Repertoire list
- Contact Information for your collaborative pianists



REGISTRATION

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Teachers have access to a fillable PDF student information sheet that they can send to all of their students to complete and return, so that teachers have all of the information they will need prior to completing the students' registrations.



NSA Student Pre-Registration
INFORMATION FORM

Collect your students' information needed to enter them in NSA

STUDENT'S FULL NAME

STUDENT'S DATE OF BIRTH

STUDENT'S EMAIL

STUDENT'S CELL#

STUDENT'S PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS

STUDENT'S VOICE TYPE

FORMER VOICE TEACHER'S FULL NAME

FORMER VOICE TEACHER'S EMAIL

ANY CONCURRENT VOICE TEACHER'S FULL NAME

CONCURRENT VOICE TEACHER'S EMAIL

LEVEL OF VOICE STUDY

COLLABORATIVE PIANIST(S)

CL PIANIST'S FULL NAME

CELL#

EMAIL

MT PIANIST'S FULL NAME

CELL#

EMAIL

CM PIANIST'S FULL NAME

CELL#

EMAIL

HJ SPIRITUALS PIANIST'S FULL NAME

CELL#

EMAIL

ONLY STUDENTS who are minors also complete the next 2 lines:

PARENT or Legal Guardian's FULL NAME

PARENT or Legal Guardian's CELL#

FOR VOICE TEACHER USE ONLY

ADD Category(s) of Entry for this student:



REGISTRATION

AGE LIMITS, LENGTH OF STUDY, AND VOICING

- When entering a student in an NSA event, the student's age on September 1st, 2025, and the student's level of voice study in progress on September 1st will be used to determine the student's category of entry.
 - Students will remain in the same category(s) for an entire auditions cycle - even if later in the academic year on their birthday, the student ages out of their category.
- The maximum age limit, length of study, and treble or tbb voice type are the qualifiers for category entry after a student enters high school.



REGISTRATION

CATEGORIES

- These auditions are for Classical, Commercial Music, and Music Theatre Divisions.
- 1 - Children
- 2 - Youth
- 3 & 4 - High School
- 5-10 - Collegiate Levels
- 11-14 - Adult Divisions

REPERTOIRE & NSA

- Please note that the repertoire requirements for the chapter auditions remain the same as those required for the National Student Auditions process.



REGISTRATION

TREBLE VS TBB

- Treble Categories: ODD numbered categories
 - Treble categories include the ***unchanged voice***, soprano, mezzo soprano, contralto, and counter tenor voice types.
- TBB Categories: EVEN numbered categories
 - TBB categories include the changed young male voice, tenor, baritone, bass baritone, and bass voice types.



REGISTRATION

SCHOOL NAMES

- If your institution is not listed in the Drop Down Menu, send an email to Casey L. Carter for the addition to be made allowing for 24-36 hours at ccarter@collin.edu.

STUDIO NAMES

- If your studio is not listed in the Drop Down Menu, send an email to Casey L. Carter for the addition to be made allowing for 24-36 hours at ccarter@collin.edu.



Multiple Voice Teacher Designations

DFW NATS
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- **Primary Voice Teacher** - the teacher who currently teaches a student the majority of their lessons in an ind. studio or academic degree program.
- **Concurrent Voice Teacher** - a teacher, who in addition to the primary teacher, also currently teaches regularly recurring voice lessons to the same student.
- **Supplemental Voice Teacher** - a teacher, who in addition to the primary teacher, also teaches recurring voice lessons to the student on a less than weekly basis.
- **Former Voice Teacher** - if a student has been studying with a sponsoring teacher for less than eight months, acknowledgement must be made naming any former voice teacher.
- **Remote Voice Teacher** - a teacher currently teaching a student that resides in a different location than the teacher. Considered a Primary Voice Teacher.



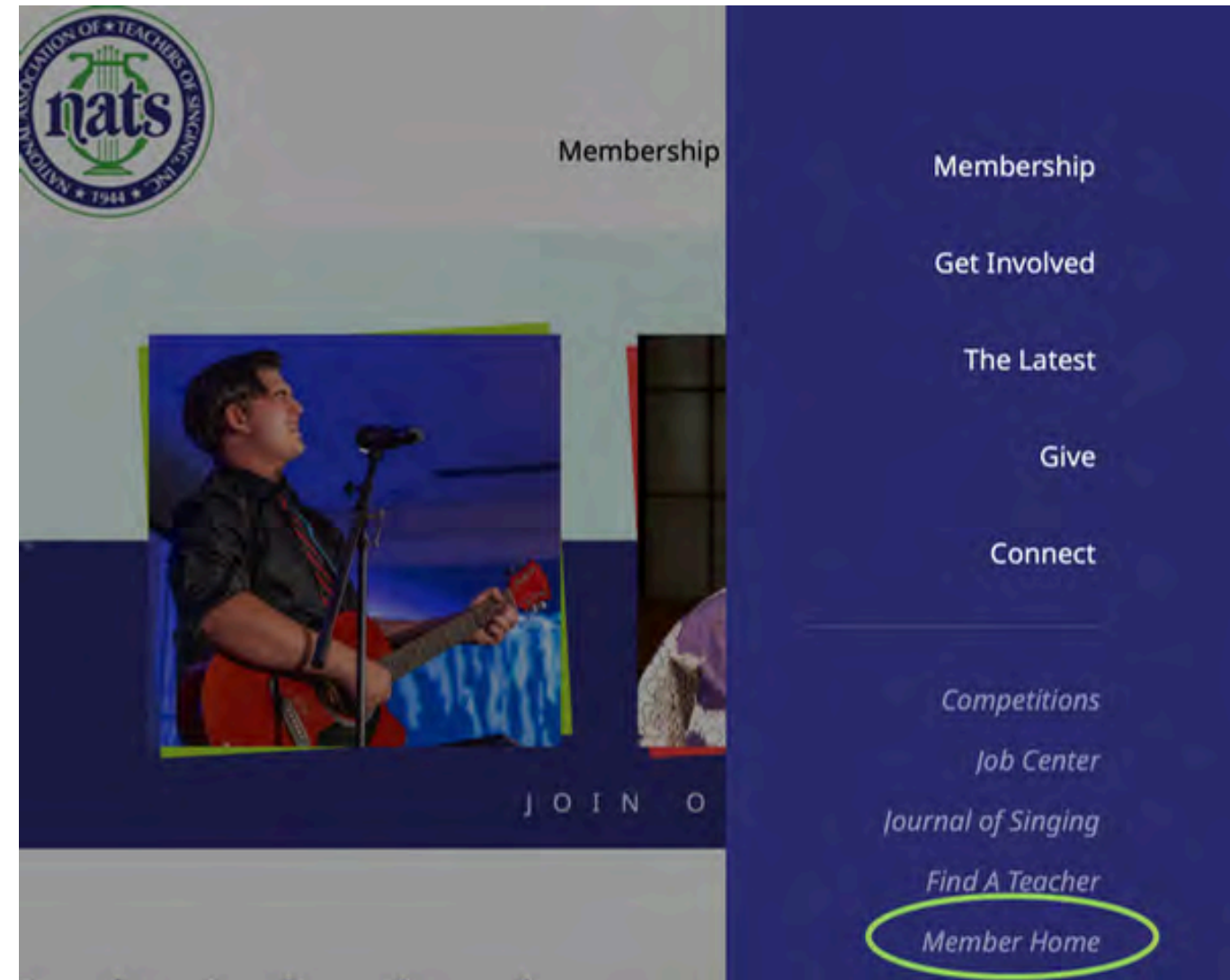
REGISTRATION

NATS.ORG

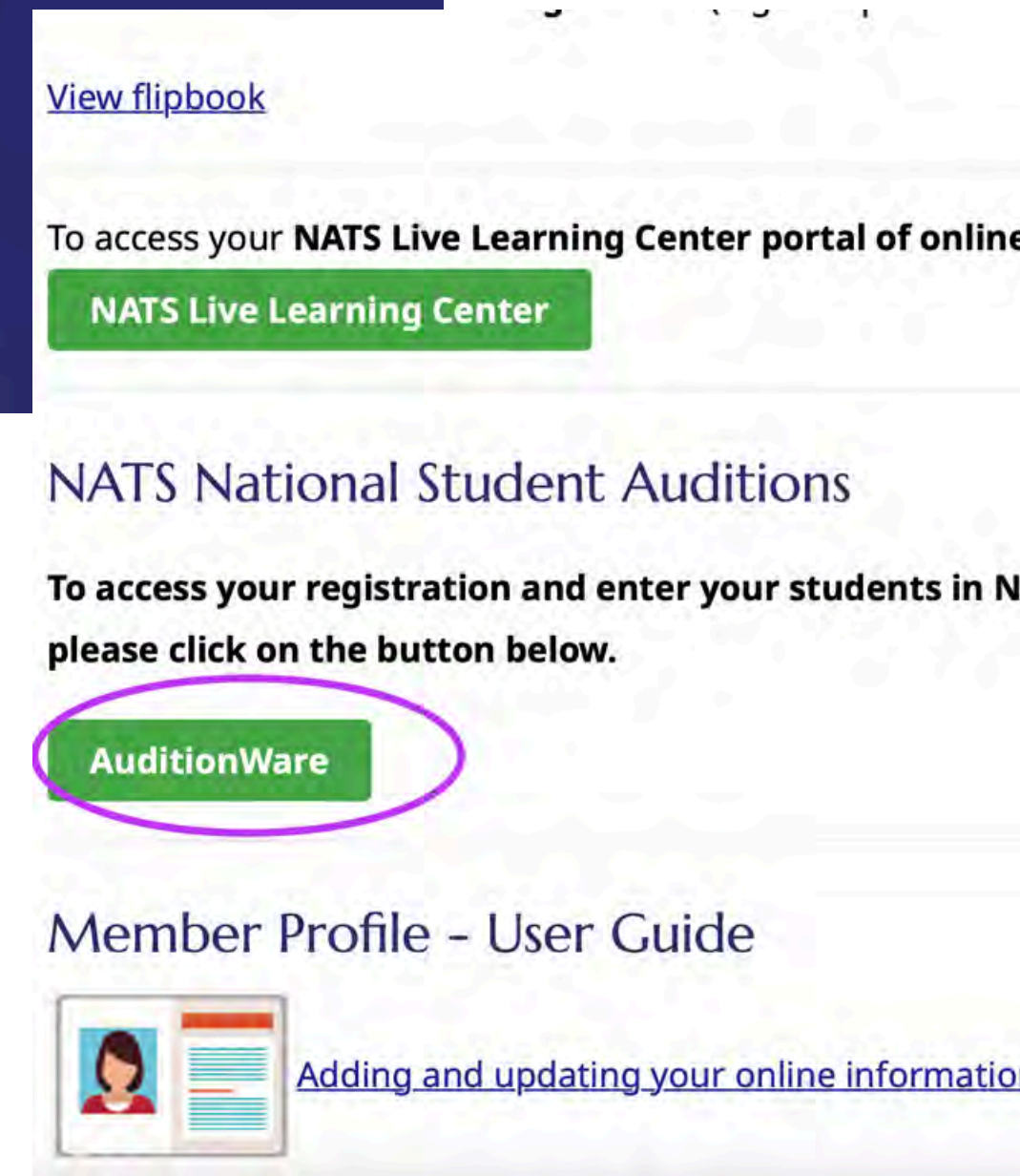
Login to NATS.org

Choose and Click from the
dropdown menu:
Member Home

Scroll Down the newly opened
page. Choose and click
AuditionWare



DFW NATS
SPRING AUDITIONS
SPRING 2026
Student Auditions
National Association of Teachers of Singing



REGISTRATION

AUDITIONWARE

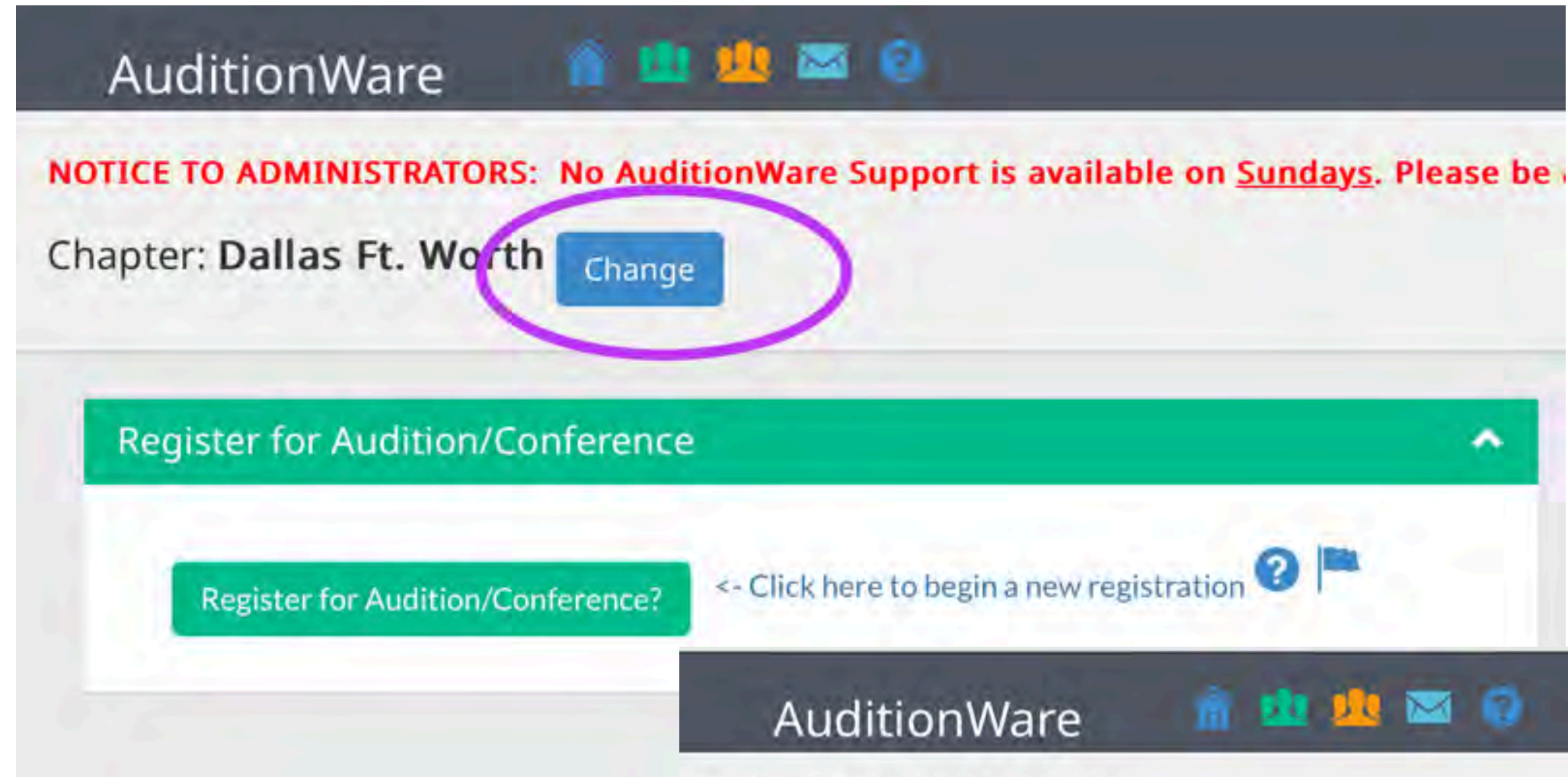
Check that DFW NATS
is available as you enter the
AuditionWare site.

If not, choose and click the
BLUE CHANGE BOX
to select DFW NATS.

Select DFW NATS
and click **SAVE**

DFW NATS
SPRING AUDITIONS
SPRING 2026

NATIONAL
Student
Auditions
National Association of Teachers of Singing



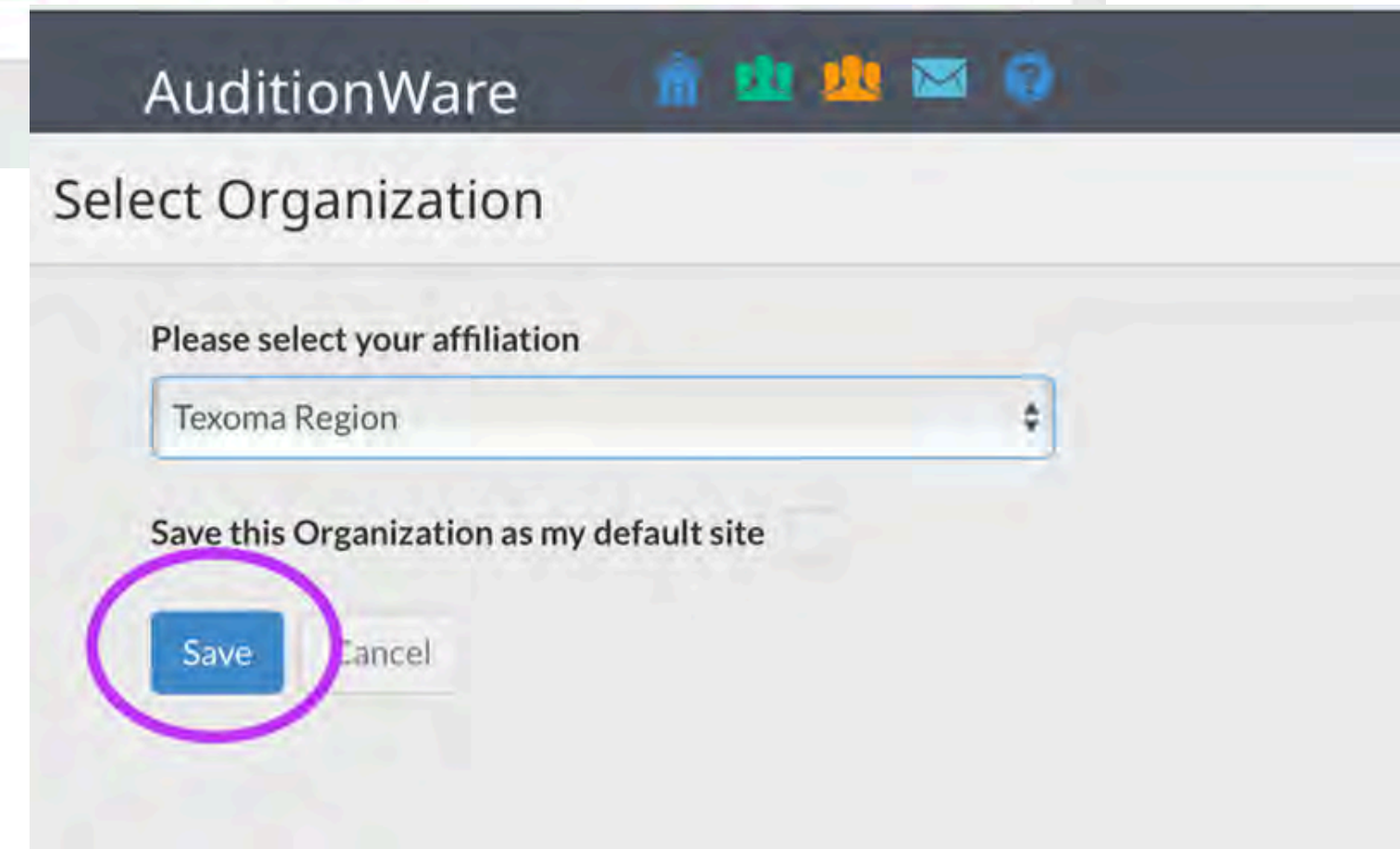
AuditionWare

NOTICE TO ADMINISTRATORS: No AuditionWare Support is available on Sundays. Please be

Chapter: Dallas Ft. Worth **Change**

Register for Audition/Conference

Register for Audition/Conference? <- Click here to begin a new registration



AuditionWare

Select Organization

Please select your affiliation

Texoma Region

Save this Organization as my default site

Save Cancel



REGISTRATION

AUDITIONWARE

Now that you have chosen DFW NATS, click the **GREEN BOX** to begin the registration process.

In the new screen, select DFW NATS Spring 2026, click the **BLUE SELECT** box to begin registration

AuditionWare

NOTICE TO ADMINISTRATORS: No AuditionWare Support is available on Sundays. Please be ad

Region: **Texoma** Region: [Change](#)

Register for Audition/Conference

[Register for Audition/Conference?](#) <- Click here to begin a new registration ?

AuditionWare

Select Event

Please select the event you wish to register for?

[REGION EVENT]-> Texoma - Texoma NATS Fall 2024 is not open for registr

* If you don't see your event in the list, return to the dashboard page and click **CHANGE** button to switch your Location affiliation.

[Select](#) [Cancel](#)

REGISTRATION ADDITIONS

DFW FEES

During registration, the system will automatically add the appropriate conference fee for teachers and the student audition entry fee for each student.

MEAL TICKETS

During registration, you can order lunch for the Membership Meeting.



REGISTRATION

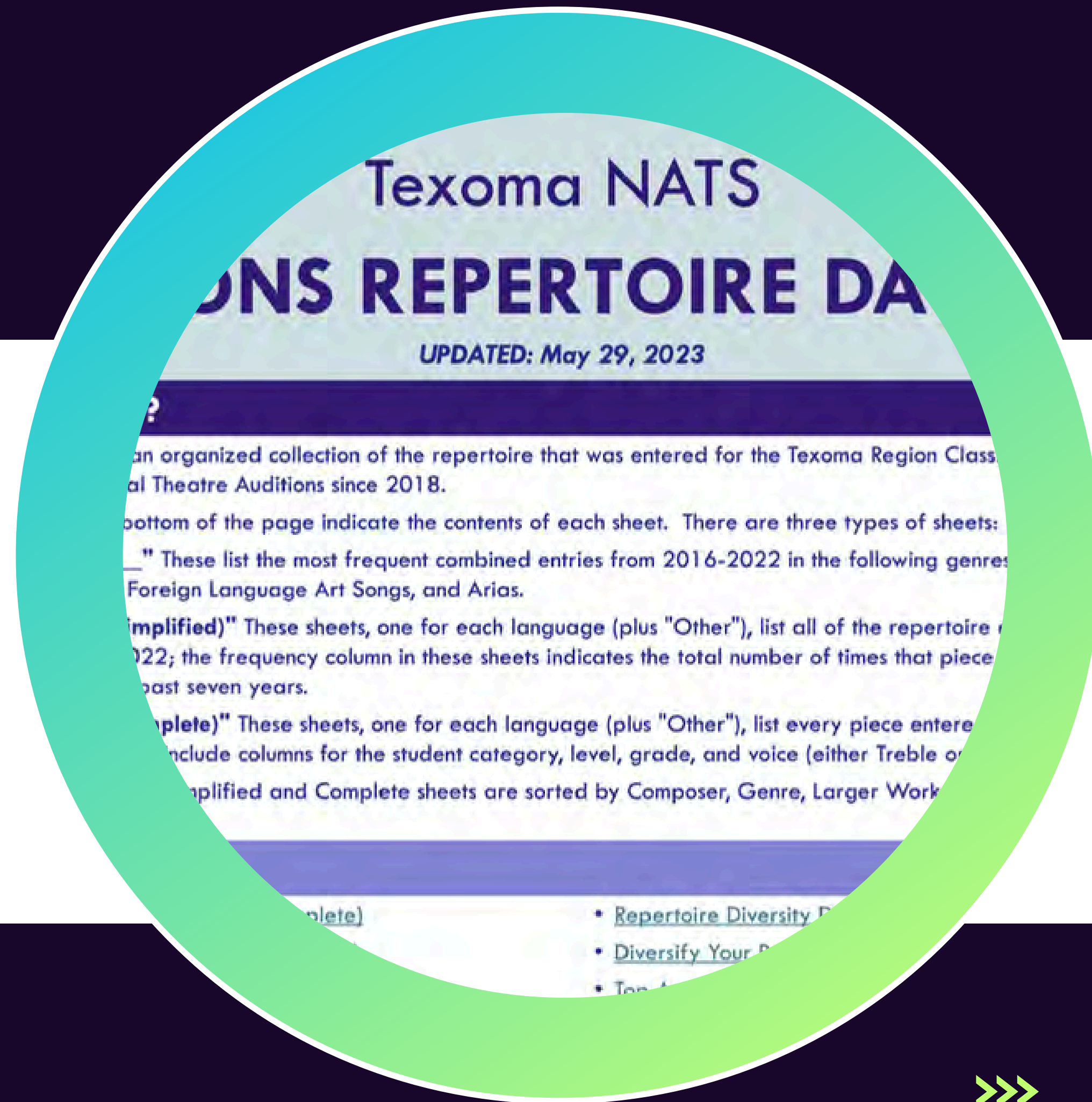
TAKE TWO!

- You do not have to complete registration and entry process all at once
 - You can begin your registration and click through to the Payment page, click **SAVE**, and come back to finish registration.
 - **DO NOT PAY** until all of the information is complete.



CATEGORIES & REPERTOIRE

- Failure to pay attention to categories/repertoire requirements can lead to disqualification in regards to students not having eligible selections.
- Please reach out if you have questions on categories or repertoire. It is always easier to solve this beforehand rather than after.



CONTRASTING

very different in style, color, or attitude; a difference between two or more things that exhibit clear differences between them.

Oxford English Dictionary

REPERTOIRE
MUST NOW BE
CONTRASTING
BY COMPOSER,
TEMPO, AND
TEXT.



CUTS

**Judicious cuts of
accompaniment are allowed.
Singers must otherwise perform
the work in its' entirety.**



The National Student Audition's policy is basically any voice can sing anything, as long as the student's selected repertoire meets the repertoire requirements of the category entered. There are 2 regulations that address this precisely:

- Published transpositions are permitted.
- Octave displacement as transposition is permitted.



**ANY VOICE
CAN SING
ANYTHING**

If the transposed key is available for purchase by a publisher, the student can sing the selection in that key. However, self-published or transcriptions downloaded from programs that host PDF editions of music such as MuseScore not officially published by the copyright holder are not allowed.



**WHAT
ABOUT THIS
VERSION?**

CATEGORIES & REPERTOIRE

Length of Study Reminders

- 1 & 2: No limit on length of study
- 3 & 4: No limit on length of study
- 5 & 6: 1-2 years post High School
- 7 & 8: 3-5 years post High School
- 9 & 10: 4+ years post High School and completion of bachelor degree
- 11 & 12: No length of study requirement (not pursuing a BA/BM in Music
nor holding a degree in music nor working as a professional musician)
- 13 & 14: No length of study requirement (students pursuing a BA/BM in Music
or holding degree in music) AND whose age levels falls outside the
age limits of other categories.



CATEGORIES & REPERTOIRE

Adult Categories at DFW NATS

ADULT AVOCATIONAL CATEGORIES

- 11 | 12 Students neither pursuing a bachelors degree in music nor holding a degree in music. Students are not working as professional musicians.

NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT CATEGORIES

- 13 | 14 Students pursuing a bachelors degree or higher in music and whose age or level of study falls outside the limits of other categories. Includes students working as professional musicians.



CATEGORIES & REPERTOIRE

Recent Changes:

- **MEMORIZATION:** All repertoire must be performed from memory with the exception of Oratorio, Mass, Requiem, and Cantata Arias. Singers may hold music scores for these types of arias as is traditional performance practice.
- **AGE LIMIT** is now determined by the age of the entered student on September 1, 2024, the first day of each audition cycle.

**ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION
REGARDING REPERTOIRE
GUIDELINES CAN BE
FOUND ON THE NATS
WEBSITE UNDER
FAQ - STUDENT
AUDITIONS**



CLASSICAL CATEGORIES & REPERTOIRE

TWO contrasting selections from classical repertoire

CL 1
CHILDREN UP TO
AGE 11 AND 5TH GRADE

CL 2
YOUTH GRADES
6TH - 8TH GRADE



CLASSICAL CATEGORIES & REPERTOIRE

Three contrasting selections from classical repertoire:

- Art song in English (English must be the original language)
- Art song in a language other than English
- Art song or aria

CL 3A / 4A
CL 3B / 4B
CL 5A / 6A
CL 5B / 6B
CL 11 / CL 12
CL 13 / 14



CLASSICAL CATEGORIES & REPERTOIRE

Four contrasting selections from classical repertoire:

- Art song in English (English must be the original language)
- Art song in a language other than English
- Aria
- One additional selection from the classical repertoire

CL 7A / 8A
CL 7B / 8B

AT LEAST
THREE LANGUAGES
MUST BE
REPRESENTED



CATEGORIES & REPERTOIRE

Five contrasting selections from classical repertoire:

- Art song in English (English must be the original language)
- Art song in a language other than English
- Operatic Aria
- Oratorio/Cantata Aria
- One additional selection from the classical repertoire

CL 9 / 10

**AT LEAST
THREE LANGUAGES
MUST BE
REPRESENTED**



National Association of Teachers of Singing



CLASSICAL CATEGORIES & REPERTOIRE

In the classical categories, the most common repertoire requirements and issues that result in incorrect entries include:

- The singer must have an Art song in English and English **MUST** be the original language of the selection.
- Not having enough languages represented in the set list. There is a minimum of 3 languages for Categories CL 7A/8A, CL 7B/8B, CL 9/10 (Third Year, Fourth/Fifth Year, Advanced).
- The repertoire found in the 24/26/28 Italian Art Songs and Arias collections may be counted as an aria or an art song in the high school and lower college classical categories. For the singers in the upper college categories and beyond, these pieces may count as an art song **ONLY**, regardless of origin. Any repertoire found outside of these collections will be considered only as the composer intended, as an art song **OR** aria. Many of these pieces are listed within the Texoma NATS Auditions Repertoire Database.

**THE SINGER MUST
HAVE AN ART SONG
IN ENGLISH, AND
ENGLISH MUST BE
THE ORIGINAL
LANGUAGE OF
THAT SELECTION.**

CATEGORIES & REPERTOIRE

It is always prudent to check all repertoire to ensure that something that you have always considered a song isn't actually from a larger work (opera, oratorio, or cantata). This would result in it being considered an aria, and in many cases would mean that the student no longer has a foreign language art song.

One way to check repertoire is through the Texoma NATS Auditions Repertoire Database (<https://bit.ly/3fCidyO>)

However, note that "Approved" in this database does not necessarily mean a piece is approved for all divisions.




Texoma NATS
AUDITIONS REPERTOIRE D
UPDATED: May 29, 2023

• **WHAT IS THIS?**

- This document is an organized collection of the repertoire that was entered for the Texoma NATS Auditions since 2016 and Musical Theatre Auditions since 2018.
- The tabs at the bottom of the page indicate the contents of each sheet. There are three tabs:
 - 1) **"Top ____"** These list the most frequent combined entries from 2016-2022 in the following categories: English, Foreign Language Art Songs, and Arias.
 - 2) **"____ (Simplified)"** These sheets, one for each language (plus "Other"), list all of the entries from 2016-2022; the frequency column in these sheets indicates the total number of times a piece was entered over the past seven years.
 - 3) **"____ (Complete)"** These sheets, one for each language (plus "Other"), list every piece entered. These sheets also include columns for the student category, level, grade, and voice (either Soprano, Alto, Tenor, or Bass).
- Currently, all of the Simplified and Complete sheets are sorted by Composer, Genre, Language, and then Title.

• **QUICKLINKS:**

- [English \(Simplified\) & English \(Complete\)](#)
- [French \(Simplified\) & French \(Complete\)](#)
- [German \(Simplified\) & German \(Complete\)](#)
- [Repertoire Diversity Database](#)
- [Diversify Your Repertoire](#)
- [Top Art Songs in English](#)


Student Auditions
—*—
National Association of Teachers of Singing



MUSICAL THEATRE CATEGORIES & REPERTOIRE

TWO 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 1 - CHILDREN
-UP TO AGE 11
-BELOW 6TH GRADE

MT 2 YOUTH
-6TH TO 8TH GRADES



MUSICAL THEATRE CATEGORIES & REPERTOIRE

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 3A / 4A
MT 3B / 4B
MT 5A / 6A
MT 5B / 6B
MT 11 / MT 12
MT 13 / MT 14

MUSICAL THEATRE CATEGORIES & REPERTOIRE

- 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 7A / 8A
MT 7B / 8B

MUSICAL THEATRE CATEGORIES & REPERTOIRE

- FIVE 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 9 / 10

COMMERCIAL MUSIC

ACCOMPANIMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Singers may perform each audition song with any of the following accompaniment options:
 - a pre-recorded instrumental track without backing vocals,
 - one live collaborative acoustic instrumentalist,
 - or for a limited number of songs (see CM Categories of Entry Repertoire Requirements) **the singer may accompany themselves on an acoustic instrument from memory.**
 - Keyboards are a singular exception to the acoustic instrument requirements and are accepted accompanying instruments.



COMMERCIAL MUSIC

MICROPHONE REQUIREMENT

- All CM auditions must be performed with a microphone amplifying the vocals.
- The use of a microphone requires artistic choices, which influence vocal interpretation. Intentionally varying the distance of the microphone from the singer's mouth creates stylized vocal effects.
- Microphone technique is one of the elements adjudicated in NSA's CM categories.



COMMERCIAL MUSIC CATEGORIES & REPERTOIRE

TWO contrasting age-appropriate selections
performed in Commercial Music style(s).

CM 1 - CHILDREN
-UP TO AGE 11
-BELOW 6TH GRADE

CM 2 YOUTH
-6TH TO 8TH GRADES



COMMERCIAL MUSIC CATEGORIES & REPERTOIRE

THREE contrasting full songs performed in a CM style(s): At least 1 ballad and 1 up tempo. Only 1 song may be an original song, instead of a cover. Only 1 song may be self-accompanied on an acoustic instrument, instead of performing with an instrumental track or one live collaborative acoustic instrumentalist

CM 3 / 4
CM 5 / 6
CM 11 / 12
CM 13 / 14

COMMERCIAL MUSIC CATEGORIES & REPERTOIRE

- FIVE contrasting full songs performed in a CM style(s): Up to 3 songs may be original songs, instead of covers. Up to 2 songs may be self-accompanied on an acoustic instrument, instead of performing with an instrumental track or one live collaborative acoustic instrumentalist.

CM 9
CM 10

COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS

Each pianist may only play for
a total of ten student singers daily.
Ten singers on Friday, March 7th.
Ten singers on Saturday, March 8th.



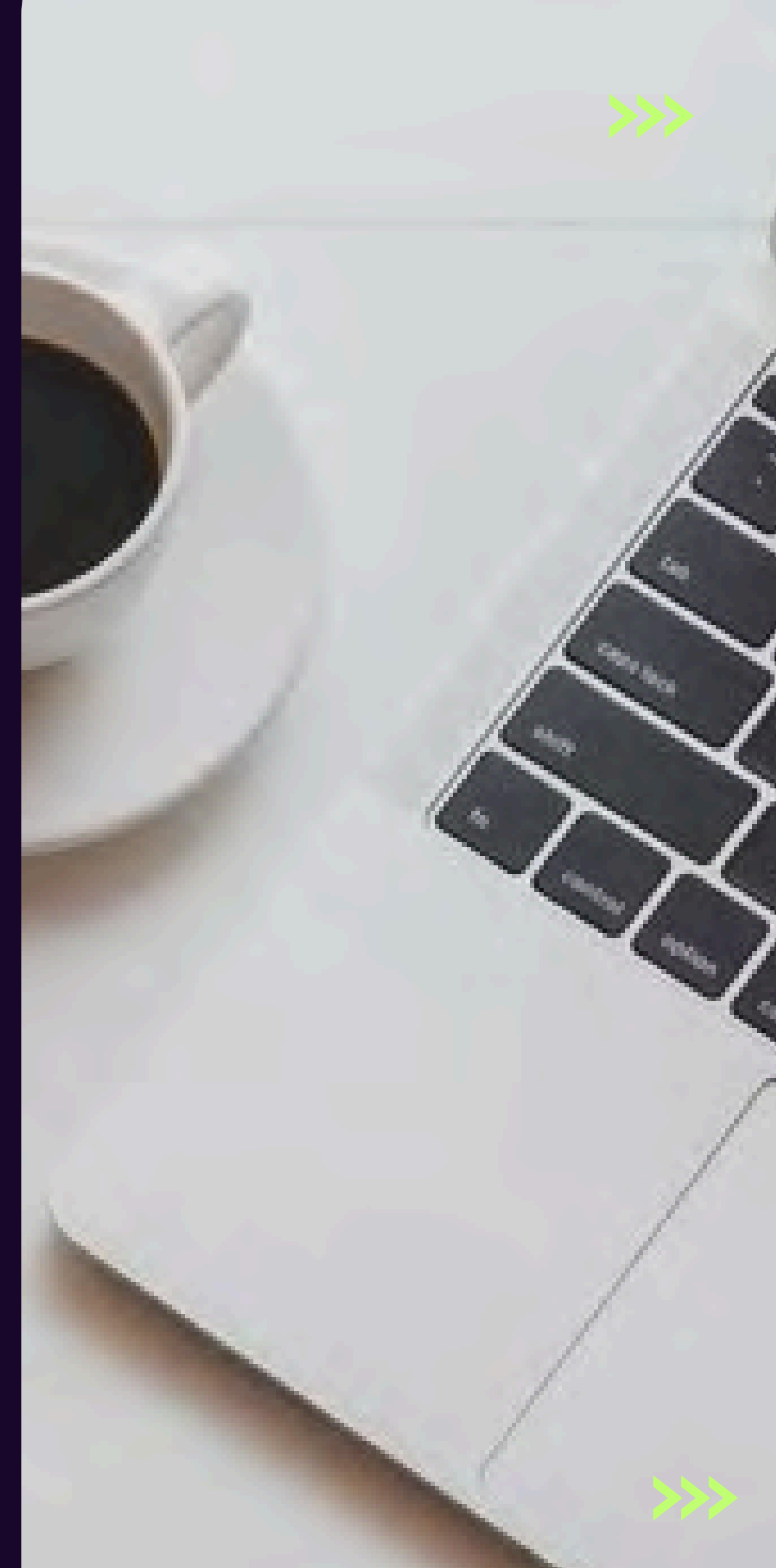
COPYRIGHT POLICY

As a result of recent court rulings, the primary responsibility for following copyright law is being transferred from NATS to teachers, singers, and pianists. With our new copyright policy and teacher/student/pianist copyright acknowledgements, it is **NO LONGER NECESSARY** for administrators to check for original scores at NATS events.

Furthermore, the use of iPads and tablets as musical scores for collaborative pianists during all levels of NATS auditions has been approved, and they are held to the same standards of copyright as any other musical score used for auditions.

NATS still encourages its members, their students, accompanists and the general population to become

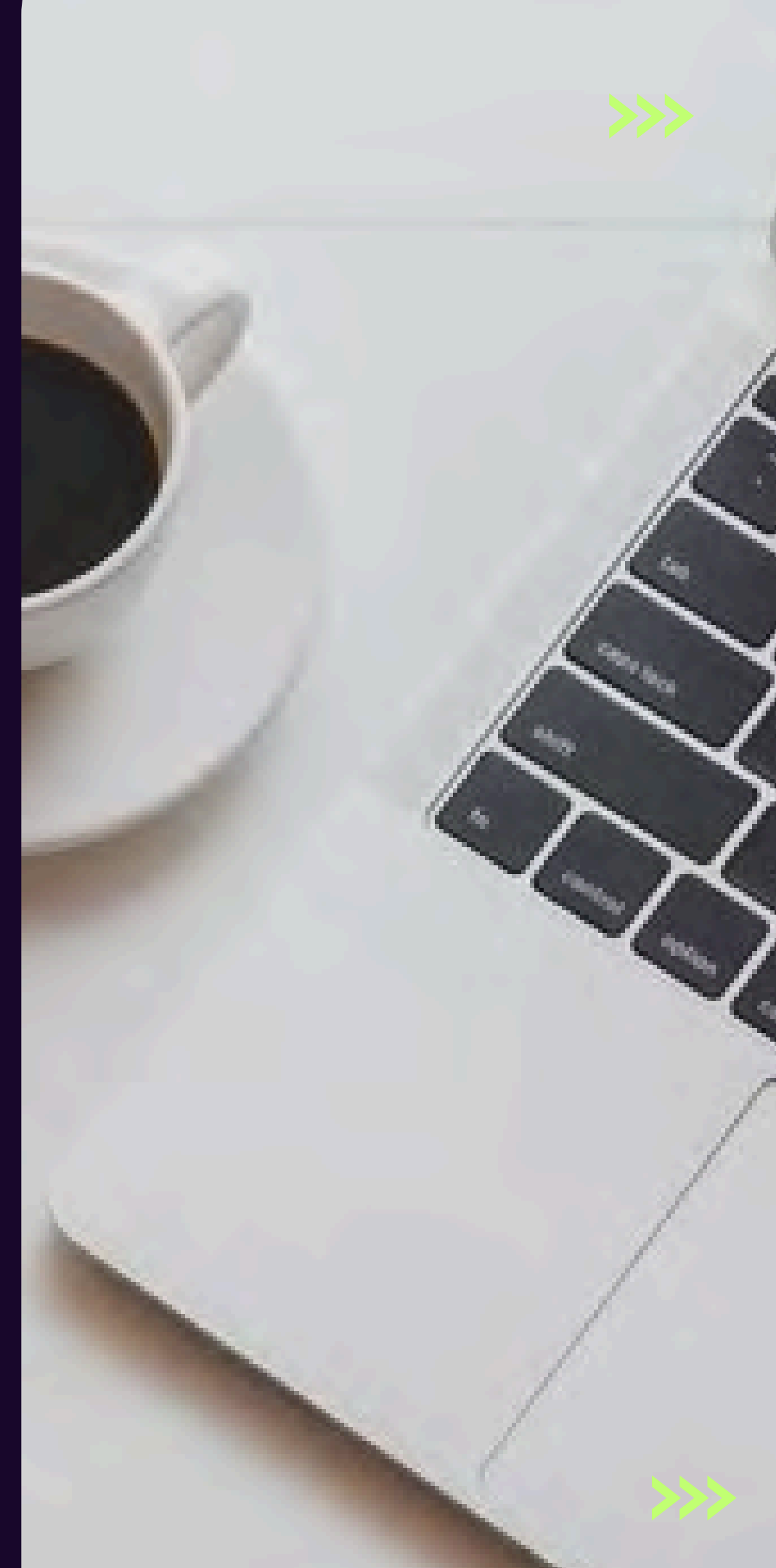
educated about, and to comply with, all applicable copyright laws. Reproduction of a copyrighted work constitutes copyright infringement unless a license to reproduce such work has been obtained, the use is considered fair use, the work is in the public domain, or a valid exception to copyright infringement exists.



COPYRIGHT POLICY

NATS requires students, teachers and other participants in NATS affiliated events, auditions and competitions to affirm compliance with the NATS Copyright Policy, and to use only authorized reproductions of copyrighted works. NATS members, singers, and pianists will need to affirm that they will only use legal copies of music during NATS events as part of the registration process. Entrants will not be able to compete until they and their pianist complete this copyright acknowledgment. As you register, please review the updated NATS Copyright Laws to which we must adhere.

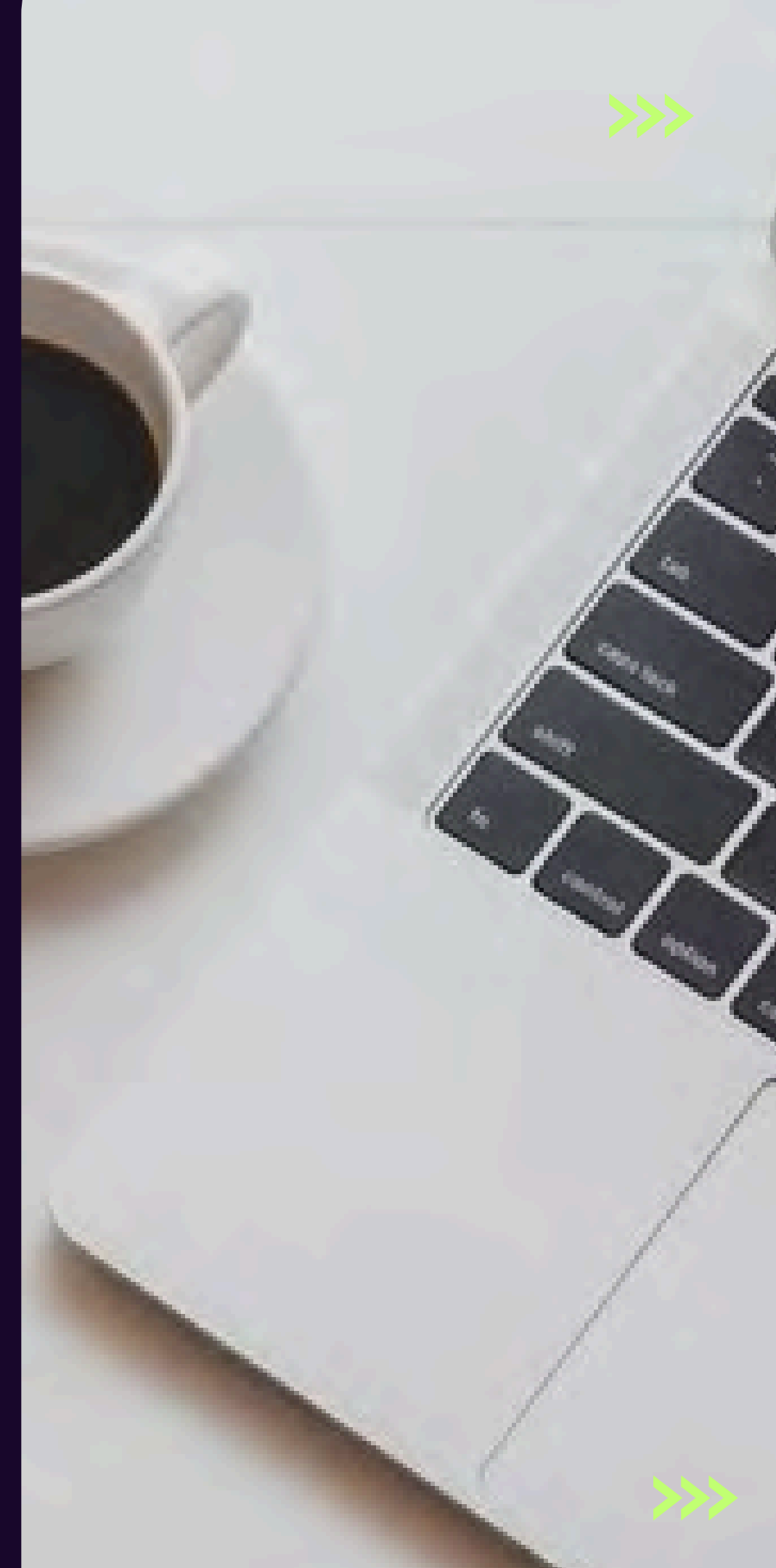
For additional
information
please refer to
the NATS
Copyright
Resource Center.



COPYRIGHT POLICY

Copyright law prohibits photographing or digitally reproducing sheet music, including taking photos, to be used on iPads or tablets.

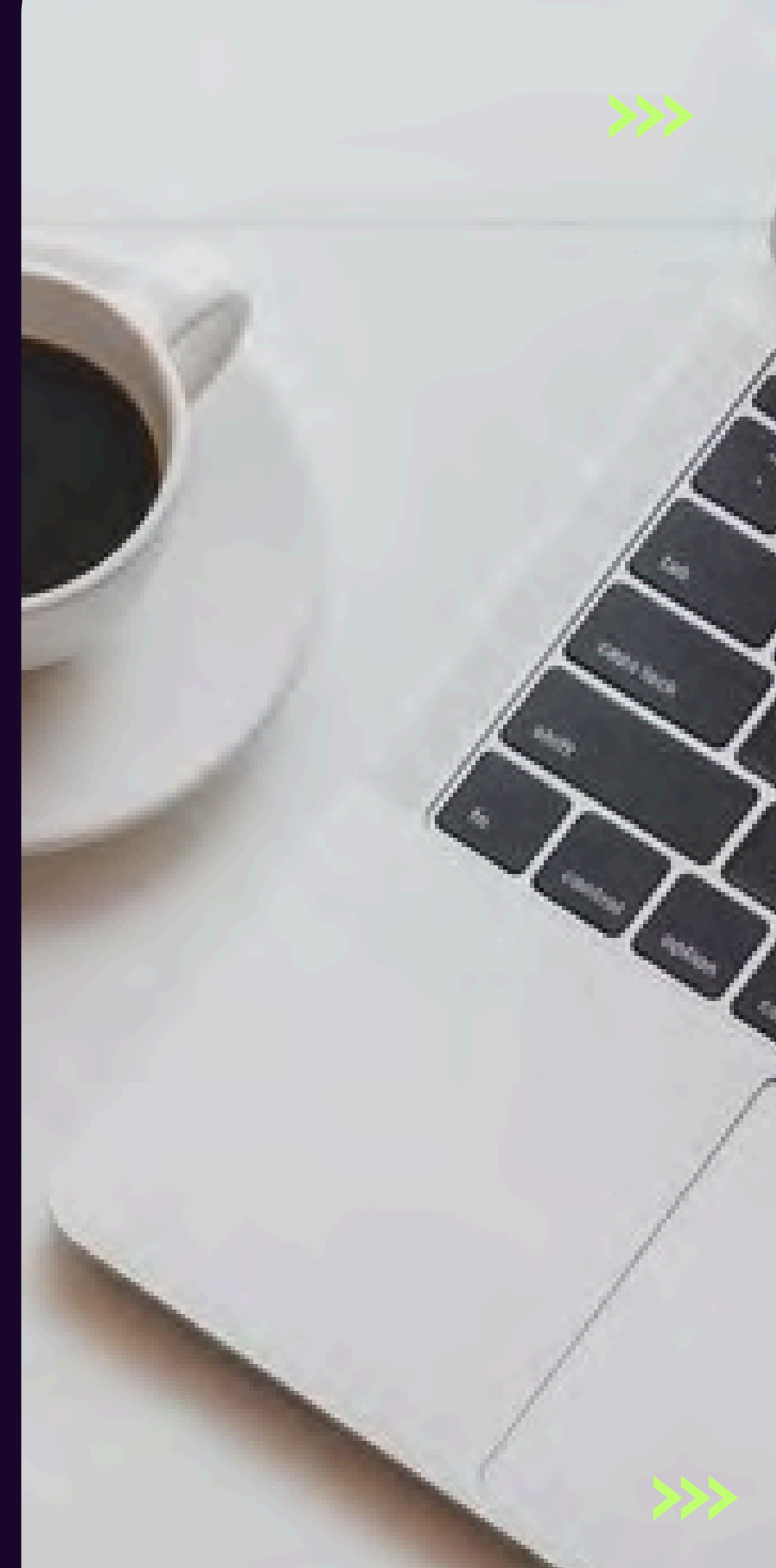
- ✓ Singers and their collaborative pianist must perform from legally purchased, printed music or an officially licensed digital score with proof of purchase.
- ✓ Downloads from the public domain in the United States- such as IMSLP or Song Central – must be the exact downloadable editions.
- ✗ When a collaborative pianist chooses to perform from an illegal copy during the auditions, if flagged by the adjudication panel, the onus of the responsibility for the copyright violation preventing the singer from advancing to additional rounds rests with the pianist.
- ✗ While the DFW NATS Auditions Team carefully evaluates violations on a case-by-case basis, blatant disregard of the copyright policy will result in a competitor being moved to Ineligible To Advance excluding the student from advancing through the competitive rounds of the auditions.



COPYRIGHT POLICY

According to NATS Copyright FAQ:

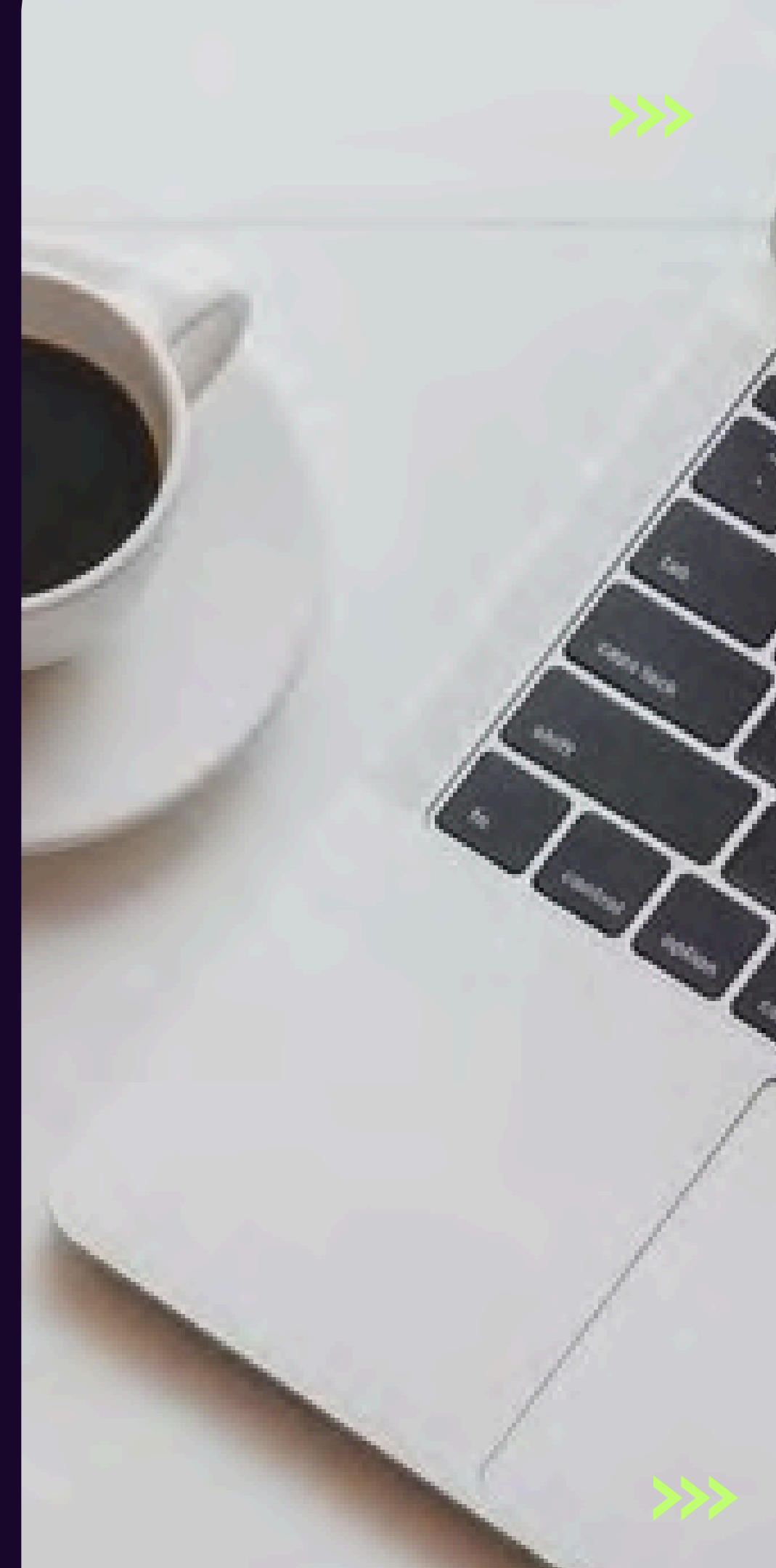
- Copyright law protects musical works and grants the copyright holder the exclusive right to reproduce them.
- Photographing, scanning, or taking screenshots of sheet music on a digital device (iPad, tablet, phone) constitutes making an unauthorized copy.
- Owning a score does not grant the right to make additional copies in any form (including screenshots or photos).
- In addition, copyright law states that making a copy to negotiate a difficult page turn is not permitted. In instances such as this, a page turner or an extra copy of the score often makes the performance run smoothly.



COPYRIGHT POLICY

An important distinction:

- **A musical work can be in the public domain, while a specific edition of the score can still be under copyright. For example, Schubert's songs are public domain, but a newly engraved Peters edition is not.**
- **Pianists and their singers may use any legally owned printed score, but they cannot scan, photograph, or copy a copyrighted edition simply because the underlying composition is public domain.**



COPYRIGHT POLICY

Acceptable music includes:

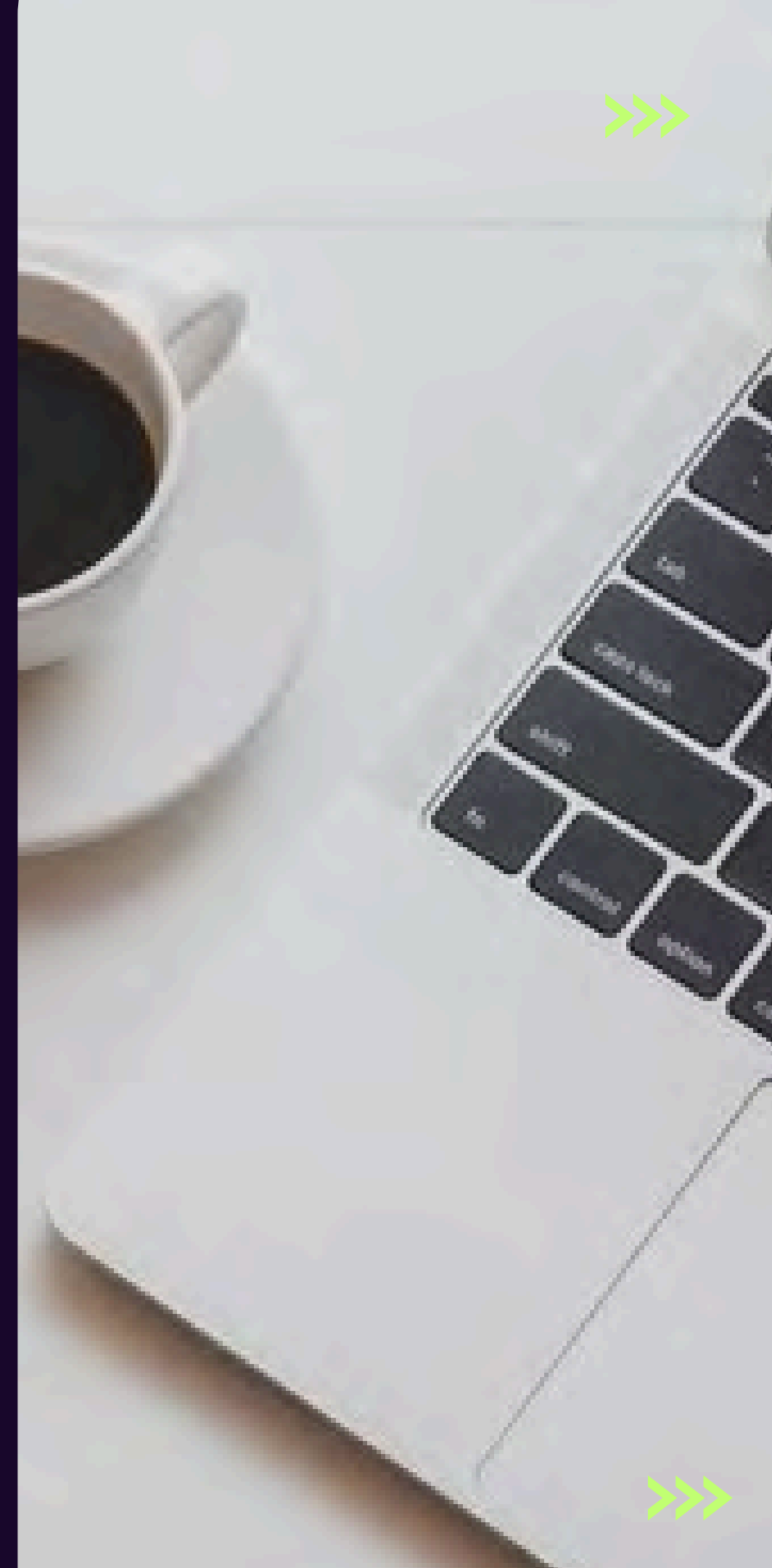
- ✓ Original hard-copy score
- ✓ Legally purchased licensed digital score (with purchase receipt)
- ✓ A work in the public domain in the United States can be printed or used on an iPad during the auditions.



COPYRIGHT POLICY

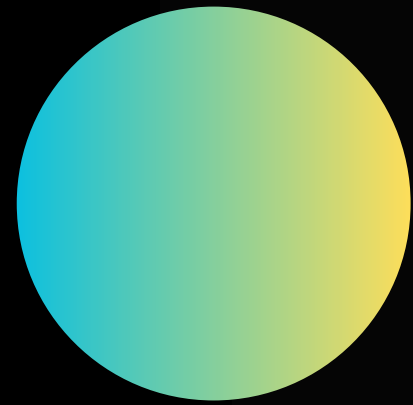
Unacceptable music includes:

- ✗ Photos, scans, or screenshots of non-public domain editions or non-legally purchased music on iPads or tablets or photocopied into binders
- ✗ Screenshots of PDFs shared by teachers or friends
- ✗ Copies from library books, anthologies, or online images without a licensed download



ADJUDICATION

DFW NATS
SPRING AUDITIONS
SPRING 2026



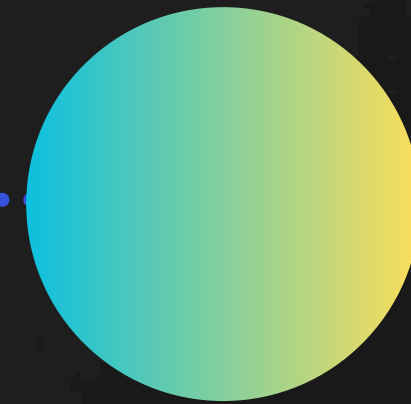
Prelims

During the preliminary round ONLY, the judges will write constructive comments on their scoring sheets. These sheets will be returned to the singers in order that the singers may benefit from the written comments.



90-100

MASTERING



80-89

ADVANCING



70-79

DEVELOPING

**ALL SINGERS PARTICIPATING IN THE AUDITIONS ARE TO BE
RATED ACCORDING TO THE LEVELS ABOVE DURING THE
PRELIMINARY ROUND.**

**JUDGES SHOULD FOLLOW AND REVIEW THE
NATS AUDITION RUBRIC: CLASSICAL CATEGORIES
FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS.**



ADJUDICATION

TEXOMA REGION
MUSICAL THEATRE &
COMMERCIAL MUSIC

6

Minutes

CHILDREN & YOUTH
CATEGORIES

8

Minutes

HIGH SCHOOL
CATEGORIES

10

Minutes

LOWER COLLEGE,
ADULT AVOCATIONAL,
& NON-TRADITIONAL
CATEGORIES

12

Minutes

UPPER COLLEGE
CATEGORIES

15

Minutes

ADVANCED
CATEGORIES

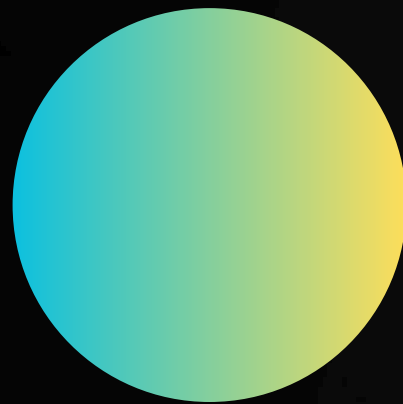
AUDITION TIME LIMITS

AUDITION TIME LIMITS ARE APPLIED TO ASSIGNED CATEGORIES



ADJUDICATION

DFW NATS
SPRING AUDITIONS
SPRING 2026



AUDITION TIMING
BEGINS WHEN
THE SINGER
ANNOUNCES
THEIR FIRST PIECE
OF REPERTOIRE.



TIME LIMITS ARE FOR
THE ADJUDICATION
PROCESS.

THE TIME LIMIT
INCLUDES ALL ASPECTS
OF THE AUDITION, NOT
JUST THE ACTUAL
SINGING TIME.

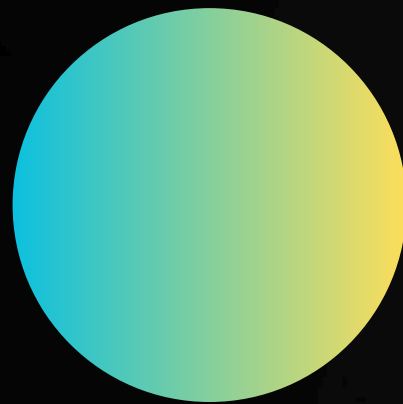


REPERTOIRE DOES
NOT NEED TO BE
LIMITED TO THE
CATEGORY TIME
CONSTRAINTS.
HOWEVER, JUDGES
WILL STOP LISTENING
THEN THE TIME LIMIT
IS REACHED.



PRELIMS TO FINALS

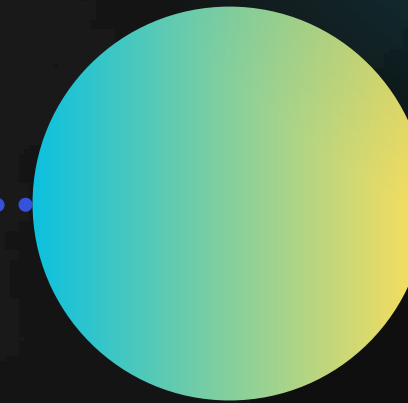
DFW NATS
SPRING AUDITIONS
SPRING 2026



DFW NATS WILL
CONTINUE TO HOLD
TWO ROUNDS FOR
OUR SPRING
AUDITIONS.
PRELIMINARY
ROUNDS AND FINAL
ROUNDS.



THE TOP FIVE
STUDENTS FROM EACH
CATEGORY THAT
EARNED AT LEAST TWO
SCORES OF A NINETY,
OR AN AVERAGE SCORE
OF 90+, WILL ADVANCE
DIRECTLY TO THE FINAL
ROUND.



FINALISTS WILL
PERFORM FOR A NEW
ADJUDICATION
PANEL AND WILL BE
RANKED BY THE
JUDGES.



DFW CHAPTER AWARDS

DFW NATS
SPRING AUDITIONS
SPRING 2026



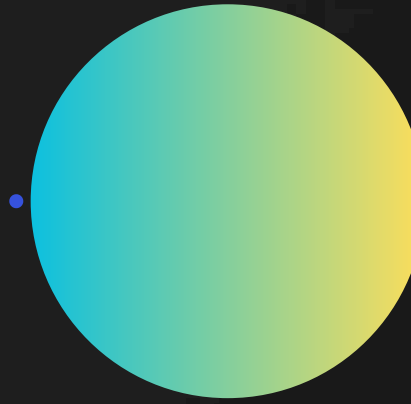
CLASSICAL DIVISION AWARDS

- Lanelle Blanton Stevenson Award – Outstanding High School Treble Vocalist
- Joanne Clowe Award – Outstanding Highschool TBB Vocalist
- Betty Utter Award – Outstanding Lower College/Independent Studio Vocalist
- James McKinney Award – Outstanding Upper College/Independent Studio Vocalist



DFW CHAPTER AWARDS

DFW NATS
SPRING AUDITIONS
SPRING 2026



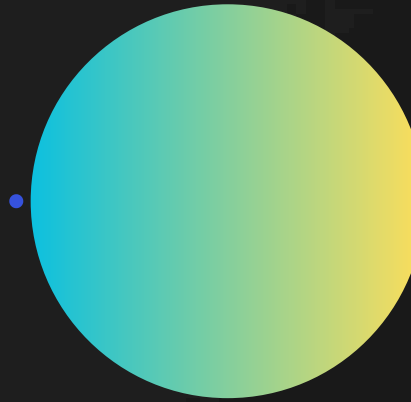
MUSIC THEATRE DIVISION AWARDS

- Louise Lerch Awards – Outstanding High School Treble and TBB Vocalists
- Anne Weeks Jackson Awards – Outstanding College/Independent Studio Treble and TBB Vocalists



DFW CHAPTER AWARDS

DFW NATS
SPRING AUDITIONS
SPRING 2026



COMMERCIAL MUSIC DIVISION AWARD

- Outstanding Commercial Music Vocalist – awarded to a vocalist by the Finals Adjudication Panel. There is no age or grade requirement for this award.



CONTACTS

For questions regarding the Student Auditions....

Casey L. Carter (ccarter@collin.edu)

Texoma Auditions Chair/DFW Auditions Chair



For questions regarding DFW Chapter NATS....

Corey Trahan (corey.trahan@tcu.edu)

DFW Chapter President

