

2009 NATS Singing Festival General Information and Audition Requirements

Saturday, April 19, 2009 at San Francisco State University, Creative Arts Building

Auditions: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Final Round and Awards Presentation: 6:00 pm in Knuth Recital Hall

Purpose of the Festival

The annual San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of NATS Singing Festival offers to our membership's students

- Motivation toward vocal and musical growth
- Encouragement toward the preparation of appropriate repertoire for many genres of music
- An opportunity to sing before qualified and impartial judges and to receive constructive criticism of their performance
- An opportunity to have outstanding musical talent and vocal achievement recognized by teachers and peers.

Categories and Divisions

We offer four categories in which singers may participate: Art Song, Aria, Musical Theater/ American Songbook and Avocational. Please note that participants in the Avocational category may enter only that division; students in other categories may enter up to three divisions. All students may enter any division "for comments only" by indicating that preference on their Repertoire and Judge's Comment Sheet.

Divisions are determined by the age of the entrant as of April 18, 2009. All entrants must present proof of age to the Registration Desk and check-in. Acceptable forms of identification are a Driver's License, DMV ID Card, Passport or Birth Certificate. **Student Identification cards are NOT acceptable.**

Category	Division	Age Range	Date of Birth
Art Song	1	through age 14	on or after 4/19/94
Art Song	2	15-16	between 4/19/92 and 4/18/94
Art Song	3	17-18	between 4/19/90 and 4/18/92
Art Song	4	19-20	between 4/19/88 and 4/18/90
Art Song	5	21-22	between 4/19/86 and 4/18/88
Art Song	6	23-24	between 4/19/84 and 4/18/86
Art Song (professional track)	7	25 and older	on or before 4/19/84
Aria	8	through age 21	on or after 4/19/87
Aria	9	22-24	between 4/19/84 and 4/18/87
Aria (professional track)	10	25 and older	on or before 4/19/84
Musical Theater/American Songbook	11	through age 14	on or after 4/19/94
Musical Theater/American Songbook	12	15-16	between 4/19/92 and 4/18/94
Musical Theater/American Songbook	13	17-18	between 4/19/90 and 4/18/92
Musical Theater/American Songbook	14	19 and older	on or before 4/19/90
Avocational	15	25 and older	on or before 4/19/84

Teachers and students must ensure that participants have entered the appropriate category and division paying careful attention to age limits and repertoire requirements. If a student has not met the requirements of a division, he/she will be allowed to sing during the festival. **At no time will the student be challenged directly.** Adjudicators will evaluate the performance as usual, but will make a note of any repertoire or age discrepancy on the comment form. The festival chair will address this discrepancy while tallying results for each division and will address any comments to the teacher of the affected student.

Audition and Repertoire Requirements

- To qualify to enter the festival, a student must have been studying with an SFBAC NATS teacher for a minimum of six (6) months prior to the date of the Festival. If the student has studied with more than one SFBAC NATS member during those six months, both teachers will be named on the registration form.
- All music must be memorized. The only exception to this rule is in the Aria division where it is permissible to sing oratorio excerpts from the score.
- Each performer is allowed eight (8) minutes, which includes time spent entering the room, conferring with the accompanist, singing, and exiting.
- **TO HONOR COPYRIGHT LAWS PHOTOCOPIES ARE NOT PERMITTED. ELECTRONIC DOWNLOADS MUST BEAR PROOF OF PURCHASE.**
- Singers choose their first selection. Judges may request an excerpt only, or may ask a singer to stop midway through a piece.
- Mark all cuts clearly for the accompanist and judges.
- Singers presenting inappropriate repertoire (i.e. opera arias in the art song division, not fulfilling language requirements, etc.) will be evaluated, but will lose points in the "appropriateness of selection" section of their evaluation. It is up to the judges to decide questions of propriety. If consensus cannot be reached, the Festival Chairperson will make the final decision.
- Singers must perform the repertoire submitted with their registration form. *Repertoire changes constitute grounds for disqualification for the awards in that division. Students will revert to "evaluation only" status, and no fees will be refunded.*
- Entrants with outstanding fees must clear all obligations before performing.

Registration Fees

Registration fees are non-refundable. Fees vary according to the number of divisions entered, as follows:

One Division	\$35	Two Divisions	\$50	Three Divisions	\$65
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Specific Repertoire Requirements by Category

Art Song, Divisions 1, 2 and 3: All selections must be Art Songs. Prepare and submit two selections. One song must be in English; at least one other language must be represented. Students in Division 1 may present 2 songs in English. Students in Division 1 may present 2 songs in English, if they prefer.

Art Song, Division 4: All selections must be Art Songs. Prepare and submit three selections, in at least two different languages; one song must be in English.

Art Song, Divisions 5, 6 and 7: All selections must be Art Songs. Prepare and submit three selections, in at least three different languages; one song must be in English.

Aria, Divisions 8, 9 and 10: Repertoire acceptable in this category includes arias from opera, operetta, oratorio, cantatas; concert arias and other extended works (i.e. Mozart's "Exultate, Jubilate"). Prepare and submit titles for two or three selections, in any language. Pieces must be sung in their original or traditional language. Repertoire forms must include both the title of your selection and the larger work from which it was taken.

Musical Theater/American Songbook, Divisions 11, 12, 13 and 14: Prepare and submit titles for two selections in contrasting styles. Selections may be jazz standards or taken from a published musical theater, stage or film production or the "American Songbook". Repertoire forms must include both the title of your selection and the larger work from which it was taken.

Division 15 - Avocational: Prepare and submit three selections from art song, opera, operetta, oratorio and/or musical theater/American songbook repertoire in any combination. Repertoire in any language and appropriate to any other Festival category may be performed in this category.

If a division has fewer than 7 entrants it may be combined with another division; if a division has more than 14 entrants, it may be divided into 2 or more divisions.

Final Round and Awards Presentation

First Place winners of each division are expected to participate in the **Final Round**, which will be held on **Saturday, April 18, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Recital Hall** at San Francisco State University. Winners will perform one selection from the repertoire they performed in the festival. If the winner of a division is unable to perform at the Final Round, the second place recipient will be invited to participate and compete for the Overall Award. Everyone who has participated in the Festival as singer or supporter is strongly encouraged and invited to attend the Final Round. There is no participation fee for singers or admission charge for family and friends.

Eleanor Cohen Award

The Eleanor Cohen award was established in 2006 in honor of Eleanor Cohen, NATS Emerita. The award is given specifically to a deserving vocalist who began studying voice on or after the age of 35. Presentation of this award is at the discretion of the evening's adjudicators and/or Ms. Cohen, if she is in attendance.

Edwin Barlow Award

The Edwin Barlow Award was established in 1995 as a tribute to Edwin Barlow, a local teacher, performer and NATS member who died in 1994. At the Singing Festival Final Round, participating finalists age 25 and older will be evaluated by esteemed judges to identify winners of the Barlow Award.

Katherine Harvey Award

The Katherine Harvey Award was established in 2009. At the Singing Festival Final Round, participating finalists age 19 through 24 will be evaluated by esteemed judges to identify winners of the Harvey Award.

Page Swift Award

The Page Swift Award was established in 2009. At the Singing Festival Final Round, participating finalists up to and including age 18 will be evaluated by esteemed judges to identify winners of the Swift Award.

Procedures

- In early April, performers and their teachers will receive an **e-mail confirmation** of their performance time, performance location, and their accompanist's name.
- A minimum of seven (7) singers must perform (not just enter) in a division for it to remain competitive. If fewer sing, the division may be combined with another division.
- If more than 14 singers enter a division, that division may be divided into smaller sections.
- First place winners of a prior year's Festival may not win in that division again; they must enter the next older age division.
- In each division, the judges' scores determine winners. First place winners will receive \$100, second place winners will receive \$50, third place winners will receive \$25 and fourth place winners will receive a certificate of Honorable Mention.
- Winners are announced at the close of each division throughout the day. Singers must be present to learn their status. Performers' adjudication sheets will be returned to the teacher within two weeks after the Festival. The winners' names and their teachers' names will be posted on the SFBAC website within 5 days following the Festival. Results will also be published in the May chapter newsletter.
- All singers will be accompanied by a NATS contracted pianist. ***Voice teachers may not accompany their students. No exceptions will be made.***
- Accompanists have the right to decline to rehearse with a contestant if they feel a rehearsal is not necessary. We have endeavored to retain accompanists of the highest level available; we urge you to respect their judgment as to the need for rehearsal. Students are free to schedule private coaching with their accompanists at their own expense.