

VIRTUAL VOCAL SHOWCASE

Introduction

- For virtual performance videos, singers can insert or hold a title card, or record a spoken introduction, with the following information: name, category, title of song, composer, title of work (if applicable). This must be done for each separate video of each song.

Proof of Original Purchased Music

- Prior to performing, singers must display the original music (book, score, sheet music or digital music) to the camera. Music shown should not identify the teacher in any way.
- Digital purchased music requires a proof of purchase receipt (not a title page) to be shown on camera, showing the title of the piece and the price paid.
- Original music written by the participant for Commercial Music classes is exempt. Please show a lyrics sheet.
- Students who do not display legal purchased music on camera will receive comments but will not be eligible for placement or scholarships.

Accompaniment

- Accompaniment for Classical and Musical Theatre must be with live piano or piano backtracks only.
- For Popular Voice/Commercial Music, live accompaniment (piano, guitar) or professional backtracks can be used as accompaniment (no background vocals permitted and no melody line).

Comment Sheets and Results

- For the Virtual Showcase, teachers will be able to view and print comment sheets for their students by November 30th. They may distribute them to students as they wish.

Scholarships

- Virtual Showcase Scholarships will be sent via PayPal to individual teachers who will then distribute funds to their students. Teachers will be provided with all the details re award amounts for each student and a general award letter with donor contact information so that students can send thank you letters.

Questions?

- Categories may be combined or split if numbers warrant for scheduling purposes of adjudicators and pianists.

Class Code	Age	Time Limit	Repertoire Requirements
CM-20	5-6	10 minutes	TWO contrasting CM selections
CM-21	7-8	10 minutes	TWO contrasting CM selections
CM-22	9-10	10 minutes	TWO contrasting CM selections
CM-23	11-12	10 minutes	TWO contrasting CM selections
CM-24	13-14	12 minutes	TWO contrasting CM selections
CM-25	15-16	12 minutes	TWO contrasting CM selections
CM-26	17-18	12 minutes	TWO contrasting CM selections
CM-27	NAd (-30)	12 minutes	TWO contrasting CM selections
CM-28	NAd (30+)	12 minutes	TWO contrasting CM selections
CM-29	AdvA (-30)	12 minutes	TWO contrasting CM selections
CM-30	AdvA (30+)	12 minutes	TWO contrasting CM selections

VIRTUAL VOCAL SHOWCASE SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Your videotaped performances must be made after **August 16, 2024** (3 months prior to the Vocal Showcase)

Recording Location and Attire

- Record your video in the spirit of a live audition or recital performance
- Record in a home or an otherwise appropriate space
- Find an acoustic that is not too live, so your performance is heard as “in person”
- Dress professionally, as you would for a recital or live audition

Recording Instructions

- **Record a separate unedited video for each selection**

- Your camera should record from a fixed position/tripod/steady surface and in a horizontal frame
- Face the camera as you would appear to adjudicators in person
- Recordings must clearly show your face and torso from the hips up in your horizontal frame
- Be sure to eliminate all background noise (dishwasher, pets, etc.) before beginning, and check your accompanist or track volume balance
- Check your lighting so we can see your expressions, posture and gestures
- No splicing, editing, adding reverb or other sound modification is allowed
- For CM classes only, handheld microphones are encouraged and permitted but are not necessary

A separate video for each song should be recorded and uploaded with a separate YouTube link for each song. DO NOT edit songs into one recording/YouTube link.

Accompaniment

- You may use a piano backtrack, band or live piano accompaniment - see more information under each category for specific requirements.
- All tracks must be piano only for Classical and Musical Theatre classes. (Instrumental tracks are permitted for CM classes only).
- Check and test the levels for balance between your voice and accompaniment to ensure you can be heard.

Performance

- Introduce EACH selection at the beginning of EACH video:

“My name is _____, I am enrolled in class _____ and I will sing—Title of Composition—by— Composer—(and if appropriate)—from—Title of Work.” This spoken introduction will be included in your total allotted performance time. If preferred, singers can insert or hold a title card with this information (a “slate”) at the beginning of each video instead.

- HOLD UP your ORIGINAL score (legal purchased music) to the camera so that it is clearly visible. Also, show the receipt indicating the song title and price paid, if it is purchased downloaded sheet music (eg. from Musicnotes.com).

A title page is NOT acceptable proof of purchase and may result in the singer being disqualified from placement and scholarships. They will still receive written feedback. Make sure that the teacher's name is not visible anywhere on the music or receipt.

- DO NOT reveal the identity of your teacher, school or region
- You must perform each of your selections from memory on your recording (except for those entered in the Self-accompanied class or for those singing Oratorio/Cantata repertoire.

Uploading to YouTube

- You must select "public" or "unlisted" in the Privacy settings found under the Broadcasting and Sharing Options section when uploading your videos
- Disable "comments" and "for kids only"
- Please be advised that "private" and "kids only" videos block adjudicators' access
- Singers should create their own YouTube channel
- Teachers should not upload videos for students from their personal YouTube channel as anonymity is important.

Invalid Videos

The following video problems make the video invalid and may disqualify singers from scholarships and placements, although they will receive written feedback:

- Videos revealing the teacher's identity, the region of the singer, or the school they attend.
- Videos with "private" sharing options (see above).
- Videos that pan and zoom during performances.
- Videos that are edited, altered or enhanced.

Adjudication Results, Comments and Scholarship Information

Adjudication sheets will be submitted through www.AuditionWare.com. Teachers will be able to view and print comment sheets by **November 30th** and may distribute them to students as they are available.

Scholarship money for winners will be sent via PayPal to the teacher for the Virtual Showcase in early December.

LIVE and VIRTUAL VOCAL SHOWCASE FAQs

What is the difference between Novice (NAd) and Advanced Adult (AdvAd) singers?

Novice Adult categories are for adult singers who have studied two years or less.
Advanced Adult categories are for adult singers who have studied more than two years.

What do I do if I cannot adjudicate the Showcase(s) where I have entered singers?

****ADD your Absentee Adjudicator Fee (\$75/showcase) to your Registration total BEFORE processing through PayPal.**

Withdrawal from adjudicating after the registration deadline requires that the teacher finds a suitable substitute adjudicator and informs the VS Coordinator and Treasurer.

Teachers working as substitute adjudicators need not be NATS members. See page 6 for more information on specific qualifications for substitutes.

For LIVE Showcase, please email showcase@natsontario.org AND treasurer@natsontario.org so we are aware of your absence.

For VIRTUAL Showcase, please email showcase2@natsontario.org AND treasurer@natsontario.org so we are aware of your absence.

Teachers who are unable to adjudicate must email the appropriate coordinator **no later than the registration deadline** and must either pay the fee or report a substitute adjudicator.

Can I find a substitute adjudicator or pay the Absentee Adjudicator Fee so I can attend the Live Showcase as an audience member?

No. Teachers may not find a substitute adjudicator for themselves OR pay the Absentee Adjudicator fee in order to attend the Live Showcase as an audience member. The Live Showcase relies on the strong participation of its members to provide 3 adjudicators per class.

Can I adjudicate the Virtual Showcase instead of the Live (or vice versa)?

No. Virtual and Live Showcase adjudicator participation MAY NOT be “swapped”. Each is its own individual Showcase. If you have singers in both Showcases, you are expected to adjudicate for both, or find a suitable substitute, or pay the Absentee Adjudicator Fees.

Can I volunteer as a guest adjudicator for the Live or Virtual Showcase if I am not a NATS Ontario member?

Yes. You can adjudicate either or both the Live and Virtual Showcases as a guest adjudicator if you are a voice teacher with a degree in music and substantial teaching experience (over 3 years). Please contact the Vocal Showcase Coordinator at showcase@natsontario.org for more information or to express your interest.

When will teachers receive YouTube links and comment sheets for adjudicating the Virtual Vocal Showcase?

Teachers who are adjudicating will be sent more information about how comment sheets are to be completed. Access to video links will be sent on or by November 8, 2024. Teachers will be assigned a category of singers and will submit their comment sheets by November 25, 2024 via www.AuditionWare.com.

What is the deadline for adjudicators to submit their Virtual Vocal Showcase feedback?

The deadline to submit comment sheets is **Monday, November 25, 2024**. Placement rankings must be emailed separately to the Virtual Vocal Showcase Assistant Coordinator at showcase2@natsontario.org for tabulation.

Where can I learn more about adjudicating Commercial Music/Popular Voice classes?

We are committed to offering guidance and opportunities to our members and colleagues to learn how to be more effective as adjudicators in this genre. President Amanda Kind gave a

wonderful presentation at one of our NATS ON Point series (April 2023) and has agreed to share the recording:

<https://youtu.be/NJCeBp3Wn04> _

Here are the notes:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/tbt31lwask66arw/NATS%20CCM%20On%20Point.pdf?dl=0>

This video has been produced by NATS for Commercial Music adjudicators:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eir_g_jfEx8

How can I make a donation to the NATS Ontario Scholarship fund?

Thank you!! Scholarships and other donations are gratefully accepted and can be paid via the PayPal button on the www.natsontario.org website OR sent by cheque made out to “NATS Ontario” and mailed to NATS Ontario Treasurer, Jennifer Swanson, 2315 Maitland Avenue, Windsor, ON N8P 1Y8.

**** Tax receipts will be issued for all donations of \$20.00 and over.**

Where can singers rehearse with the accompanist they have hired or brought with them? Where are practice rooms?

Practice rooms and times will be organized prior to the Vocal Showcase for singers who have paid for a NATS Collaborative Pianist and will be sent out via email to teachers. Singers who choose to use a Collaborative Pianist will be given a 20-minute rehearsal time, most likely in the morning, on the day of the Vocal Showcase.

Throughout the day all available practice rooms may be used by NATS singers.

Signage will indicate where practice rooms are on the day of the Live Vocal Showcase. You may also check with the Registration Desk.

**** Singers should take no more than 15 minutes in these rooms as a courtesy.**

What is the daily schedule overview for the Live Vocal Showcase?

schedule is subject to change

8:00 am	Registration opens
8:30 am	Collaborative Pianist 20 min rehearsals begin
9:30 am	Adjudicators meeting
10:00 am	Classes begin
3:30 pm	Approximate ending of all classes
4:00 pm	Approximate time of the Winner’s Showcase Concert

Can the students watch their entire class? What should students do when they are finished singing?

Singers, parents and guests are welcome to watch other classes and/or visit the Recruitment and Vendors Fair. Please only enter or exit rooms in between singer's performances. Schedules of each class are posted outside the rooms in use or at the registration desk.

When will students know if they are singing in the Live Winner's Showcase Concert?

Winner's names/placements in each category will be posted on the Results Board near the Registration Desk approximately one hour following the performance of the final singer in their class.

Only singers who have received 1st Place will sing in the Winner's Showcase Concert. Singers who wish to sing in the Winner's Showcase Concert are responsible to ensure that their collaborative pianist is available to stay and play for the concert.

Singers using a Collaborative Pianist must pay an additional fee of \$25 directly to the CP for the Winner's Showcase Concert performance. If the pianist the singer performed with earlier cannot stay for the concert, a designated concert CP will be provided for the same \$25 rate which the singer will pay directly to the concert CP without a rehearsal.

Singers who win first place in more than one category per day will choose only ONE song to sing in the Winner's Showcase Concert. **A time limit of 4 minutes/song should be observed for the Winner's Concert.**

Can teachers go backstage to help/support my singer/singers if they are invited to perform in the Live Winner's Showcase Concert?

No. Teachers may NOT be present backstage at any point but are encouraged to attend and support all the singers from the audience.

Is there a Winner's Showcase Concert for the Virtual Vocal Showcase?

Yes. The Virtual Winner's Showcase Concert will be presented via YouTube on Sunday, December 1, 2024. Announcement of placements as well as a YouTube video link of the first-place performances will be sent to the teachers and adjudicators of virtual singers by Nov. 30, 2024.

The link and placements will also be sent to NATS Ontario members via email and posted in the NATS Ontario Facebook Group.

NOTE: The selection that will be used for the concert will have been selected at the time of registration.

How will students receive their scholarship money?

For the Live Showcase, winners will need to provide their email address to the NATS Ontario Treasurer to receive their scholarship monies via PayPal. Where and when to do that will be posted on the Results Board near the Registration Desk.

Winners will also receive a congratulatory letter informing them of the name and contact info of the donor of their scholarship. Singers are strongly encouraged to write a thank you note to their donor.

For the Virtual Vocal Showcase, scholarship funds will be disbursed to the winner's teacher via PayPal, who will then pass on the amount to the student. Teachers will be notified when the money has been sent to them, and which students receive what amount. Teachers of winners will also receive a congratulatory letter to send to their students, informing them of the name and contact info of their donor. Winners are strongly encouraged to send a thank you note to their donor.

Who can progress to the Great Lakes Region Auditions?

Any student of a NATS teacher may enter the Great Lakes Region Auditions. Winning the NATS Ontario Vocal Showcase is not a requirement.

The Great Lakes Region Auditions will be held on **Saturday March 1, 2025 at Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan**. Visit the Great Lakes Region [website](#) for more information.

The top 5 placements in each category/class will proceed to the video round of the National Student Auditions.