



{ Ontario Chapter }

VOCAL SHOWCASE HANDBOOK

2026

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1. Equity and Diversity Statement

NATS Ontario is dedicated to promoting Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in our artistic and social interactions, and our engagement as a community. NATS Ontario aims to create an environment of understanding and mutual respect for the value and dignity of all persons. We strive to identify, remove, and prevent barriers that hinder complete and meaningful participation in NATS Ontario activities. All members of the NATS Ontario community share the responsibility of supporting these values and goals. The education and support of our members in the areas of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism is paramount.

2. NATS Ontario Vocal Showcase Handbook 2026

The NATS Ontario Vocal Showcase (**Live and Virtual**) is an opportunity for singers to perform a set of pieces from a choice of three genres – **Classical Voice, Musical Theatre and Commercial Music (including a separate category for Self-Accompanied Commercial Music)**.

At the live Vocal Showcase, singers meet and hear other singers, teachers network with their colleagues, and everyone has the chance to hear a variety of repertoire.

The 2026 LIVE Vocal Showcase will be held at University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario.

SENIOR DAY (High School singers ages 17-18/University/Adult Levels)

Saturday, November 14, 2026

JUNIOR DAY (Children/High School Singers 16 years and under)

Sunday, November 15, 2026

All three genres will be offered each day, and singers may participate in one or all genres.

Each day culminates in a Winners' Showcase Concert.

Singers may register for both the **Live and Virtual** Showcases. Singers can present the same (or different) repertoire in these separate streams.

All teachers must register their students on AuditionWare. Additional fees apply for non-NATS members.

The **Virtual** Showcase adjudication will take place during the month of November.

The **Virtual Winners' Showcase Concert** will be available on YouTube on **Sunday, November 29, 2026**.

Singers must be registered and paid for by their teachers through AuditionWare. Additional fees for non-NATS Ontario members will be applied.

NATS Vocal Showcase categories are divided by age (and each for classical university levels only).

For the **Live** Vocal Showcase, singers must bring their own pianist or indicate the intent to use an official Collaborative Pianist (CP) when registering. Professional recorded MP3 backtracks (no background vocals) are only permitted in CM (Commercial Music) classes. YouTube recordings are not accepted.

For **Virtual** Showcase singers, live accompaniment (piano, guitar) or recorded MP3 backtracks are acceptable. Please see class descriptions and FAQs for more specific details.

3. At a Glance

2026 Live Vocal Showcase – University of Guelph, Guelph, Ont.

Key Dates

Date	Event
Friday, September 4, 2026	Registration opens for both LIVE and VIRTUAL
Monday, October 26, 2026, 11:59 p.m.	LIVE registration deadline
Monday, November 2, 2026, 11:59 p.m.	VIRTUAL registration deadline (including video links)
Monday, November 9, 2026	Virtual adjudicators have access to video links
Saturday, November 14, 2026	Senior Day (High School singers ages 17-18/University/Adult Levels)
Sunday, November 15, 2026	Junior Day (Children/High School – 16 years and under)
Monday, November 23, 2026	Virtual adjudicator comments and decisions due back via email
Sunday, November 29, 2026	Virtual Winners' Showcase Concert posted on YouTube

Entry Fees

Age requirement is based on the applicant's age as of **September 1, 2026**

Ages 6–12	\$35
Ages 13–18	\$40
Ages 19+	\$45
NEW CM Tech fee	\$15 (for CM and Self Accompaniment entries only)
(The CM Tech fee covers sound system and technician fees)	

Official Collaborative Pianist FEES – includes 10–15 minute rehearsal on Showcase Day

Two songs	\$60
Three–four songs	\$75

Due to scheduling challenges, each pianist will be limited to playing for **9 singers per day**.

Absentee Adjudicator Fees are applied for each FULL day of the LIVE Showcase that a teacher has students registered for (unless a qualified substitute is arranged for by the teacher for each day)

1–4 entries	\$75
5–9 entries	\$100
10+ entries	\$150

Absentee adjudicator fees for the Live Vocal Showcase will be waived for teachers who can adjudicate on another **full day** of the Live Vocal Showcase that they do not have students entered.

NEW Virtual Showcase – members must adjudicate or find a suitable substitute.

Non-NATS and non-NATS Ontario CHAPTER member Fee – \$75.00 (to enter students). Absentee Adjudicator guidelines also apply.

Substitute adjudicators must be contacted by the NATS member they are replacing and agree to adjudicate *before* their names are entered in AuditionWare.

Who to Email

Email	Purpose
showcase@natsontario.org	Live Showcase inquiries, registration and AuditionWare account help
showcase2@natsontario.org	Virtual Showcase inquiries, lyric sheets and placement rankings
showcasesound@natsontario.org	MP3 backtracks for Commercial Music (Live Showcase)
treasurer@natsontario.org	Payments, absentee fees and scholarships

4. General Rules and Regulations

1. Both **LIVE** and **VIRTUAL** NATS Ontario Vocal Showcases will be offered in 2026.
2. Classical, Musical Theatre and Commercial Music classes are offered each day in a “day by age” format. Singers may enter any or all categories in their appropriate age division for either/or both **Live** and **Virtual** Vocal Showcases.
3. Read the category descriptions carefully and refer to the individual categories for specific rules and repertoire requirements. Failure to adhere to class criteria will result in disqualification from placement and scholarships.
4. See **Live** and **Virtual** Vocal Showcase information for copyright rules.
5. There are no refunds for any reason.
6. NATS Ontario is not responsible for music, or any personal belongings lost or left behind.
7. Singers must sing the repertoire selections that they declared when they registered; no changes to programming are allowed after registration closes. A change from registered repertoire will result in disqualification and singers will receive comments only. Repertoire selections can be sung in any order.
8. Singers must begin their final piece within the given time limit to qualify for scholarships. Singers will be stopped if they exceed their time limit (the full piece may not be heard).
9. All singers will receive written comments from three adjudicators, if possible. If there is an adjudicator shortage, some categories may have only two.
10. Novice Adult categories are for adult singers who have studied **two years or less**.
11. Advanced Adult categories are for adult singers who have studied **more than two years**.
12. Adult classes are offered in two age levels – Under 30 years of age and 30 years or older.

5. Adjudicating and Absentee Adjudicator Fees

If you are unable to attend the Live Vocal Showcase as an adjudicator but are sending a student(s) to the **Live** Showcase, there is an Absentee Adjudicator Fee for each FULL day of the **Live** Showcase, unless you arrange for a qualified substitute adjudicator(s). For the **Virtual Showcase**, if you are unable to adjudicate, you must arrange for a substitute adjudicator.

Absentee Adjudicator Fees

For **each FULL day** of the **LIVE** Showcase – unless a qualified substitute is arranged for by the teacher for each day:

Teacher entering 1–4 entries	\$75
Teacher entering 5–9 entries	\$100
Teacher entering 10+ entries	\$150

Fees are based on the total number of entries (classes entered), not the number of students.

A full day of adjudication is expected regardless of the number of students a teacher has entered. Attendance at the adjudicators' meeting (approximately 9:30 a.m.) and adjudicating from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. is considered a full day.

Absentee adjudicator fees will be waived for teachers who can adjudicate on another FULL day of the Live Vocal Showcase that they do not have students entered, e.g. cannot adjudicate Saturday when they have students entered, but can adjudicate on Sunday when they have no students entered.

Substitute and guest adjudicators (whether NATS members or non-members) should have earned a degree in Music and/or have at least 2 years of teaching experience with the genre and level they will be adjudicating. In the case of Commercial Music, substitute or guest adjudicators should have a minimum of two years professional experience.

Substitute and guest adjudicators will be assigned for either one or both days of the **LIVE** Vocal Showcase and/or adjudicate for the **Virtual** Showcase.

Substitute adjudicators must be contacted and agree to adjudicating at either the **Live** or **Virtual** Showcase before their names are entered in AuditionWare.

Before adding a substitute's name to AuditionWare, please send an email to the Vocal Showcase Coordinator at showcase@natsontario.org and your substitute indicating that you will not be attending and have already secured consent.

Please contact the Vocal Showcase Coordinator at showcase@natsontario.org to express interest and for more information.

6. How to Register

Registration for both **Live** and **Virtual** Showcases opens **Friday, September 4, 2026**.

LIVE SHOWCASE Registration (*including submission of MP3 backtracks for Commercial Music*) closes on **Monday, October 26, 2026** at 11:59 p.m.

VIRTUAL SHOWCASE Registration **including YouTube video links** closes on **November 2, 2026** at 11:59 p.m. – Be sure to have your YouTube video links ready to submit by the deadline!

Registrations can be saved and teachers can start them any time after **September 4th** and add information until the deadlines of October 26 for the **Live** Showcase or November 2nd for the **Virtual** Showcase.

NATS Ontario Members (and non-members) must register their students via www.AuditionWare.com. Teachers can login anytime using their credentials, which are initially set up by the VS Coordinator. To create a new account, email showcase@natsontario.org.

Teachers must use the email account that is on file with NATS Ontario Chapter to login. **You must use an email OTHER than the account currently associated with www.nats.org.**

Follow prompts to register for either the **Live** or **Virtual** Vocal Showcase.

All previous student data should be saved under your account (students' information is maintained from year to year). For NEW singer/student registrations, we do NOT require singers' addresses, phone numbers, etc. so the teacher should enter **their own** address, phone number, etc. for these prompts.

Do NOT pay fees until you are finished entering ALL singer registrations, as this completes and closes your registration. ONLY once your registration for ALL singers is complete, click "PAY FEES" to be redirected to the payment site through PayPal.

For troubleshooting, login issues, or to set up an account, email showcase@natsontario.org.

Non-NATS Ontario teachers can enter students and can create an AuditionWare account via our coordinator. Please email showcase@natsontario.org to set up an account or for assistance.

Teachers submitting singers need to be residents of Ontario, however, the singers submitted by a teacher do not need to be residents of Ontario.

Entry Fees – Live and Virtual Showcases

Ages 6–12	\$35/class
Ages 13–18	\$40/class
Ages 19 and over	\$45/class
NEW CM Tech fee	\$15 (for CM and Self Accompaniment entries only)

There is a single additional registration fee of **\$75.00 for Non-NATS Ontario Chapter Members/Non-NATS teachers** when entering students. Please add this amount to your registration total BEFORE processing through PayPal.

The TEACHER must pay all Registration Fees, NOT the singer/parent. It is up to the teacher to decide/communicate how they want to be reimbursed by students. You do NOT need a PayPal account and can check out as a "guest" if you choose.

The AuditionWare registration page is for **TEACHERS WITH A REGISTERED ACCOUNT ONLY**. If a student is given access to their teacher's AuditionWare profile, they will also be able to access all other singers' registration and personal information.

Allowing students to use this site is a violation of privacy laws and is strictly prohibited.

Teachers may enter students in both Showcases, and singers may participate in both showcases, in the same classes and with the same or different repertoire, if they so choose. **Each is its own individual Showcase.**

Teachers with students singing in both Live and Virtual Showcases will be expected to

- **adjudicate for both showcases.**
- **or find a qualified substitute for either/both showcases.**
- **or pay the Absentee Adjudicator Fee for Live only for each FULL day, based on the total number of entries (not students) for the Live Showcase, and adjudicate or find a substitute for the Virtual Showcase.**

NATS Ontario's PayPal site requires you to enter your total Registration Fees, Non-Member fees or non-chapter member fees, CP Fees (if applicable) – and any Absentee Adjudicator Fees. Please keep track of these as you register your students, so it is easy to total and enter into the PayPal total owing field.

NEW A fee of \$25/day for up to 3 days following the deadline will be charged for late, missing or incorrect registration information, missing or incorrect repertoire, missing mp3 backtracks, missing or incorrect videos, after which no more entries will be accepted.

7. Collaborative Pianists (CPs) and Fees

Each student is required to bring their own accompanist (unless self-accompanying or using a backtrack for Commercial Music only) **OR** pay a fee and hire a **NATS Ontario Collaborative Pianist**. The fee will depend on the number of songs the student is performing in each class (see below).

Several Collaborative Pianists (CPs) will be provided by NATS Ontario for students. When registering, please select any number (CP1, CP2, CP3, etc.) If the software indicates the CP is full, please select the next one on the list. Every effort will be made by the Vocal Showcase Coordinator to pair appropriate pianists with each singer.

The teacher must indicate that the student requires a CP and pay the fee with the original registration. The fee includes a 10–15 minute scheduled rehearsal time on the morning of the Vocal Showcase Day.

A rehearsal schedule will be sent via email including the contact information of the CP prior to the Vocal Showcase. Teachers or singers should be prepared to email the music pdfs to the Collaborative Pianists a **minimum of 24 hours** in advance.

For scheduling purposes, all CPs may play for a maximum of NINE (9) singers and/or classes per day inclusive of all genres. For example, two singers in one class count as two **OR** one singer in three classes count as 3.

Teachers may NOT accompany their own students.

Songs	Fee	Rehearsal
Two songs	\$60	10-minute rehearsal on Showcase Day
Three–four songs	\$75	15-minute rehearsal on Showcase Day

8. Live Vocal Showcase

- Singers must not introduce themselves or their repertoire selections.
- Selections can be sung in any order.

Accompaniment

- Accompaniment for Classical and Musical Theatre must be with live piano.
- For Commercial Music classes, **live accompaniment OR professional backtracks can be used as accompaniment**. No background vocals are permitted. Backtracks must be in MP3 format and submitted with registration via email to showcasesound@natsontario.org.

Proof of Original Purchased Music

- Proof of original purchased music for each piece must be present and visible in the performance room (i.e. placed on the piano).
- Pianists may play from the legal music/original score, tablets or photocopies, provided the legal music is present for inspection.
- Repertoire considered public domain may be played from copies obtained from IMSLP. No receipt is required.
- Digital music requires a proof of purchase receipt (not a title/cover page), showing the title of the piece and the price paid. The music and receipt should NOT identify the teacher in any way.
- **For all Commercial Music classes**, please purchase and present legal music/original score, if available. Singers may perform unpublished works; please bring a lyric sheet with song title and artist credits. Consider purchasing unpublished song recordings on iTunes, Spotify or Amazon Music to support these artists.
- Music written by the singer in Commercial Music classes is exempt, but the singer should bring a lyric sheet for the adjudicators' reference.
- Students who do not bring legal music (purchased original or digital) will receive written comments but will not be eligible for placement or scholarships. Adjudicators will not collect the original music, but may ask to see it.

Video Recording at Live Showcase

- Videography is permitted with permission from the singer. Family members/guests may only record their singer's performance. Recording during the Winners' Showcase Concert is subject to the host venue.

Comment Sheets and Results

- Class results will be posted on the Results Board near the Registration Desk within an hour following the end of the class.
- All singers are responsible for picking up their comment sheets/adjudications from the area near the Results Board or the Registration Desk before leaving for the day. **Comment sheets will not be mailed to the singers after the Vocal Showcase.**

Scholarships

- Scholarships will be sent via PayPal to teachers who will distribute the scholarships to their students within a week following the Live Vocal Showcase. Teachers will be provided with award amounts for each student.
- Scholarships are awarded to first and second place singers inclusive of any ties.
- Teachers who do not have a PayPal account to receive scholarship money must contact the Treasurer.
- Award letters with donor contact information will be included for teachers to distribute to their students. Please encourage your students to send thank you letters to our donors.

Teachers in the Room

NATS members/teachers attending the NATS Ontario Vocal Showcase are welcome to observe their students' performances if it works with their adjudication assignment schedule.

No requests will be allowed to change or reduce adjudication assignments to enable teachers to attend students' performances.

Our goal is to have three adjudicators for every category so your help on each Showcase Day is very important to the success of this event.

To preserve anonymity, it is important that teachers remain inconspicuous when in the room to observe their student(s), to ensure there is no perception of bias by parents or singers.

Some suggestions to assist with this:

- let your students/parents know ahead of time that you will not be able to acknowledge them or sit with them when in the room.
- arrive early/leave late – stay for several singers' performances (or the whole class if possible) to help preserve anonymity.
- do not interact with the panel of adjudicators.
- if unable to attend to see your students perform, suggest a parent videotape it to be shared with you later.

We ask that teachers respect the adjudication process, maintaining professionalism as they would expect from others if they were in the role of the adjudicator.

We appreciate your cooperation in creating a supportive and impartial environment for all performers.

Questions?

- See the specific class requirements, FAQs, the homepage of AuditionWare, or email showcase@natsontario.org for Live Showcase inquiries.

9. Virtual Vocal Showcase

- For virtual performance videos, singers can either speak or record a spoken introduction, or insert or hold a title card (a “slate”), 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.
- Digital purchased music requires a proof of purchase receipt (not a title/cover page) to be shown on camera, showing the title of the piece and the price paid.
- Repertoire considered public domain may be played from copies obtained from IMSLP. No receipt is required; “IMSLP” should be clearly written on the score and visible in frame when displayed to the camera.
- Original music written by the participant for Commercial Music classes is exempt. Please show a lyrics sheet.
- Students who do not display legally purchased music on camera will receive comments and 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 Commercial Music, live accompaniment (piano, guitar, ukulele) or professional backtracks can be used as accompaniment (no background vocals permitted).

Comment Sheets and Results

- For the Virtual Showcase, teachers will be able to view and print comment sheets from AuditionWare for their students by November 27th. They may distribute them to students as they wish.

Scholarships

- Scholarships will be sent via PayPal to teachers who will distribute the scholarships to their students upon conclusion of the Virtual Showcase. Teachers will be provided with award amounts for each student.
- Scholarships are awarded to first and second place singers inclusive of any ties.
- Teachers who do not have a PayPal account to receive scholarship money must contact the Treasurer.
- Award letters with donor contact information will be included for teachers to distribute to their students. Please encourage your students to send thank you letters to our donors.

Questions?

- See the Virtual Showcase Submission Requirements, FAQs, the homepage of AuditionWare, or email showcase2@natsontario.org for **Virtual** Showcase inquiries.

10. Reasons for Disqualification

If any of the following grounds for disqualification apply in either the **Live** or **Virtual** Showcase, the singer will receive written adjudication comments but will not be eligible for placement, awards, or scholarships.

Live Vocal Showcase

- Performing a different song from what was entered on the registration form.
- Failure to bring original sheet music to be present in the room (or a lyrics sheet in the case of Commercial Music when sheet music is unavailable).
- “Coaching” from the audience is not allowed by anyone. No “conducting” or “mouthing the words” is allowed.
- Videotaping is only allowed for your own singer.
- If the singer does not perform from memory (except in Self-Accompanied Pop/CM or Oratorio).
- Profanity/offensive language is not allowed – substitute word(s) for a “clean” version for up to ages 15.
- If performing at the Winners’ Concert, all singers must use a ‘clean’ version.

Virtual Showcase

- If original music and receipt listing the song and fee paid are not held up to the camera before singer begins to sing – a cover/title page is not a receipt.
- If a Pro Credit is used from Musicnotes the name of the song must be listed on the receipt.
- Teacher’s names must **not** be visible on sheet music and/or receipt.
- No verbal announcement of teacher or studio.
- If the singer does not perform from memory (except in Self-Accompanied Pop/CM or Oratorio).
- Videos that pan and zoom during performances. *Note: if filming on an iPhone or iPad, turn off Center Stage (Apple’s automatic framing feature), as it pans and zooms to follow the singer.*
- Videos that are edited, altered or enhanced.
- Profanity/offensive language is not allowed – substitute word(s) for a “clean” version for up to ages 15.
- Songs with profanity/offensive language will not be allowed in the Virtual Winners’ Concert.

11. Classical Voice Classes

- Suggested repertoire can be found in, but not limited to, the RCM or CC syllabi.
- Age-appropriate repertoire, content and lyrics suitable for all audiences should be taken into consideration when choosing songs.
- All repertoire selections must be sung by memory, except for Oratorio/Cantata selections. No Musical Theatre or Commercial Music songs are permitted.
- Categories may be combined or split if numbers warrant for scheduling purposes of adjudicators and/or pianists.

Fach = voicing; S (soprano), M (mezzo/alto), T (tenor), B (bass) – For university level singers

Class Code	Age	Fach	Time Limit	Repertoire Requirements
CV-01	5-6	ALL	4 minutes	TWO contrasting art or folk songs.
CV-02	7-8	ALL	6 minutes	TWO contrasting art or folk songs.
CV-03	9-10	ALL	8 minutes	TWO contrasting art or folk songs.
CV-04	11-12	ALL	8 minutes	TWO contrasting art or folk songs.
CV-05	13-14	ALL	8 minutes	TWO contrasting art or folk songs.
CV-06	15-16	ALL	10 minutes	THREE contrasting art or folk songs. One song must be in a language other than English.
CV-07	17-18	ALL	10 minutes	THREE contrasting art or folk songs. One song must be in a language other than English.
CV-08	1st Year	S/M	12 minutes	THREE contrasting art songs. Minimum of two languages, one selection must be in English – an Operatic or Oratorio aria may be substituted for an art song.
CV-09	1st Year	T/B	12 minutes	THREE contrasting art songs. Minimum of two languages, one selection must be in English – an Operatic or Oratorio aria may be substituted for an art song.
CV-10	2nd Year	S/M	12 minutes	THREE contrasting art songs. Minimum of three languages, one selection must be in English – an Operatic or Oratorio aria may be substituted for an art song.
CV-11	2nd Year	T/B	12 minutes	THREE contrasting art songs. Minimum of three languages, one selection must be in English – an Operatic or Oratorio aria may be substituted for an art song.
CV-12	3rd Year	S/M	12 minutes	THREE contrasting selections. Minimum of three languages, one selection must be in English. Two art songs and one Operatic or Oratorio aria required. Canadian composition strongly recommended.

Class Code	Age	Fach	Time Limit	Repertoire Requirements
CV-13	3rd Year	T/B	12 minutes	THREE contrasting selections. Minimum of three languages, one selection must be in English. Two art songs and one Operatic or Oratorio aria required. Canadian composition strongly recommended.
CV-14	4th/5th Year	S/M	12 minutes	THREE contrasting selections. Minimum of three languages, one selection must be in English. Two art songs and one Operatic or Oratorio aria required. Canadian composition strongly recommended.
CV-15	4th/5th Year	T/B	12 minutes	THREE contrasting selections. Minimum of three languages, one selection must be in English. Two art songs and one Operatic or Oratorio aria required. Canadian composition strongly recommended.
CV-16	Grad	S/M	14 minutes	FOUR contrasting selections. Minimum of four languages, one selection must be in English. One Operatic aria, one Oratorio aria, two art songs, one of which must be post-1960 Canadian composition.
CV-17	Grad	T/B	14 minutes	FOUR contrasting selections. Minimum of four languages, one selection must be in English. One Operatic aria, one Oratorio aria, two art songs, one of which must be post-1960 Canadian composition.
CV-18	NAd (-30)	ALL	10 minutes	THREE contrasting art or folk songs. One song must be in a language other than English.
CV-19	NAd (30+)	ALL	10 minutes	THREE contrasting art or folk songs. One song must be in a language other than English.
CV-20	AdvA (-30)	ALL	12 minutes	THREE contrasting art or folk songs. One song must be in a language other than English. One may be an aria.
CV-21	AdvA (30+)	ALL	12 minutes	THREE contrasting art or folk songs. One song must be in a language other than English. One may be an aria.

12. Musical Theatre Classes

- Singers are encouraged to choose selections from all areas of Musical Theatre such as staged musicals, workshops, revues, cabarets, Disney films, movie musicals, jukebox musicals and new musical theatre works.
- Age-appropriate repertoire and suitable lyrics (for all audiences) should be taken into consideration when choosing songs. It is also important to consider whether the material is culturally appropriate. Carefully consider the content, lyrics, character, and cultural setting of the work when making repertoire decisions. If in doubt, please contact the Showcase Coordinator at showcase@natsontario.org.
- For MT-04 classes and higher, one selection must be from a staged musical.
- For MT-06 classes and higher, singers are encouraged to choose songs from a variety of styles and eras, and it is strongly recommended that a pre-1970s song be included.
- For MT-06 classes and higher (ages 15+), operetta selections appropriate to age and vocal development may be included.
- All selections must be sung from memory.
- Minimal props (two handheld props max).
- Costumes are acceptable but will not factor into placements.
- Change rooms are not provided for costume changes. **Changes must be factored into the total allowed time limit.**
- No Classical or Commercial Music songs are permitted. If a Commercial Music song is used from a jukebox musical, it must be performed in the Musical Theatre style.
- Categories may be combined or split if numbers warrant for scheduling purposes of adjudicators and/or pianists.
- Instrumental cuts are allowed.
- Inserted spoken lines are not allowed unless written in the published music.

Class Code	Age	Time Limit	Repertoire Requirements
MT-01	5-6	5 minutes	TWO contrasting selections – one up-tempo and one ballad.
MT-02	7-8	6 minutes	TWO contrasting selections – one up-tempo and one ballad.
MT-03	9-10	8 minutes	TWO contrasting selections – one up-tempo and one ballad.
MT-04	11-12	8 minutes	TWO contrasting selections – one up-tempo and one ballad.
MT-05	13-14	10 minutes	TWO contrasting selections – one up-tempo and one ballad.
MT-06	15-16	10 minutes	TWO contrasting selections – one up-tempo and one ballad must be included.
MT-07	17-18	12 minutes	TWO contrasting selections – one up-tempo and one ballad must be included.

Class Code	Age	Time Limit	Repertoire Requirements
MT-08	1st Year	12 minutes	TWO contrasting selections – one up-tempo and one ballad must be included.
MT-09	2nd Year	12 minutes	TWO contrasting selections – one up-tempo and one ballad must be included.
MT-10	3rd Year	12 minutes	TWO contrasting selections – one up-tempo and one ballad must be included.
MT-11	4th Year	12 minutes	TWO contrasting selections – one up-tempo and one ballad must be included.
MT-12	NAd (-30)	10 minutes	TWO contrasting selections – one up-tempo and one ballad must be included.
MT-13	NAd (30+)	10 minutes	TWO contrasting selections – one up-tempo and one ballad must be included.
MT-14	AdvA (-30)	10 minutes	TWO contrasting selections – one up-tempo and one ballad must be included.
MT-15	AdvA (30+)	10 minutes	TWO contrasting selections – one up-tempo and one ballad must be included.

13. Commercial Music Classes

- Two contrasting songs for each class.
- Live acoustic accompaniment (piano, guitar, ukulele) or professionally recorded backtracks **in MP3 format only**, can be used (no background vocals are permitted on backtracks). Recommended backtracks resource where you can customize your track (change key, tempo, remove background vocals after purchase): <https://www.karaoke-version.com>.
- Age-appropriate repertoire and lyrics suitable for all audiences should be taken into consideration when choosing songs. No profanity or offensive language is allowed. For up to ages 15, substitute a 'clean' version and **if performing in the Live Winners' concert ALL singers must sing a 'clean' version of their selection**.
- A microphone, amplifier and an acoustic piano will be available for Live entrants. A **brief** amount of time will be given for a mic and sound check before the performance.
- **Singers using recorded backtracks must send separate MP3 links for each song when registering – via email to showcasesound@natsontario.org.**
- A maximum of ONE song can be an original, however the singer will not receive feedback on their music writing skills. Only their vocal performance will be evaluated. Please bring a lyric sheet (and tabs/chart if possible) to the Live Showcase for the adjudicators. For the Virtual Showcase, please email a pdf of your lyric sheet/tabs/chart to showcase2@natsontario.org which will be sent in confidence to the assigned adjudicators for the class.
- For Virtual Showcase singers, microphones are encouraged but not necessary.
- For Virtual Showcase singers, band accompaniment is permitted, however, only the singer will receive feedback. Choose songs which highlight the singer. The band should be off camera in the video recording and only the singer should be visible. The singer is also welcome to use a recording of their band as a backtrack. If the singer is also playing an instrument (e.g. guitar), they should enter the Self-Accompanied Commercial Music class.
- **For all Pop/Commercial Music classes**, please purchase and present legal sheet music, if available. Singers may perform unpublished works; please bring a lyric sheet with song title and artist credits. Consider purchasing unpublished songs' recordings on iTunes, Spotify or Amazon Music to support these artists.
- Please be advised that selections from musical theatre (such as 'Hamilton' or 'Rent'), belong in the Musical Theatre category.
- Commercial Music songs that are also used in jukebox musicals (Mamma Mia, Moulin Rouge, & Juliet, etc.) are acceptable, however, an understanding of pop performance style should be considered and presented.
- All songs must be sung from memory.
- Categories may be combined or split if numbers warrant for scheduling purposes of adjudicators and/or pianists.

Class Code	Age	Time Limit	Repertoire Requirements
CM-01	5-6	7 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a POP, JAZZ, ROCK, INDIE or COUNTRY STYLE.
CM-02	7-8	7 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a POP, JAZZ, ROCK, INDIE or COUNTRY STYLE.

Class Code	Age	Time Limit	Repertoire Requirements
CM-03	9-10	8 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a POP, JAZZ, ROCK, INDIE or COUNTRY STYLE.
CM-04	11-12	8 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a POP, JAZZ, ROCK, INDIE or COUNTRY STYLE.
CM-05	13-14	8 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a POP, JAZZ, ROCK, INDIE or COUNTRY STYLE.
CM-06	15-16	10 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a POP, JAZZ, ROCK, INDIE or COUNTRY STYLE.
CM-07	17-18	10 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a POP, JAZZ, ROCK, INDIE or COUNTRY STYLE.
CM-08	1st Year	10 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a POP, JAZZ, ROCK, INDIE or COUNTRY STYLE.
CM-09	2nd Year	10 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a POP, JAZZ, ROCK, INDIE or COUNTRY STYLE.
CM-10	3rd Year	10 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a POP, JAZZ, ROCK, INDIE or COUNTRY STYLE.
CM-11	4th Year	10 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a POP, JAZZ, ROCK, INDIE or COUNTRY STYLE.
CM-12	NAd (-30)	10 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a POP, JAZZ, ROCK, INDIE or COUNTRY STYLE.
CM-13	NAd (30+)	10 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a POP, JAZZ, ROCK, INDIE or COUNTRY STYLE.
CM-14	AdvA (-30)	10 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a POP, JAZZ, ROCK, INDIE or COUNTRY STYLE.
CM-15	AdvA (30+)	10 minutes	TWO contrasting songs in a POP, JAZZ, ROCK, INDIE or COUNTRY STYLE.

14. Self-Accompanied Commercial Music Classes

- Singers will prepare two contrasting selections.
- Self-accompaniment is required for both songs (piano, guitar, ukulele).
- Covers and/or original music are allowed. A maximum of ONE original song is allowed, however the singer will not receive feedback on their music writing skills. Only their vocal performance will be evaluated.
- Age-appropriate repertoire and lyrics suitable for all audiences should be taken into consideration when choosing songs. No profanity or offensive language is allowed. For up to ages 15, substitute a 'clean' version and **if performing in the Live Winners' concert ALL singers must sing a 'clean' version of their selection.**
- **For all Pop/Commercial Music classes**, please purchase and present legal sheet music, if available. Singers may perform unpublished works; please bring a lyric sheet with song title and artist credits. Consider purchasing unpublished songs' recordings on iTunes, Spotify or Amazon Music to support these artists.
- For **Live Showcase** singers, a microphone, amplifier, and piano will be provided. Please arrive with your own instruments (guitar, ukulele) already tuned, as any set-up time is included in the class time limit. A microphone will be provided for the accompanying instrument. A **brief** amount of time will be given for a mic and sound check before the performance.
- Songs do not need to be performed from memory.
- For Virtual Showcase singers, microphones are encouraged but not necessary.
- For Virtual Showcase singers, band accompaniment is permitted, however, only the singer will receive feedback. Choose songs which highlight the singer. The band should be off camera in the video recording and only the singer playing an instrument should be visible. The singer is also welcome to use a recording of their band as a backtrack.
- Categories may be combined or split if numbers warrant for scheduling purposes of adjudicators.

Class Code	Age	Time Limit	Repertoire Requirements
CM-20	5-6	7 minutes	TWO contrasting CM selections.
CM-21	7-8	7 minutes	TWO contrasting CM selections.
CM-22	9-10	8 minutes	TWO contrasting CM selections.
CM-23	11-12	8 minutes	TWO contrasting CM selections.
CM-24	13-14	8 minutes	TWO contrasting CM selections.
CM-25	15-16	10 minutes	TWO contrasting CM selections.
CM-26	17-18	10 minutes	TWO contrasting CM selections.
CM-27	1st Year	10 minutes	TWO contrasting CM selections.
CM-28	2nd Year	10 minutes	TWO contrasting CM selections.
CM-29	3rd Year	10 minutes	TWO contrasting CM selections.
CM-30	4th Year	10 minutes	TWO contrasting CM selections.
CM-31	NAd (-30)	10 minutes	TWO contrasting CM selections.
CM-32	NAd (30+)	10 minutes	TWO contrasting CM selections.
CM-33	AdvA (-30)	10 minutes	TWO contrasting CM selections.
CM-34	AdvA (30+)	10 minutes	TWO contrasting CM selections.

15. Virtual Vocal Showcase Submission Requirements

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

Your videotaped performances must be made **after August 2, 2026** (3 months prior to the Virtual registration deadline).

Recording Location and Attire

- Record your video in the spirit of a live audition or recital performance.
- Choose a quiet, appropriate location for your recording, such as your home, a teaching studio, classroom, or performance 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/landscape frame. **Do not use portrait frame.**
- Face the camera as you would appear singing to adjudicators in person.
- Recordings must clearly show your face and torso from the hips up in your horizontal/landscape frame.
- 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, microphones are encouraged and permitted but are not necessary.

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 levels for balance between your voice and accompaniment to ensure you can be heard.

Performance

- The video should be recorded **horizontally/landscape**.
- 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 digital sheet music (e.g. from Musicnotes.com).
- A title/cover page is **NOT** acceptable proof of purchase and may result in the singer being disqualified from placement and scholarships, however they will still receive comments.
- **Make sure that the teacher’s name is not visible anywhere on the music or receipt.**
- DO NOT announce the identity of your teacher or school.
- 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*).

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.
- Type in the YouTube “**Description**” for each video:
I DO NOT OWN THE COPYRIGHT TO THE MUSIC PERFORMED IN THIS VIDEO.
THIS IS A STUDENT AUDITION NOT FOR PROFIT OR MONETIZATION.

“Title of Selection”
Title of LARGER WORK *whenever applicable*
Composer’s Name
if a Musical Theatre selection, ADD: & Lyricist’s Name

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 or the school they attend.
- Videos with “private” sharing options (see above).
- Videos that pan and zoom during performances. *Note: if filming on an iPhone or iPad, turn off Center Stage (Apple’s automatic framing feature), as it pans and zooms to follow the singer.*
- Videos that are edited, altered or enhanced.
- Videos that are in portrait setting/YouTube shorts.

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 27th** and can 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.

Teachers who do not have a PayPal account to receive scholarship money must contact the Treasurer.

16. Live and Virtual Vocal Showcase FAQs

1. What is the difference between Novice (NAd) and Advanced Adult (AdvA) 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.

These categories are split by age – those under the age of 30 and those 30 years and older.

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

ADD your Absentee Adjudicator Fee for the LIVE Showcase to your Registration total BEFORE processing through PayPal – OR arrange for a qualified substitute adjudicator (see below).

For the Virtual Showcase there is no absentee fee – members must adjudicate or find a suitable substitute.

Teachers who are unable to adjudicate must email the appropriate coordinator **no later than the registration deadline** and must either pay the fee for the Live Showcase or report a substitute adjudicator. Your substitute adjudicator listed must have agreed to adjudicate in your place before you enter their name into AuditionWare. Inform your substitute adjudicator that they are expected to adjudicate for a **full** day at the Live Showcase – attendance at the adjudicators' meeting (approximately 9:30 a.m.) and adjudicating from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Withdrawal from adjudicating *after the registration deadline* requires that the teacher finds a qualified substitute adjudicator for the applicable Showcase and informs the VS Coordinator.

Teachers working as substitute adjudicators need not be NATS members. Substitute qualified adjudicators must agree to adjudicate for a full day at the LIVE Vocal Showcase. See page 8 for more information on specific qualifications for substitutes.

If teachers cannot find a substitute adjudicator after the deadline, they must pay the applicable Absentee Adjudicator Fee for the Live Showcase and contact the NATS Ontario Treasurer for payment. For the Virtual Showcase, a substitute adjudicator must still be arranged.

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.

3. 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.

4. 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 (for the Live Showcase only, the Absentee Adjudicator Fee may be paid instead).

5. 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/or substantial teaching and/or professional performing experience (over 2 years). Please contact the Vocal Showcase Coordinator at showcase@natsontario.org for more information or to express your interest.

6. 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 available by **November 9, 2026**. Teachers will be assigned categories of singers to adjudicate and will submit their comment sheets by **November 23, 2026** via www.AuditionWare.com.

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

The deadline to submit comment sheets and rankings is **Monday, November 23, 2026**.

Placement rankings must be emailed separately to the **Virtual** Vocal Showcase Assistant Coordinator at showcase2@natsontario.org for tabulation.

8. Where can I learn more about adjudicating Commercial Music 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.

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>

Notes: [NATS CCM On Point \(PDF\)](#)

NSA Adjudicator Training for Commercial Music Categories:

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

9. What is a jukebox musical?

A jukebox musical is a stage musical that uses previously released popular songs – often by a particular artist, group, or era – to tell a story. Rather than songs written specifically for the musical, the existing music is woven into a new or adapted storyline.

10. How can I donate 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 \$25.00 and over.

11. 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 **Live** 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 10–15-minute rehearsal time, in the morning, on the day of the Vocal Showcase.

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

Singers who bring their own accompanist may use any available practice room throughout the day, subject to availability.

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 to ensure fair access for other participants.

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

Please note that the schedule is subject to change.

8:00 am	Registration opens
8:30 am	Collaborative Pianist 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 Winners' Showcase Concert

13. 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.

14. When will students know if they are singing in the Live Winners' Showcase Concert?

Winners' 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 Winners' Showcase Concert. Singers who wish to sing in the Winners' Showcase Concert are responsible to ensure that their Collaborative Pianist is available to stay and play for the concert. Singers must ensure that they sing a 'clean' version of their song for the Winners' Concert.

Singers using a Collaborative Pianist must pay an additional fee of \$25 directly to the CP for the Winners' 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 Winners' Showcase Concert.

A time limit of 4 minutes/song must be observed for the Winners' Concert.

15. Can teachers go backstage to help/support their singer/singers if they are invited to perform in the Live Winners' 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.

16. Is there a Winners' Showcase Concert for the Virtual Vocal Showcase?

Yes. The Virtual Winners' Showcase Concert will be presented via YouTube on **Sunday, November 29, 2026**. Announcement of placements will be sent to the teachers of virtual singers by **November 27, 2026**. The YouTube link for this concert will be sent out to teachers on **November 29, 2026** and will be posted in the NATS Ontario Facebook Group.

NOTE: The selection that will be used for the concert is chosen during registration – check the box under the desired song when registering in AuditionWare.

17. Who can progress to the Canadian Region Auditions?

Any student of a NATS teacher (in good standing) may enter the Canadian Region Auditions. Winning a class at the NATS Ontario Vocal Showcase is not a requirement.

The Canadian Region Auditions will be held on **Saturday, February 20, 2027 at Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick**. Visit the NATS Canadian Region website [here](#) for more information.

The top 5 placements in each category/class will proceed to the semi-finals video round of the National Student Auditions (NSA) in July 2027.

Appendix 1: How Ranking Works

In each class/genre, NATS adjudicators are given a ranking sheet in their folders and instructed not to confer with the other adjudicators in the room. Each adjudicator must rank every student in the class, with number one (1) as first place, number two (2) as second place, and so on. If there are ten singers in the class, they must rank all ten (1-10) and assign a placement number for each singer. No ties are allowed when ranking. This is kept confidential.

The results are then sent to the tally room for the Vocal Showcase Coordinator and one other NATS Ontario executive member to determine the first and second place winners for each class. Quite often, the adjudicators themselves do not know who the overall winners are until the results are posted.

As many know, adjudicating can be very subjective, perhaps more so for singing than for any other instrument. Different rankings among the three adjudicators can cause surprising results at times. It can also cause ties to occur. The rank or placement number for each singer is added to make a total number for that singer. **The lowest number receives first place.**

Here are a few examples to illustrate how the rankings lead to the results.

Example 1:

3 adjudicators for a 4-person class

Singer 1: $1 + 3 + 2 = 6$

Singer 2: $2 + 1 + 4 = 7$

Singer 3: $4 + 2 + 3 = 9$

Singer 4: $3 + 4 + 1 = 8$

Results: Singer 1 wins first place,
Singer 2 wins second place.

Example 2:

3 adjudicators for a 6-person class

Singer 1: $1 + 3 + 2 = 6$

Singer 2: $2 + 4 + 3 = 9$

Singer 3: $4 + 6 + 5 = 14$

Singer 4: $3 + 1 + 4 = 8$

Singer 5: $5 + 2 + 1 = 8$

Singer 6: $6 + 5 + 6 = 17$

Results: Singer 1 wins first place,
Singers 4 & 5 tie for second
place.

Example 3:

2 adjudicators for a 9-person class

Singer 1: $2 + 1 = 3$

Singer 2: $6 + 2 = 8$

Singer 3: $1 + 7 = 8$

Singer 4: $3 + 5 = 8$

Singer 5: $7 + 3 = 10$

Singer 6: $5 + 6 = 11$

Singer 7: $4 + 8 = 12$

Singer 8: $8 + 4 = 12$

Singer 9: $9 + 9 = 18$

Results: Singer 1 wins the class,
Singers 2, 3 and 4 all tie for
second place.

When there are not enough adjudicators coming to volunteer at the Live Showcase, there may at times only be two adjudicators for a class. This can really affect the overall results.

The Virtual Showcase rankings are determined in the same way. This may not be a perfect system, but it is the fairest one we can devise. Each adjudicator's opinion is given equal weight in determining rankings and winners. It is the fairest system (and results) when there are three adjudicators for every class.

This is why it is so important that there are enough NATS members/teachers to adjudicate at each day of the Showcase.

