

GENERAL INFORMATION AND AUDITION REQUIREMENTS 2007 SFBAC NATS SINGING FESTIVAL

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 and Avocational. Please note that participants in Div. 15 (Avocational), may enter only that division; students in other categories may enter two divisions. 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 March 17, 2007. All entrants must present proof of age to the Registration desk at check-in (driver's license, DMV id card, passport).

Category	Division	Age Range	Date of Birth
Art Song	1	through age 14	on or after 3/18/92
Art Song	2	15-16	between 3/18/90 and 3/17/92
Art Song	3	17-18	between 3/18/88 and 3/17/90
Art Song	4	19-20	between 3/18/86 and 3/17/88
Art Song	5	21-22	between 3/18/84 and 3/17/86
Art Song	6	23-24	between 3/18/82 and 3/17/84
Art Song	7	25 and older	on or before 3/17/82
Aria	8	through age 21	on or after 3/18/85
Aria	9	22-24	between and 3/18/83 and 3/17/85
Aria	10	25 and older	on or before 3/17/82
Musical Theater	11	through age 14	on or after 3/18/92
Musical Theater	12	15-16	between 3/18/90 and 3/17/92
Musical Theater	13	17-18	between 3/18/88 and 3/17/90
Musical Theater	14	19 and older	on or before 3/17/1988
Avocational	15	35 and older	on or before 3/17/72

AUDITION AND REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS

1. To qualify to enter the festival, a student must have been studying with a NATS teacher for a minimum of six (6) months prior to the date of the Festival.
2. 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.
3. Each performer is allowed eight (8) minutes, which includes time spent entering the room, conferring with the accompanist, singing, and exiting.
4. To honor copyright laws, singers must have in their possession **original** music scores (not photocopies) at the Festival. Please present these at registration. Photocopies may be given to the accompanist. Copies may be given to the judges, but are not required.
5. 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.
6. 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 "style/appropriateness of repertoire" 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.
7. Singers must perform the repertoire submitted with their Registration form. Changes may constitute grounds for disqualification in that division. No evaluation will be made and no fees refunded.
8. Entrants with outstanding fees must clear all obligations before performing.

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.

Art Song, Division 4: All selections must be Art Songs. Prepare and submit three selections, comprising of 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, comprising of 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 a minimum of two and a maximum of 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, Divisions 11, 12, 13 and 14: Selections must be from a published musical theater production. Prepare and submit titles for two selections in contrasting style. One piece must have been written before 1970, the other after 1970. Repertoire forms must include both the title of your selection and the musical from which it was taken.

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

WINNERS' CONCERT AND AWARDS

All First Place winners are expected to participate in the Winners' Concert, which will be held on Saturday, March 31, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the Recital Hall at the San Francisco Conservatory. Winners may elect to perform any portion of the repertoire they submitted for performance in the festival, with a time limit to be determined by the Festival Chair. If the winner of a division is unable to perform at the Winners' Concert, the second place recipient will be invited to participate and compete for the Barlow and/or Emerging Artist Award. Anyone who has participated in the Festival is invited to attend the recital and the reception to follow. There will be no additional participation fee or admission charge.

Edwin Barlow Scholarship and Emerging Artist Award: The Barlow Scholarship was established in 1995 as a tribute to Edwin Barlow, a local teacher, performer and NATS member who died in 1994. At the Winners' Concert, participating students will be evaluated by SFBAC Member Teachers to identify winners of the Barlow Award and/or an Emerging Artist Award. The judges may decide to present one, both, or neither of these awards.

PROCEDURES

1. In early March, performers and their teachers will receive an e-mail confirmation of their performance time, performance location, and their accompanist's name.
2. A minimum of seven (7) singers must perform (not just enter) in a division for it to remain competitive. If fewer sing, the division reverts to evaluation only. Singers may then elect to sing in the next higher division, if scheduling permits.
3. If more than 20 singers enter a division, that division WILL be divided, by age, into smaller divisions.
4. First place winners of a prior year's Festival cannot win in that division again. Art Song winners must enter the next age division. Previous first place winners from Opera, Oratorio, and Musical Theater divisions must enter in a different Category.
5. Students performing in Division 15 (Avocational) may not enter any other category. Repertoire appropriate to any other category may be performed in this division.
6. In each division, the judges' scores determine first and second place winners. Only first place winners receive cash awards. The amount of each cash award is dictated by the proceeds, after expenses, received by the Festival. Award amounts may vary from year to year.
7. Winners are announced at the close of each division throughout the day. Singers must be present to learn their status. The week after the Festival, performers' adjudication sheets are returned to each teacher. The winner's names and their teacher's names are posted on the SFBAC website within 2 days following the Festival. Results are also published in the April chapter newsletter.
8. Recorded accompaniment is not allowed. The Festival provides accompanists for all performers, but students may elect to bring their own pianist to the festival. If a student chooses not to sing with a pianist provided by NATS, that student must provide the name, telephone number and e-mail address of the pianist he or she chooses to bring. Singers who provide their own pianist need not pay a pianist fee. *Voice teachers may not accompany their students.*
9. 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.
10. Warm-up rooms are available on a first come, first served basis.