AUGUST 4th NSA ZOOM AGENDA
Orientation meeting with 2024-25 NSA Personnel

VIDEO LINK:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Sj5JyZBrXChz4eOv7KaS1cSkg1Trnkl2nhrT1GRPsib56LT6qh_UDxGDNTo4nzsR.pfHGGGx9EGM6v2sI

PASSCODE: D9bEVcg!

TIMESTAMP & TOPIC

1:06 Allen: **Acknowledgement of the service of NSA Personnel**
1. Welcome
2. NSA Team: Alisa, Dan, Ellie, and Mark —here to help you.

6:43 Alisa: **Importance of UNIFORMITY**
1. Fairness and equity in advancing to nationals
2. Uniformity comes though the nats.org NSA Resource Center and **using links to the NSA Resource Center** in your auditions for most current NSA documents.
3. If you have trouble finding the NSA Resource Center, login on NATS.org, then google search NATS NSA Resource Center, first option in search results
4. PDFs there are made for your use. Please use links documents on the resource center in your communications about NSA—not documents saved from past years. New documents in NSA Resource Center as of August 1, 2024, available now
5. NSA Full REGULATIONS: page 5: **Audition Chair's Chronological List of Duties** with live links to post an NSA event on NATS.org calendar, to the portal for event insurance, etc. PLEASE read and use as a checklist.
6. Use branding logos, *etc.* via link in Regulations on bottom of p 4

13:32 Allen: **NSA Event OPTIONS and NSA CALENDAR**
1. NATS Discretionary Funds Grants up to $600 to support NSA event needs *(not for student prizes)* Speak to regional governors for application & instructions if not on your NATS homepage.
2. Options of nonrefundable entry fees (as national does)
3. Adjudicator fees charged for members not adjudicating (your option)
4. Live, Virtual/Videos, or Hybrid (any level of auditions and/or categories via video auditions)
5. Region NSA events must be scheduled between Sept 1 and completed by March 30th
6. REGIONS MUST REPORT 1st-5th place in national categories TO MARK by March 30th
7. 2nd Friday in April will always be deadline for National YouTube Preliminary Entries
8. Always Late June/Early July National Semifinals and Finals
9. Announce **National NSA Semifinals & Finals: June 26-28. 2025 at Temple University in Philadelphia**
10. ASAP put your NSA events on the NATS.org national calendar, link on page 5 in Regulations
11. Event Insurance—when you need it. Link to NATS Insurance Form in Regulations page 5.

24:28 Alisa: **Minors & NSA Ages**
1. Age on Sept 1st establishes age of students entered for the entire NSA cycle. No aging out of a category mid-NSA cycle.

2. **Minor Chaperone Form for LIVE NSA events only** found in Regulations Appendix, but download the one-page fillable and signable pdf on NSA Resource Center. Parent and Guardian instructions on what to do with the form are in BOLD RED at bottom of the form. Auditions Chair links to chaperone form in NSA Resource Center for voice teachers to send to the parents or guardian of any minor students attending a LIVE NSA event with instructions to download and complete, Parents/guardians complete and send to voice teacher, each voice teacher's studio combines in a zip file to send to auditions chair. Audition chair holds collected digital forms for use then responsible disposal after one calendar year.

28:32 Mark: VIDEO AUDITIONS

1. Video audition guidelines on NSA Resource Page and in new Regulations' Appendix, link from resource center to use as an independent pdf.
2. Accompaniment Tracks are approved for all categories when submitting video auditions. Piano only tracks for CL, MT, and AS this year. Instrumental tracks with NO backing vocals for CM.
3. CM microphone on camera—direct mic feed into camera OR camera picks up sound from speaker
4. NO identifying images on screen (common problems)
5. Nationals: No videos recorded before Sept 1, 2024; all auditions performed in this NSA cycle
6. CHANGE: With the record-setting 37 NSA categories this year, the NSA team will not contact students after the submission deadline in April to correct invalid videos.
7. Teachers are copied on all emails to national qualifying students in early April, teachers need to supervise their national qualifying students' national entries.
8. Importance of accurate email addresses in teachers' region NSA entries both teacher and student's email addresses MUST be correct at the region-level entry to receive national-level audition information.
9. Have participants SAVE the email they choose to use at region NSA entries.
10. Explain the problems with using different emails for the same student from year to year AND issue with emails for siblings.
11. If your students repopulate in AudtionWare, please correct that information.

40:25 Alisa: AuditionWare & DEFAULT CATEGORIES

1. AuditionWare will be the online platform used for NSA this cycle.
2. On NSA Resource Center, please download and read 1-page pdf:
"For NSA Audition Coordinators ONLY: Setup your NSA Event"—all instructions needed are here
3. You will see on that pdf that hours of available support indicate that you probably do not want to close your NSA event registration on a Saturday or Sunday.
4. PROCESS for gaining Admin Access to AuditionWare:
   A. **NEW: As of August 6th,** Brad Mills has now added administrator access to all the names associated with chapter or regional NSA events as found on our shared google spreadsheet of 2025-26 NSA Personnel. **If you have trouble reaching your NSA administrator access**, owner Brad Mills' email address and cell phone are on that pdf (see #2 above) for you to contact him requesting administrative access to set-up your NSA event for the minimum number of NSA workers needing access to your NSA event. Avoid multiple people contacting Brad about the same NSA Event.
   B. Brad will check our online share google spreadsheet of NSA personnel, if you are not on that spreadsheet, you will not be granted access. At which point Brad will ask to email mark@nats.org to approve your administrative access to AuditionWare for your NSA event.

C. Update our shared google spreadsheet of 2024-2025 NSA Personnel here: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1aGwtRAiXFz306ikUnIjuaJM5xDNkjF_y-oSc7JYB1b8/edit?gid=0#gid=0

5. Once on the administrative view of AuditionWare note that both the USERS and the ADMINISTRATIVE Manuals are in the FAQ/Help link at the bottom of your setup steps list.
6. Select Default NSA Categories, which cannot be altered. Any additional categories of entry may not be altered versions of these categories.
7. Available subdivisions and the advantage of having teachers enter their students in subdivisions, whenever even a remote possibility—so that the category can be subdivided by age, not randomly as it will be, when divided after registration in a single category.
8. Adult Categories and Advanced Musical Theatre are the only default categories that do not advance to NATIONALS.
9. Biennial spiritual categories: This cycle is American Negro Spirituals HS, Intermediate, and Advanced categories
10. No lower age limits anymore: Maximum Age (meaning no older than age listed) and Level of Voice Study currently in progress along with voice types/not gender determine the category of entry
11. When entering rep, if a song has many composers, ask the students to list two only followed by **et al** and please advise to wait for AuditionWare to finish populating the entry fields online, whenever entering a song already in the database.

51:13 Mark: VETTING NSA ENTRIES

Vetting REPERTOIRE Entered or assigning vetting of repertoire entered
All rep must meet repertoire requirements for each category entered, some reminders:
1. **CL:** Art Song in English (English must be original language), Arie antiche (for younger students only more open and more restrictive for older students)
2. **ANS:** all arrangements are by classical composers of spirituals—resources in the NSA Resource Center. No gospel as evidenced by arranger's name. For example: Mark Hayes is <u>not</u> a classical composer, nor does he claim to be.
3. **MT:** ONLY One operetta or song literature. Meaning of terms used are in the Category of Entry's IMPORTANT section by genre.
4. **CM:** do not vet titles of rep entered, instead vet:
   A. Not exceeding number of original songs in rep requirements per category by seeing singer's name listed as composer
   B. Not exceeding number of self-accompanied selections in rep requirements per category, accompaniment choices may vary per song entered, but will be indicated on CM entries.

If a Virtual or Hybrid NSA EVENT
54:43 Vetting VIDEOS Entered or assigning vetting of videos entered
ALL VIDEOS ENTERED:
1. No private setting
2. Videos match song titles entered

3. No identifying info on video other than student's name in the video's title, check background of video (give examples, if time permits)
4. No identifying info on YouTube channel
5. No camera panning or zooming
6. Uploaded date must be on or after Sept 1
7. Students should introduce/slate before singing on video
8. **CL, MT, AS:** videos must have only piano on accompaniment track
9. **CM:** videos must have only ONE acoustic instrument accompanying, a keyboard is accepted instead of a piano AND videos must have a microphone handheld or on a mic stand amplifying vocals.
10. **Your chapter or region** may choose to contact teachers and/or students to correct any invalid entries based on vetting OR strictly adhere to the NSA regulations, not advancing any invalid videos. Invalid videos are clearly delineated on NSA Video Submissions Guidelines pdf in NSA Resource Center. **Nationals** will NOT be contacting students to correct invalid entries this cycle.

59:19 Alisa: **ADJUDICATION ISSUES**
1. Crucial use of Genre-specific adjudicator training videos in NSA Resource Center, which walk adjudicators through applying the standards of performance on the NSA Rubric, writing comments, and scoring for PRELIMINARY/first level of auditions. Scoring options are listed in the NSA Regulations.
2. Problems with adjudicator comments at the national level of NSA would have been practically none, if adjudicators had followed the adjudicator guidelines provided in the genre-specific videos.
3. Point out from **"What happens in a preliminary audition?"** to the end of the video is nearly the same on all adjudicator training videos.
4. Additional Adjudication resources on NSA Resource Center
5. In video auditions if you do not have enough adjudicators, you may use expert adjudicators outside of your geographic NATS boundaries. Any non-NATS members must be trained before adjudicating.
6. Adjudicators are a second tier of vetters, **reporting** any discrepancy with NSA Regulations to the Auditions Chair, never questioning the student or interrupting the audition process. Adjudicators cannot disqualify any student entered in NSA, that can only be done by the National NSA Coordinator.

1hr, 06 min Allen: **Q&A** —Live questions and questions posed in the zoom's chat