

Hello Tahoma NATS Members!

I hope you are enjoying the lingering days of a warm summer as we get deeper into the school year. I'm excited for my second year as Student Auditions Chair. As we move into the busy holiday season I want to remind everyone that our chapters NATS Auditions Registration will be opening soon – **Friday, November 16th** and will be open for four weeks, closing on Friday, December 14th.

You all may have received some emails from the NATS national office about renewing membership. It's that season and dues are upon us, if you want to register students to auditions **you must be current on 2019 dues for national and the chapter before you begin the registration process.**

This year we have no rule changes from nationals. However, our chapter will be implementing a few new policies to make the Auditions a better experience for our students! These changes were covered during the last General Meeting and will be outlined here.

1. Categories 5-14, College/Independent studio Classical and MT as well as Advanced Classical and MT, will now have a provided accompanist. This means that students registered to these categories will no longer need to find their own accompanist.
 - a. This change was approved at the Fall 2017 General Meeting.
 - b. The fee for these categories will now be \$50 per category.**
 - c. The accompanist will be provided with a repertoire list after registration closes and will be familiar with the listed rep.
 - d. The accompanist will not be associated with any participating colleges or universities so that the chance some students may have been able to rehearse/work with the accompanist will be low as possible.
 - e. The name of the accompanist will not be released.
2. The Winner's Recital will no longer be performed at the end of Student Auditions. An optional recital for the winners will be presented at the Spring Fling.

Other than the Winner's Recital, categories 1A-4B, 15, and 16 will experience no changes to their rules. Students in these categories are still required to find their own accompanists. The registration fee for these categories remains the same as last year **\$25 per category.**

Attached to this email you will find our 2019 Student Auditions Handbook updated to reflect these policy changes. You will also find a document describing the registration process through www.nats.org. Just like last year, all payment will be done through the website, which accepts credit or debit cards. Please refer to the attached instructions for registration. Remember, our competition will not be available for registration until November 16th.

A final reminder – teachers who have students participating in the auditions are expected to be available as judges for the competition. If you for some reason cannot participate let me know as soon as possible so that I can make sure we have enough judges for our students. Teachers with more than 12 time slots (12 entries, one student registered in MT and Classical categories has 2 time slots) must provide a half-day monitor. And for every 5 time slots after that the teacher must provide another half-day monitor.

If anyone has questions or needs help, please let me know and I will do everything I can to answer questions and assist you.

Please enjoy the rest of your week,
Colin Briskey