

**National Association of Teachers of Singing
Ohio Chapter**



STUDENT AUDITIONS TERMINOLOGY

ARIA - An aria is a solo taken from an opera, oratorio, mass, cantata, zarzuela, operetta, or works titled "concert aria". Oxford Online definitions will be used for the purposes of this audition. For example, Purcell's selections from the semi-staged operas and masques are considered songs.

24/26/28 ITALIAN ART SONGS AND ARIAS - The repertoire found in the 24/26/28 Italian Art Songs and Arias collections may be counted as an aria or an art song in the high school and lower college classical categories. For the singers in the upper college categories and beyond, these pieces may count as an art song **ONLY**, regardless of origin. Any repertoire found outside of these collections will be considered only as the composer intended, as an art song **OR** aria.

MEMORIZATION AND ORIGINAL LANGUAGES - All repertoire, including oratorio, must be sung from memory. Selections should be sung in original languages or in translation if warranted by common performance practice.

ORIGINAL KEY - All arias from opera, oratorio, mass, cantata, zarzuela, operetta, works titled "concert aria", or music theatre selections must be sung in the original or standard published key. [Often pieces are published in several different books, scores, forms in different keys. Any of these are fine.]

CLASSICAL REPERTOIRE/CATEGORIES - The word "classical" in this context refers to art songs and arias from the "classical" genre, not limited to the "Classical" period of Mozart and Haydn. In other words, no music theatre, pop, soul, jazz, rhythm and blues, etc. Published arrangements of folk songs, spirituals, and traditional hymn tunes in English are widely accepted as a part of the classical genre. Students in classical categories may present one selection of this type to fulfill the English art song requirement.

JUDICIOUS CUTS - Piano introductions, piano interludes, piano music after the vocal solo is completed, and internal cuts of opera arias and music theatre selections are allowed as in common performance practice. Cuts of verse or verses of selections are not allowed. In the case of strophic pieces, all verses should remain that are traditionally included.

MUSIC THEATER SELECTIONS - All repertoire must be from the score of a book show written or intended for a fully realized musical production. The production may be a musical (including film musicals), revue, or MUTH song cycle. A fully realized production includes blocking/acting, dance, costumes, sets, pit orchestra or piano, lighting, sound, or a combination of the aforementioned elements. Revues should thread back to the original production. Various online resources are available to confirm whether a particular selection was written/intended for a fully realized musical production, and teachers are encouraged to consult these resources when selecting repertoire for the auditions.

Singers should ensure that contrasting selections represent the spectrum of their vocal and dramatic abilities. For example, this may be exhibited by selecting pieces of varying style periods (pop/rock, contemporary, Golden Age) and employing variety of vocalism varying style periods (belt, mix, legit). (Singers may choose only one operetta aria as one of their selections.)

MUSIC THEATRE TRANSPOSITION - Music Theater selections in college categories and older must be sung in the original or standard published key. (Often pieces are published in several different books, scores, forms in different keys. Any of these are fine.) High school singers may use published transposed keys to accommodate voice change issues only. Any published transposition must retain the composer's intention and style of music, and preserve the character being portrayed in the story and lyrics.

TRANSGENDER POLICY - Students who self-identify as transgender or gender fluid must choose one audition category in Classical and/or Music Theater based on their gender identification at the time of the chapter or regional audition, and select repertoire linked and associated with the gender of that category throughout the corresponding audition season.

COMMENT ONLY - Any student may register to sing for comments only and participate in the preliminary audition round.

TIME LIMITS - The total performance time of the selections for some singers may exceed the category performance time allotment, making it likely that the adjudication panel will be unable to hear all of the repertoire entered by the singer and the adjudication panel will call/signal stop before a selection is concluded.

TEACHERS/MEMBERS IN NATS STUDENT AUDITIONS - NATS teacher members who meet the requirements of a student audition category---age and years of study--- may enter student auditions through the NATS member with whom they are currently studying, but they may not enter themselves in the audition. If they enter their students in the audition, they must be available to adjudicate a category as well.