

2015 Minnesota NATS Audition Terminology

Aria	An aria is a solo taken from an opera, oratorio, cantata, operetta, or works titled "concert aria". Oxford Online definitions will be used for the purpose of this auditions. For example, Purcell's selections from the semi-operas and masques are considered songs.
24/26/28 Italian Art Songs and Arias	The repertoire in the 24/26/28 Italian Art Songs and Arias may be counted as an aria or an art song in the High School, Lower College and Avocational divisions. For singers in the Upper College divisions and beyond, these pieces may be counted as an art song ONLY, regardless of origin. Any repertoire found outside of these collections will be considered 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 language or in translation if warranted by common performance practice.
Transposition	All arias from opera, oratorio, mass, cantata, operetta, works titled "concert aria", or music theater selections must be sung in the original key or an alternate key based on common performance practice.
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 theater, pop, soul, jazz, rhythm and blues, etc. Folk Song arrangements are widely accepted as a part of the classical genre and would be acceptable and appropriate audition repertoire for students in classical categories.
Judicious Cuts	Piano introductions, piano interludes, piano music after the vocal solo is completed, and internal cuts of opera arias and music theater 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 staged Broadway and Off-Broadway productions. The productions may be a musical, revue, or song cycle but MUST have been staged on Broadway or Off-Broadway. Various online resources are available to confirm such status and teachers are encourage to confirm them when selecting repertoire. 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 a variety of vocalism (belt, mix, legit).
Comments Only	Any student may register to sing for comments only and participate in the preliminary audition round.
Printed Music/Copies	The National Association of Teachers of Singing endorses a strict policy regarding copyright laws. The use of photocopied music is prohibited at all NATS sponsored events, from the national to the chapter level. Click on this link to review the NATS Policy on Copyright Laws. http://www.nats.org/Library/docs/copyright_policy_revision1-2012.pdf . If legal copies (e.g. downloaded from the internet) or unbound music is being used by the collaborative pianist, it is suggested that the singer address the adjudicators upon entering the room and provide proper copyright approval prior to their performance in the form of a CD Sheet music approval form or other accepted documentation (e.g. publisher approval letter, public domain notice) prior to announcing their first selection.