

**Chicago Chapter NATS  
Digital Auditions  
Frequently Asked Questions  
Updated 03/16/20**

Send me your questions. We will work through it together! [auditions@chicagonats.org](mailto:auditions@chicagonats.org)

**I had several students who had wanted to participate in the NATS classical auditions that could not due to conflicts. Now all those school activity conflicts are gone and registration is being opened again. Will I be allowed to add participants who were not previously registered for the Classical High School and College division? Or will you only be accepting video submissions from singers who were already registered before the initial deadline?**

We see this as a rare and valuable occasion for students to practice creating the types of audition video required for College Audition prescreening, Opera Audition prescreening, and the like. We would like to open this opportunity up to as many singers as possible to provide opportunities for feedback and development. Even if a student was not able to register by the original February 28<sup>th</sup> deadline, they may register and submit videos during when registration re-opens (March 21-April 3).

**Similarly, will there be an extension on the registration for the musical theater NATS auditions? Many of my students thought they wouldn't happen and so didn't pay the fee.**

Just like the Classical Auditions, singers are welcome to register for the first time when registration for the Music Theater Auditions re-opens April 10-April 24.

**How do we up load from the student's YouTube account? Do they just copy and send us a link?**

Yes. Once students have created and uploaded their videos, they should make sure that the video settings are "Public" or "Unlisted". If the video link is set at "Private," they judges will be unable to view and the student will be disqualified. This is an important aspect to remember as the same would happen with college or professional prescreening auditions. The student should email you the links so that you can include them in the registration. When the Classical Auditions registration re-opens, the video submission section will be clearly indicated.

**Can students change repertoire since they won't have access to their coaches and "live time" with their voice teachers?**

Yes. Because these are extenuating circumstances and we want our singers to feel prepared and confident about their submissions, they are welcome to change their repertoire during the registration re-opening.

**I have parents/students afraid to register or those who have already registered that are concerned about meeting in a public space to make recordings. If a student or teacher are unable to find an appropriate location to record due to closures of facilities or they do not have the equipment to create a quality recording (no piano/keyboard or quality sound system for playback of accompaniment tracks), will you be accepting a *capella* and/or lower quality video recordings?**

The safety of our singers and their families are a top priority and we encourage everyone to record in spaces that will not compromise any person's health. With that being said, there are many options for providing high enough quality recordings. Many smart phones, tablets, and computers have surprisingly good cameras and microphones and we encourage you to talk to your students about the many possibilities they have within their homes. Many colleges accept video recordings from smartphones as long as the volume is turned up and the recording does not contain distracting background noise. Many dining rooms and kitchens have fantastic acoustics, but even living rooms can be acoustically accommodating.

We will NOT be accepting a capella recordings unless the piece is specifically composed as such. Students do not have to sing with a live pianist and there are several options for accompaniment backing tracks. Several of our contracted pianists have agreed to make customized recordings of piano accompaniments. The pianists have been sent lists of students' repertoire, email addresses, and phone numbers (just as they would if they were planning to meet with the students in the live auditions). The base price is \$15/song, but pianists have their own fee schedules for extremely difficult or simple music. Each pianist will communicate with you directly about your music.

Other options for accompaniment tracks can be found on YouTube, Appcompanionist, PianoTrax, and similar apps/websites. These tracks as well as the recorded tracks from CCNATS pianists can be played through stereos, Bluetooth speakers, or other means of amplification. Please make sure that the accompaniment is audible and supportive without overwhelming the singer.

**I paid the extra fee as I was not available during the regularly schedule audition date, how I am now free to judge the online submissions in April. Could I have a refund for the \$125?**

Yes, if you are now able to judge digitally we welcome as much participation and feedback as possible. You will be able to change this option when registration re-opens and we will issue refunds as the resources become available. Please make sure that your mailing address is current.

**What rules are in place if students and/or teachers that become sick before they have the opportunity to complete recordings. If my students decide for other reasons that they are not able to participate with the competition moving online, will you be issuing refunds?**

**And**

**Are you giving those who registered for a live competition the option to withdraw and receive a refund due to the difficulties presented by the format change of this competition?**

Student fees are refundable until 2 weeks before the auditions, any later and it is CCNATS policy to not offer refunds for registration cancellations. We rely on charitable donations to offset certain costs associated with the live competitions (pianist fees, space rental, etc), but the registration fees that singers and teachers pay go directly back to students as the prizes given to the top three winners in each category. Because this year is filled with unprecedented challenges we have raised each prize to incentivize the extra effort in making videos. Please remember, for live auditions there is always the risk that a singer will become ill or have an emergency conflict the day of. In those cases, we do not offer refunds; similarly, the singer would lose their financial investment for professional auditions as well.

Since we are past the original date for the Classical Auditions, no refunds will be given at this time. At this point, students may be refunded if they choose with withdrawal from the Music Theater Auditions.

**If all of my students withdraw from the Music Theater competition, will my Teacher registration fee be refunded as well?**

We hope that each of you will encourage your students to be flexible and creative during this challenging time and use this as an opportunity expand their skill sets. However, if every single one of your students withdraws, CCNATS will be able to issue partial refunds of \$40 for the Teacher Registration fee. For each registration, we have to deduct the NATS fee and the CC processing fees for AuditionWare and are able to refund the difference.