

**NORTH CAROLINA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
VOICE TEACHERS SECTION
2017 VOCAL PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL REGULATIONS**

I. DISTRICT VOCAL PERFORMANCE FESTIVALS

A. Purpose

- a. To provide students and teachers a means of receiving constructive feedback by competent judges.
- b. To stimulate and to recognize constant growth.
- c. To provide students and teachers a means of hearing the work done by others.

B. Eligibility

- a. Contestants must be elementary, middle school, or senior high school students. Students beyond high school are not eligible.
- b. Contestants must be actively studying voice with a private instructor.

C. Regulations

- a. Students *must* perform TWO works of Art Song, Musical Theater or Pop/Rock genres. Art Songs and Musical Theater song may be selected from the recommended festival music list, which is published on the web at www.ncmta.org. Students may choose to perform any of the following combinations: 2 Art Songs, 2 MT Songs, 2 Pop/Rock Songs, 1 Art Song and 1 MT Song, 1 Art Song and 1 Pop/Rock Song, 1 MT Song and 1 Pop/Rock Song. Students *may* perform ONE additional song of choice if time allows. **No changes in repertoire will be allowed after registrations have been submitted.**
- b. Students *must* bring original sheet music (i.e. song book, single sheet publication or purchased electronic download) to the event. Teachers are always encouraged to use editions of the highest quality.
 - i. All students/teachers using electronic resources must be sure to have read and filled out completely the MTNA Competitions Music Release Form (found on the NCMTA website).
 - ii. A fully filled out copy of this MTNA Competitions Music Release Form must be presented at registration of any NCMTA function in which a student is using such copies of music, otherwise the student will be disqualified and unable to participate.
 - iii. Collaborative pianists are valued and respected colleagues in ensuring successful auditions. So that they are able to concentrate fully on providing the best support and partnership for singing artists in the auditions, collaborative pianists **SHOULD NOT** be required to serve as the arbiter of correct adherence to the NCMTA Copyright Policy.
- c. A teacher may enter any number of students.
- d. On the day of the event, teachers entering students will be required to assist in the capacity of door monitor, rating sheets runner, grade recorders, registration table attendant or other positions deemed necessary.
- e. Teachers may not accompany their own students at any stage of the event including awards concerts.
- f. The Vocal Performance Festival (VPF) list consists of 4 entry levels: (Grades K-2, Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8 Male/Female and Grades 9-12 Male/Female). When entering students in the VPF, the teacher **MUST** indicate the entry level of the student.
- g. **NO ONE MAY PERFORM FOR CRITICISM ONLY.** Each soloist will be assigned a rating as follows:
 - i. **SUPERIOR** - Awarded to students who present an outstanding performance. Students earning a superior rating will receive a gold seal on their certificate.
 - ii. **EXCELLENT** - Awarded to students who present a strong performance with minor discrepancies in details. Students earning an excellent rating will receive a silver seal on their certificate.
 - iii. **VERY GOOD** - Awarded to students who show accomplishment, but need additional work in one or more areas.
- h. Students entering at grade levels K-2 and 3-5 will not advance beyond the District VPF.
- i. Students earning a “Superior” rating at grade levels 6-8 and 9-12 may advance to the State VPF.

- j. Contestants will be expected to register and participate in contests within their own district except where travel will be shorter to another contest, or where there is a conflict in date. Where such a change is requested, the Vocal Performance Festival Director will rule on acceptance, dependent on time and space available. In no case may a student be permitted to enter more than one District VCF or to switch districts after initial registration has been submitted.
- k. Performance
 - i. All contestants must perform from memory.
 - ii. Contestants must provide own accompanist. Pre-recorded accompaniments will not be permitted.
 - iii. Students must number the measures of each piece.
 - iv. Timing: Each student will be allotted a 10-minute audition slot.
 - v. Judges are permitted to stop a contestant in order to allow sufficient time for writing comments.
- l. If the size of the audition room is large enough, the District Festival Chairperson may elect to open the room for public listening.
- m. Judges' decisions are final. Initiating discussion with a judge - by a student, parent or teacher - questioning comments or ratings from the Performance Festival may result in penalties to the student or teacher for current and future Performance Festivals. A committee comprised of the Voice Section Chair, the Vocal Performance Festival Director and the District Performance Festival Chair will be formed to address any grievances filed against or by the judge.

D. Judges

- a. The Vocal Performance Festival Director is responsible for obtaining qualified judges.
- b. Judge must meet one of these criteria:
 - i. College Faculty member
 - ii. Nationally Certified Teacher
 - iii. NCMTA teacher with a Masters or Doctorate Degree
 - iv. Member of NATS with consistent student winners at state or regional levels
 - v. Private Vocal Instructor with more than 15 years of vocal teaching experience
- c. Judges may not judge in their own location.
- d. Judges may return to a district after 2 years.
- e. Judging compensation is \$45 per hour.
- f. There must be one judge per audition room.

E. District Registration

- a. Registration must be completed by teacher with fees online at the NCMTA website, FIVE weeks prior to the date of the first District VPF. See the NCMTA website for current dates. In the case where a teacher has students registering in more than one district, separate registrations and payments must be submitted for each district.
- b. Notice of withdrawal must be given to the Vocal Performance Festival Director 2½ weeks prior to the date of the first District VPF, if a refund of fees is expected.
- c. Teachers may submit time requests with the registration form. However, time requests are not guaranteed.
- d. No time requests may be made after the District registration deadline.
- e. Vocal Performance Festivals may be cancelled for districts with less than 3 student registrations. If this occurs, registration fees will be refunded.

F. District Fees

- a. \$20 for each contestant.
- b. Non –NCMTA member teachers must pay an additional one-time fee of \$25. This fee is not per student; teachers may enter multiple students.

G. District Performance Festival Locations (listed by counties).

- a. Albemarle: Anson, Cabarrus, Davidson, Davie, Rowan, Stanley, Union
- b. Charlotte: Mecklenburg

- c. Greenville: Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Currituck, Craven, Dare, Edgecomb, Gates, Greene, Hertford, Hyde, Lenior, Martin, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Tyrell, Washington, Wilson
- d. Lumberton: Bladen, Columbus, Cumberland, Hoke, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland
- e. Mars Hill: Alexander, Allegheny, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Haywood, Henderson, Iredell, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, Yancey
- f. Raleigh: Chatham, Durham, Franklin, Granville, Halifax, Harnett, Johnston, Lee, Moore, Nash, Northampton, Orange, Person, Vance, Wake, Warren, Wayne
- g. Wilmington: Brunswick, Duplin, Jones, New Hanover, Onslow, Pender
- h. Winston-Salem/Greensboro: Alamance, Caswell, Forsyth, Guilford, Montgomery, Randolph, Rockingham, Stokes, Surry, Yadkin

II. STATE PERFORMANCE FESTIVALS

A. Purpose

- a. To give those students who are recipients of “Superior” ratings in the District VPFs an opportunity to perform again for constructive feedback.
- b. To give the students an opportunity to hear other vocalists from throughout the state.

B. Eligibility

- a. Students must be in grades 6-8 or 9-12.
- b. Students must have made a “Superior” rating at the District VPF in the current year.

C. Regulations

- a. Students *must* bring original sheet music (i.e. song book, single sheet publication or purchased electronic download) to the event. Teachers are always encouraged to use editions of the highest quality. All students/teachers using electronic resources must be sure to have read and filled out completely the MTNA Competitions Music Release Form (*). A fully filled out copy of this MTNA Competitions Music Release Form must be presented at registration of any NCMTA function in which a student is using such copies of music, otherwise the student will be disqualified and unable to participate.
 - i. *Forms are found on the NCMTA website.
- b. All students who proceed to the State VPF must perform the SAME song selections that were performed at the District Level.
- c. Performance
 - i. All contestants must perform from memory.
 - ii. Contestants must provide own accompanist. Pre-recorded accompaniments will not be permitted.
 - iii. Students must number the measures of each piece.
 - iv. Timing: Each student will be allotted a 10-minute audition slot.
 - v. Judges are permitted to stop a contestant in order to allow sufficient time for writing comments.
- d. If the size of the audition room is large enough, the District Festival Chairperson may elect to open the room for public listening.
- e. NO ONE MAY PERFORM FOR CRITICISM ONLY. Each soloist will be assigned a rating. Students receiving a “ Superior” at the State VPF will be invited to perform at the State Conference of the same year.
- f. Judges’ decisions are final. Initiating discussion with a judge - by a student, parent or teacher - questioning comments or ratings from the Performance Festival may result in penalties to the student or teacher for the current and future Voice Performance Festivals. A committee comprised of the Voice Section Chair, the State Voice Performance Director and the District or State Contest-Festival Chair will be formed to address any grievances filed against or by the judge.
- g. Students earning a “Superior” rating will be invited to perform at the NCMTA State Conference of the same year. Students will be expected to perform the same repertoire as sung in the District Vocal Performance Festival.

- h. On the day of the event, teachers entering students will be required to assist in the capacity of door monitor, rating sheets runner, grade recorders, registration table attendant or other positions deemed necessary.

D. Judges

- a. The Vocal Performance Festival Director is responsible for obtaining qualified judges.
- b. Judge must meet one of these criteria:
 - i. College Faculty member
 - ii. Nationally Certified Teacher
 - iii. NCMTA teacher with a Masters or Doctorate Degree
 - iv. Member of NATS with student winners at state or regional levels
 - v. Private Vocal Instructor with more than 15 years of vocal teaching experience
- c. Judges should not be a current or past teacher of any student contestant performing in the state contest.
- d. Judging fee is \$45 per hour.
- e. There must be one judge per audition room.

E. State Registration

- a. Registration must be completed online no later than 4 days following the last district performance festival date.
- b. Notification of withdrawal must be made no later than 1 week prior to the State VPF if a refund is expected.
- c. Teachers may submit time requests with the registration form. However, time requests are not guaranteed.
- d. No time requests may be made after the State registration deadline.

F. State Fees

- a. \$20 for each contestant.

G. State Performance Festivals Locations

- a. Eastern Region
 - i. Greenville District
 - ii. Lumberton District
 - iii. Raleigh District
 - iv. Wilmington District
- b. Western Region
 - i. Albemarle District
 - ii. Charlotte District
 - iii. Mars Hill District
 - iv. Winston-Salem/Greensboro District

- H. The date of the State VPFs (East and West) will be determined by the Piano Performance Festival Director, the Vocal Performance Festival Director and the State Chairpersons.