Important info for Students to prepare for VSNATS Student Auditions Weekend

Nov 6-8, 2026 at Valley Presbyterian Church

Arrival & Check-In

- Check in at the registration table when you arrive.
- Students should arrive **45 minutes before** their audition time.
- Students must check in for **all categories** they are singing in.
- In the event that your pianist cannot attend your audition for whatever reason, we have on-call staff pianists during the event that can cover for a fee ($50 for youth and high school, $60 for college/adult).

Warmup Rooms

- There will be a few rooms available for participants to warm up. There are no pianos in those rooms. There will be a sign-up on the doors of those rooms to sign up for a 10-min slot.

Hallway Protocol

- Students should be **outside the audition room 10-15 minutes** before their slot.
- Parents/friends can observe at the discretion of the singer auditioning. Recording on your phone is allowed as long as you do not distract the singer. No coaching from parents during the singer's audition.
- If a student or pianist is not present, judges **may take the next student** even if out of order.
- We must keep the schedule on time!

Timing of Auditions

- All auditions are timed. The timer starts with the singer's slate.
- If the timer goes off, the singer is **not penalized**, but they will be asked to stop at that time.

Slating Requirements

Slate with:

1. Full Name
2. Song Titles in the order you are going to sing them

Song Order

- Students choose their **first** song and the order of all pieces after that.

CM Auditions

- Students should bring the music track ready on their own phone or device
- The Student or Parent will plug in the device and press play. It is advisable to have a parent (or other) in charge of the device volume during the audition in case the track volume needs to be adjusted song to song.
- PLEASE **set the device to airplane mode** before performing to avoid any interruptions.
- There will be a short moment for them to do a sound/mic check at the beginning of their session.
- Please have the device and music track ready to go when you enter the room. It is important to help us to keep this room running on schedule.

Emergencies / Delays

Please plan to arrive early and allow extra travel time in case of traffic issues.

If you find you will be arriving late or have a true emergency the day of:

Call or Text Emily Benoit-Smith at 623-680-5097

Weekend Schedule Overview

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2026

- 4:30pm- 8:45pm Day 1 Session of Auditions

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2026

- 9am-12:15pm: Day 2 Session of Auditions
- The Awaken Coffee Shop will be open 8am-2pm, serving coffee and pastries for purchase
- 12:30-1:30pm Teachers Appreciation Luncheon
- 1:40-5:45pm Day 2 cont'd session of auditions
- 8:00pm – AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENT - via Facebook Live, posted on the vsnats.org site and our social media page
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** there is a funeral being held in the chapel on Saturday from 11am-1pm. PLEASE be respectful of those in attendance by keeping noise levels outside audition spaces to a minimum.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2026 Winners Recitals

1:00pm-2:00pm Classical Categories

2:30pm-3:45pm Musical Theater Categories

4:15pm-5:30pm CM Categories

Sunday Winners Recitals

The **VSNATS Chapter Auditions WINNERS RECITALS** are a place to showcase the 1st place winners singing LIVE. This is a chance for the winners to perform for an audience and is a great opportunity for all participants to get ideas for new repertoire as well as aspire to new levels of performance for themselves.

- We have a staff pianist playing for the First Place winners that will be singing on the Classical and Musical Theater recitals on Sunday. *(You may use your own pianist if you have made arrangements for that)*
- For the CM recital all winners must use a track or self-accompany.
- **REMINDER:** All award winners may pick up their certificates and/or checks during every recital. If they are not picked up on Sunday, they will be mailed to the individuals.

There will be a brief intermission between each Recital to allow for exiting and entering of attendees and performers. There is limited seating in the Chapel.

IMPORTANT NOTE: On Sunday November 8, 2026 the VSNATS Auditions will only be using the CHAPEL on campus for the Winners Recitals. There are other events happening at the church that day and we ask that you be respectful of the campus and other events happening at the church on Sunday.

Announcement of Winners

This year there will be NO in-person announcement of winners. All awards in all categories will be announced via Facebook Livestream and posted on the vsnats.org website and VSNATS social media accounts on Saturday evening once auditions have ended. REMINDER: All award winners may pick up their certificates and/or checks during every recital. If they are not picked up on Sunday, they will be mailed to the individuals.

1st Place Winners who plan to attend and perform:

- All performers should plan to arrive **20 minutes before** their Recital session so we can line them up in the correct order and ensure the ceremony runs smoothly and efficiently.
- Performers may bring their own pianist or choose to work with our staff pianist.
- Singers using the staff pianist must email their music **the night before**, so the pianist has adequate preparation time. **Luis Rodriguez: mymacbox@gmail.com**

AWARDS (Please Read Carefully)

There are 4 types of awards given at VSNATS Student Auditions this year:

1. **NATS Category Awards - 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place, and Honorable Mentions**
2. **Children & Junior High Caption Awards**
3. **VSNATS Rising Voice Scholarships - For High School & College Singers**

4. **NSAL Scholarships**

Category Awards

Within each category, all scores that average 90 or above (or receive two scores of 90) will receive a certificate of recognition. There will be a 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place winner that will receive a modest monetary award for the highest scores and Honorable Mentions for all successive scores that average 90 or above.

What happens in a tie in our chapter auditions?

- We will award UP TO 4 winners in the event that two or more people receive the same score. For example, 1st/1st/2nd/3rd. If there is a 3-way tie, it will be 1st/1st/1st/2nd. If there are two ties, it will be 1st/1st/2nd/2nd.

Youth & Junior High Caption Awards

We're excited to continue our VSNATS Chapter Caption Awards after receiving wonderful feedback last year! These awards give us an opportunity to recognize and encourage younger singers beyond traditional audition placements.

At the end of each judging session, each judge will select ONE singer from their room/category to receive a special caption award. A little recognition goes a long way! These awards celebrate individual strengths, build confidence, and motivate our young singers to continue growing.

VSNATS Chapter Rising Voice Scholarships

Recognition for High School and College Singers:

This year, we are proud to introduce our newly named **Rising Voice Scholarships**, awarded to outstanding first-place performers in each of our three divisions:

- **Classical:** Rising Voice Scholarship in Memory of Claudia Kennedy
- **Musical Theatre:** Rising Voice Scholarship in Memory of Christy Welty
- **Commercial Music:** Rising Voice Scholarship

These scholarships recognize more than vocal excellence. Teachers will be encouraged to consider artistry, stage presence, emotional connection, and potential for continued growth. We are looking for singers who command the room, connect authentically with their audience, and demonstrate that special artistic promise that makes a performance memorable.

Teachers attending each Winners Recital will vote for their first and second choices, considering each singer relative to their age and stage of development.

NSAL Scholarships

The National Society of Arts and Letters AZ Chapter will review a video recording of the Classical and Musical Theater Winner Recitals and choose a scholarship award recipient between the ages of 16-22 from each of those category recitals. These winners will be notified after the event and will receive a monetary award.