

Dear STNATS Members,

We are really looking forward to seeing you, and hearing your students, in April! As you know, we will be holding our IN-PERSON spring auditions at Del Mar College on Saturday, April 9. An email containing registration information will be sent to the chapter tomorrow (Tuesday, February 8). Your officers are going to great lengths to make the upcoming auditions as safe as possible. After consulting with John Nix (Vocal Pedagogy/Health expert), Melinda Brou (Texoma Governor), and Allen Henderson (NATS President), we have decided on the following guidelines.

- 1) When inside the Del Mar facilities, it is highly recommended that masks be worn at all times by singers, judges, and collaborative pianists. Although wearing a mask when you sing is optional, it is strongly recommended that singers wear a mask during their audition. Please know that your score will NOT be affected by your decision to wear/not wear a mask during your audition.
- 2) Participants (singers, collaborative pianists, judges, and student volunteers) will be the only people permitted inside the music building. Family members and friends are asked to wait outside of the music building. (Participants under the age of 18 may bring one family member/legal guardian.)
- 3) Each audition is closed to everyone except the singer, their collaborative pianist/page turner, and the 3 judges assigned to that room.
- 4) It is recommended that groups of more than 6 people congregate outside the music building. (With the exception of the announcements of semifinalists/finalists and winners. There will be plenty of space in the auditorium to practice social distancing.) We are recommending groups of more than 6 people to stay outside and practice social distancing. (Masks may be removed once outside the building, as long as social distancing is observed.) *** In the event of inclement weather, there will be alternate places to wait inside.
- 5) Snacks and drinks will be available for purchase inside the music building. Please consume all food and drinks outside the building. (Singers may bring a water bottle into their audition room.)

We are asking all participants to self-monitor for COVID Symptoms. If you, your student, or your pianist has any symptoms, we kindly ask you to NOT participate the day of auditions. As a reminder, here is a list of symptoms from the CDC website:

Watch for Symptoms

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Additional safety procedures on the day of auditions will include:

- 1) HEPA filters will be provided in every audition room.
- 2) Piano keys will be sanitized after each audition.
- 3) The new music building at Del Mar College is equipped with a top-of-the-line HVAC system.
- 4) Hand sanitizer stations will be available throughout the music building.

We appreciate your enthusiasm for our chapter and thank you, in advance, for your cooperation with the new safety guidelines. Again, be on the lookout for an email tomorrow regarding registration. We look forward to seeing you at Del Mar College on April 9!

With great admiration,

Rick

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