



NATS Audition Rubric

COMMERCIAL MUSIC CATEGORIES

Each singer's performance is adjudicated in comparison to the following standards as applied to the category of entry.

STANDARDS	DEVELOPING 70 – 79	ADVANCING 80 – 89	MASTERING 90 – 100
<p>STONE Singer shows mastery of the vocal demands of songs selected and makes subtle or dramatic adjustments appropriate to the style and emotional expression.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each commercial style requires a variety of authentic vocal colors and sounds. • Vocal tone may include some form of a mix of Mode I (Chest/TA) and Mode II (Head/CT) as well as varied organic, primal sounds born of raw emotion. • Interpretive vocal stylisms may include varied vocal onsets, releases, nuances, and embellishments, which stylistically color the vocal tone with fry, cry, growl, breathiness, etc. (See <i>CM Terminology</i>) • All CM styles are reliant on amplification. The microphone is used dynamically to facilitate vocal stylisms as well as projection. 	<p>The singer is beginning to show ability in meeting the demands of each song and to make some appropriate choices in keeping with the specific style of each song.</p>	<p>The singer shows advancing ability in meeting the demands of each song and is often able to make appropriate choices in keeping with the specific style of each song.</p>	<p>The singer is mastering the ability to meet the demands of each song and makes appropriate choices in keeping with the specific style of each song.</p>
<p>BREATHING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inhalation is efficient to the style and may be noisy or silent in response to raw emotion. • Exhalation provides stability and vocal energy. The appearance of effort may be intrinsic to style. 	<p>The singer is beginning to inhale efficiently to meet the demands of each style. Exhalation needs to provide more stability and vocal energy.</p>	<p>The singer inconsistently inhales efficiently to meet the demands of each style. Exhalation inconsistently provides stability and vocal energy.</p>	<p>The singer is mastering efficient inhalation to meet the demands of each style. Exhalation provides stability and vocal energy.</p>
<p>LYRICS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lyrics are articulated in the style appropriate to the selected style of commercial music. • Vocal tract shaping and diction enhance the individuality of the performance. 	<p>Articulation is incompatible with the style of the song. The singer is beginning to engage the lyrics to embody the essence of each style.</p>	<p>Articulation is often compatible with the style of each song. The singer is often engaging the lyrics to embody the essence of each style.</p>	<p>Articulation is compatible with the style of each song. The singer is consistently engaging the lyrics to embody the essence of each style.</p>
<p>VOCAL STYLISMS*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The song's artistic interpretation includes expressive vocal stylisms characteristic of the selected style. • Vocal stylisms may include varied vocal onsets, releases, nuances, and embellishments such as fry, riffs, cry, growl, etc. (See <i>CM Terminology</i>) 	<p>Vocal interpretations lack the vocal stylisms characteristic of each genre. The singer is beginning to develop a facility with vocal stylisms.</p>	<p>Vocal interpretations include some vocal stylisms characteristic of each selection's style. The singer is developing a facility with artistic vocal stylisms.</p>	<p>Vocal interpretations include vocal stylisms characteristic of each genre. The singer has proficient facility with artistically effective vocal stylisms.</p>
<p>MUSICIANSHIP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance is in tune. • Rhythmic groove enhances the performance. • Memorization is secure and accurate. 	<p>Pitches need to be more accurate. The style and rhythmic groove require further study. Memorization is incomplete.</p>	<p>Most pitches are accurate. The style and rhythmic groove are developing. Memorization is organic and mostly accurate.</p>	<p>All pitches are accurate. The style and rhythmic groove enhance the performance. Memorization is organic and accurate.</p>
<p>ARTISTIC INTERPRETATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The performance is authentic. • The performance offers a unique, stylized interpretation of the music. • The performance is specific to the selected style of commercial music. 	<p>The singer needs an increased understanding of the stylistic elements of each selection. The interpretation lacks authenticity and is not unique to the singer.</p>	<p>The singer is advancing in the ability to communicate the stylistic elements of each selection. The interpretation has moments of authenticity unique to the singer.</p>	<p>The singer is mastering the ability to communicate the stylistic elements of each selection. The interpretation is authentic and unique to the singer.</p>
<p>ENSEMBLE (comments only) The singer coordinates with the accompaniment effectively to accomplish artistic goals.</p>	<p>The singer needs to coordinate more effectively with the accompaniment to accomplish artistic goals.</p>	<p>The singer is advancing in the ability to coordinate with the accompaniment to accomplish artistic goals.</p>	<p>The singer is mastering effective coordination with the accompaniment to accomplish artistic goals.</p>

*Edrie Means Weekly coined the term vocal stylism in her teaching of Commercial Music and Musical Theatre.