

The Metropolitan Opera

NATIONAL COUNCIL

September 22, 2020

Dear Teachers of Singing,

I wanted to send out a few more updates for our auditions this year. Some dates in our timeline have changed, so please see the current deadlines and procedures below. Due to Covid-19, all district and regional auditions for the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions will be conducted virtually for the 2020-2021 season. This year, there will be a required Qualifying Round during the month of September. All singers who wish to participate in a district audition must apply and submit a video audition during the Qualifying Round **before the deadline of October 5, 2020**, and be accepted, before signing up for the district of their choice.

Qualifying Round: September 1 - October 5, 2020

1. **Our application for the qualifying round is LIVE!** Singers may apply via the MONC application on the MONC website (no application fee will be charged for this first step): www.metopera.org/MONCapp. **The deadline is October 5, 2020.**
2. Singers record 1 to 2 arias with piano accompaniment as a video; video must have been recorded NO MORE than 3 months prior to date of submission.
3. Piano accompaniment can be prerecorded, live or self-accompanied. The Met will not be providing a pianist for this round.
4. Singers will submit links to video audition, photo, resume, proof of age & proof of legal residency (instead of attachments).
5. Singers can check a box to also have the MONC auditions considered for the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program (LYADP).
6. There is no application fee for the qualifying round. More details regarding applications & technical requirements are available on the MONC website.
7. Judges for this round will be MONC, LYADP and Met Opera staff, and this round will be completely closed. No videos will be shared outside of the judges.
8. Results will be emailed to the singers and posted online **by October 12, 2020**.
9. Singers will receive written feedback, listing skills that are proficient and that need improvement.

District Auditions: November 2020 - January 2021

Kentucky District: Sunday, November 8, 2020 – 11:00 a.m. EST, application deadline: October 20, 2020, or when capacity is reached. All districts are limited to 20 singers this year, so if your student wants to sing in the Kentucky District, I recommend applying as soon as possible after notification of eligibility. (Singers notified of eligibility by Oct. 12)

1. Qualifying singers may choose to audition in any of the 33 districts whose audition date fits his or her schedule, if that district still has room. The Kentucky District auditions will be on November 8. You may find other district dates and more information at: www.metopera.org/nationalcouncil
2. Singers will register for the district audition of their choice by paying the audition fee of \$30.00 on the MONC website for their specific date.
3. Singers who advance will be invited to participate in a webinar about the live-streamed auditions to learn more technical information and the judging process. **This webinar will be on Oct. 13.**

4. Repertoire will be 4 operatic arias in 2 or more languages.
5. Arias can be changed up to one week before the audition; after that, no changes will be allowed. (see note about repertoire changes for the Kentucky District in point 7 below.)
6. All singers are required to sing with background piano tracks, even if local circumstances allow a pianist in the room; backing tracks of all four arias on their list will be needed.
7. Pianists to record backing tracks will be provided by MONC or singers may use their own pianist. The MONC pianist will be available one week prior to the audition to conference with the singer by assigned appointment; pianist will record all four arias and send to the singer. The pianist for the Kentucky District singers is Cliff Jackson. **Students will need to submit their scores to the Kentucky District by Oct. 23 and we will record the arias the week of Oct. 26-Nov. 1. We will give singers access to their digital file recordings by Nov. 2. For the Kentucky District, no repertoire changes may be made after the arias are recorded by our pianist, unless the singer is prepared to compensate both the pianist and recording technician for their time.**
8. Singers will have a scheduled audition time via live-stream. They will choose their starting aria, and the judges will select from the remaining three on the list.
9. Judges will be assigned by the MONC National Office and will work remotely.
10. The virtual district auditions will be closed to the public (due to technical & copyright restrictions).
11. Results will be announced on the same day as the audition; feedback will follow awards via video chat with singers and judges.

Regionals: February - March 2021

Central Regional: March 21, 2021 – 1:00 p.m. CT/2:00 p.m. EST

1. Regional auditions will follow a similar format to district auditions. (live-streamed)
2. If possible, all singers will use the same MONC pianist to create backing tracks.
3. Judges will be assigned by the MONC National Office and include a Metropolitan Opera judge and two advisory judges.
4. This round will be made available as a live-stream to an audience of donors, MONC volunteers, etc.
5. Results will be announced on the same day as the audition; feedback will follow awards via video chat with singers and judges.

Semifinals: May 9, 2021, 12:00 p.m. & Grand Finals: May 16, 2021, 3:00 p.m. EST

(both will be live at the Metropolitan Opera, New York, circumstances permitting)

If you have any questions about the new procedures, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. caceynardolillo@me.com. I look forward to hearing your singers!

Sincerely,

Catherine Clarke Nardolillo
Director, Kentucky District
Metropolitan Opera National Council