



The National Society of Arts and Letters

Supporting young talent in the performing, visual and literary arts since 1944

**NATIONAL NSAL WOODWINDS COMPETITION:
Bassoon, Clarinet, Flute, Oboe
NSAL 2018 Annual Meeting - Chautauqua, NY, May 21-27**

National Competition Rules

1. Contestants must have reached the age of 19, but not yet reached age 26 **(19-25)** at the time of the Awards Competition on May 25, 2018. Proof of age must accompany the national competition application.
2. Contestant must be a **legal resident of the United States with a U.S. Social Security number**. Proof is required with the national competition application.
3. Contestant must **not be under professional management at the time of the national competition. Contestant must not be related to an NSAL member having any involvement in the competition.**
4. Contestant must **enter the competition at his or her local Chapter**, or the nearest Chapter geographically, or be assigned to a Chapter by the National Category Chair. Contestant may not enter more than one Chapter competition.
5. Contestant declared **First Place Award Winner in a Chapter competition will represent that Chapter in the National Competition on May 25, 2018**

6. Chapter **winner must provide a recent color 8 1/2 x 11 photograph** with the contestant's information to the Chapter Awards Chair.
7. Contestants must arrive at the National competition site before Thursday, May 24, 2018. **Contestants must attend the competition briefing on the morning of Thursday, May 24, 2018**, along with the Chapter sponsor.
8. **Contestants will be sent to the National Competition at the expense of the sponsoring Chapter. Contestant registration fees are at the expense of the Chapter.**
9. Contestants **must attend the Master Class on May 26, 2018 and the Awards Reception and Dinner on May 26, 2018**. The Awards Committee reserves the right to choose the performers and selections to be performed at the Awards Dinner.

Contestant Requirements

1. **One piece must be performed from memory.**
2. **The music for the pieces to be performed must accompany the contestant's application for the competition.** No changes to the repertoire to be performed can be made after the national application is submitted without the approval of the National Category chair.
3. **Contestants must use the accompanists provided by the competition.**
4. **The first selection to be performed can be chosen by the contestant and should be limited to 8 minutes in length. Other selections to be performed will be at the discretion of the judges and will be selected from the repertoire submitted with the application. The judges may ask for an entire piece, portions of a piece, and may start and stop from any place in the selection.**
5. **Judges have the option for callbacks.**

Adjudication

1. **Performances will be judged as a whole.** However, the following points will be considered: musicianship, technique, creativity, musical personality, soloist confidence, and musical awareness.
2. **There shall be at least four (4) qualified judges having no connection with or knowledge of the contestants.** An alternate judge will be available in the event a designated judge needs to disqualify himself/herself.
3. **Judges will not see any contestant's name, chapter affiliation and college or university affiliation.**
4. Judges will be **separated from the audience and from each other** during performances.
5. The **judges will confer after the last performance and have the option of callbacks before making their final decision.** In the event of a callback, the contestant will be asked to perform material previously presented.
6. **Judges are not obligated to designate a first place winner** if, in their opinion, no contestant qualifies.
7. **Judge's score sheets may include comments on the performances. Score sheets may be sent to the contestants following conclusion of the competition** at the discretion of the judges.
8. National Competition Awards will not be split and **only one award winner will be allowed. The decision of the judges is final.**