INSTRUCTIONS FOR JUDGES – STUDENT/COLLEGIATE AUDITIONS ST 1-4

Judges Instructions:
Thank you for adjudicating the NFMC Student/Collegiate Biennial Auditions. We appreciate your careful evaluation of all students who have submitted applications in your judging categories. If you have difficulties accessing the application materials or if you have any questions about procedures, please contact **Dr. Stephen Rushing,** stevenrushing321@gmail.com

- The deadline for submission of application materials is March 1, 2027. Once the chairperson has confirmed that applications are complete, each judge will receive instructions on how to review videos and submit required forms. **All judging must be completed by April 1, 2027.** In the event that a category ends in a tie, or there are other issues with a category, the chair, in consultation with the judges and other NFMC officials, will have until April 14 to remedy the issue.
- You will download a copy of the Judge's Remarks for Entrant form (ST 1-5), one for each entrant. Please fill out the form completely but DO NOT indicate ranking or scores. Students will receive a complete copy of this form. We ask that you include constructive criticism, judging each student against an ideal standard for a student, not a professional artist. Please keep a copy of this form in your files until the winners have been announced on April 15.
- There can be only one first place winner in each category. Please ensure that you rank all of the performers, avoiding a tie.
- No judge may serve in any category in which any entrant is a present or recent (within 8 years) former pupil.
- For each category you will receive a Judge's Score Sheet (ST 1-6). On this form, you will give the comparative ratings of all entrants. Rank each entrant as 1, 2, 3, 4, etc., 1 being the highest ranking. You may **not** give the same ranking to two or more entrants; there can be no "ties."
- In the event that none of the applicants demonstrate a high caliber of performance, no score of 1 should be given.
- The number of judges for a category will vary depending on the number of entrants. For a category with one entrant, only one judge will be engaged; for two or more entrants, two judges will be engaged with the possibility of a third if there is no agreement on the winner; three judges will be engaged at the discretion of the chairperson for a large number of entrants.
- No first-place winner shall be declared unless an entrant receives a "1" from the judge, in the case of one entrant, or *at least two* of the three judges. In case of a tie in total scores, the entrant with two "1" rankings shall be declared the winner. In case of a tie for first place, the chair will request the judges to *independently* reconsider their rankings until one winner is determined. This procedure will be created as needed by the chairperson.
- If there is only one entry, he/she will be judged in the same manner. No award will be given unless the candidate meets the full standard of performance.
- After the judges' markings have been audited, and before the results are announced, the auditions chairperson will confirm with the judges via email to ensure that the result, as tabulated, is the true decision of the judges.

Judges' compensation will be sent once all required forms have been submitted.

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