



ACDA/MMEA Conference Master Class

The 2026 ACDA/MMEA Conference High School Master Class will be held during the 2026 ACDA/MMEA Conference in November. The top student will be selected from each of the following categories by a committee of MSNATS members: Classical, Musical Theater, and Folk Song/Spiritual. Students may enter only 1 category. Students must perform the same piece at conference they submitted during the audition process. Please ensure the pieces do not contain any inappropriate language or subject matter. The three selected students will perform during the Master Class and will then have 10 minutes to work with a university/college level vocal instructor who will offer suggestions to improve their performance and/or technique. The selected students will then perform their pieces during one of the conference's performance sessions. Digital accompaniment may be used during the masterclass if the student does not have an accompanist that can play for them. The student must have a live accompanist during their performance session time. Please let the master class coordinator know if you need help finding an accompanist for your student.

To register your student(s) for the selection process, please complete the Master Class Application Google Form. The form can be accessed through the MSMEA website under the High School Division section. You will need to submit the application form and upload the application video to the google drive link provided at the bottom of the application form. Please, read the video submission guidelines before recording the application video. The application process will go from August 1, 2026 to September 15, 2026. Judging of the video will occur between September 16, 2026 to October 1, 2026. Winners announced no later than October 4, 2026. In the event of no submissions in a category, 2 winners will be selected from one of the other categories depending on the number of submissions in that category.

Video Submission Guidelines

Please complete a separate application for each student and use the link at the bottom of the application to submit the performance video(s) for your student(s).

Recording Location:

The video should be recorded in the spirit of a live audition or recital performance. You may record in a home, school, church, synagogue, recital hall, rehearsal room, or voice studio with good natural acoustics with or without an audience.

Recording Guidelines:

The camera should record from a fixed position as if the audience was seated in front of the student.

The student should face straight forward to the camera as they would appear to the audience in a live performance.

Collaborative Pianist or Recorded Accompaniment:

The student may sing with a live pianist, such as their teacher, or recorded/digital accompaniment for their video submission.

If the teacher is the accompanist, they should not be in view in the video.

Suggestions for pre-recorded tracks: Appcompanionist, Hal Leonard's Virtual Library, YouTube Karaoke Tracks (please make sure it is a piano accompaniment), Piano Trax, tracks recorded by the teacher, or any other medium that you can find.

Performance:

The student should introduce themselves and the selection at the beginning of the video.

For example: "My Name is _____; "I will sing/perform — (Title of Composition) by (Name of Composer) — (and if appropriate) from (Title of Work)". (The identity of the teacher or school should not be revealed in the introduction.)

Submitting Your Videos:

You will submit a video for each student applying by uploading it to the google folder link at the bottom of the google form application.

Please label the video with the student's name and song title.

If selected: How to prepare for a masterclass:

1. The students should know their piece: They should be presenting a polished performance when in the masterclass so they can be sure that everything the vocal instructor suggests will be new information.
2. Be prepared to stop and start: The nature of a vocal masterclass for singers means that the student may be asked to stop and start several times. Prepare the student for this so it doesn't throw them off.
3. The student should not be afraid to try new things: The ability to change their approach on the spot is difficult – particularly in front of an audience. The student should be willing to take risks and attempt new suggestions whole-heartedly to get the most out of the session.
4. The student should know the storyline: In order to perform successfully they will need to know the storyline behind the song. The vocal instructor may ask them questions about their character and the storyline – please ask them to think about this before they are put on the spot.
5. They should warm up before the master class begins: Time is of the essence in a vocal masterclass. Make sure they are warmed up and ready to sing as soon as the class starts.