Music for All
National Choir Festival

March 15-17, 2018
Indianapolis, Indiana

Choir application deadline:
June 5, 2017

Part of the
Music for All National Festival

Presented by YAMAHA

Henry Leck
Artistic Director
NEW in 2018! Music for All National Choir Festival

Henry Leck, Artistic Director

PART OF THE MUSIC FOR ALL NATIONAL FESTIVAL

Presented by YAMAHA

March 15-17, 2018 • Indianapolis, Indiana

Music for All introduces a new positively life-changing experience for voices.

Presented in partnership with the Indianapolis Children’s Choir and Youth Chorale; the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir; and The Jordan College of Arts, Butler University

Festival Elements

- Combined Festival Choir for H.S. Mixed Voices
- Combined Festival Choir for H.S. Treble Voices
- Massed Choir Performance with Orchestra
- Individual Choir Performance Evaluation
- Individual Coaching
- Conductor Feedback
- Master Classes
- Student Leadership Session
- Student and Director Special Events
- Directors Hospitality and Networking
- Choral Reading Session
- Participants Family Reception
- Nationally Distinguished Artistic Conductors

The MFA National Choir Festival is part of the Music for All National Festival and an integral part of the Music for All ongoing mission to create, provide, and expand positively life-changing experiences through music for all.

The MFA National Choir Festival is a non-competitive experience for outstanding high school and youth choirs, both mixed and treble. The festival is a celebration of musical excellence, combining world-class performance and evaluation opportunities with an exhilarating atmosphere of camaraderie in music.

Music for All’s vision is to be a catalyst to ensure that every child across America has access and opportunity to participate in active music making in his or her scholastic environment. We use our resources to provide national programs that recognize and support music students’ performance and success, offer music educator training and professional development, and deliver tools and resources to participants and their communities that will assist them in supporting music education by promoting awareness of music’s impact on student growth and achievement.

About MFA National Choir Festival

As one of Music for All’s many programs, the National Choir Festival shines a national spotlight on outstanding choirs, providing educational programs, and spectacular musical experiences for singers in a positive, supportive environment.

A non-competitive, supportive experience

The non-competitive atmosphere of the MFA National Choir Festival provides a place for growth, cooperative encouragement, and mutual respect among music programs, students, parents, boosters and administrators.

Directors select their own programs; there is no required repertoire. There are no ratings or rankings so directors and their ensembles are free to stretch themselves, reach for new heights and strive for innovation, growth, and excellence, instead of focusing on a rating or placing.

Participating students experience an atmosphere of mutual respect while enjoying concerts from other outstanding ensembles. The Festival’s dress code and standards of conduct enhance the world-class atmosphere of the Festival. Ensembles that perform at the Festival are recognized as being among the finest in the nation. Participation is a “credential” worth having. The preparation process itself for the Festival can have a positive effect on your music program.

Music for All is honored to have the support and involvement of many music organizations. The final choir concert with orchestra will be in one of Indianapolis’ finest concert venues. Master classes are presented by leading applied faculty and artists.
Highlights for Invited Ensembles

Concert Performances and Clinics
Each ensemble performs a short concert before a knowledgeable audience, including the Festival evaluation panel, music educators, and fellow choir members. Ensemble directors receive recorded and written comments from the evaluators. Choir directors also receive recorded and written input on their conducting from a highly regarded conductor. Following the performance, each choir has a private clinic with one of the Festival Evaluators/Clinicians.

Scheduled Observation
Concert observation time is scheduled and required for each ensemble, ensuring that all festival ensembles perform for a knowledgeable, appreciative audience who in turn enjoy outstanding performances of quality literature.

Master Classes
All students participate in choral master classes, led by top applied faculty and professional musicians. This opportunity provides for interaction with outstanding professionals whose insight and experience exemplify musical achievement.

Social Events for Students and Directors
The Festival Social gives students the chance to relax, have fun and get to know students from other programs across the country. The director and evaluator reception and hospitality opportunities offer networking and informal interaction with colleagues and icons of music education.

Gala Awards Banquet
The “black-tie-optional” banquet for students, directors, parents, staff and evaluators culminates the Festival with first-class standards that distinguish the Music for All National Festival. Guests enjoy a plated dinner, recognition of each ensemble and presentation of awards to each ensemble. The formal banquet with over 2,000 guests is sure to be unforgettable for you, your students, parents and supporters.

World-Class Venues and Facilities
Choirs perform in Indianapolis’ finest concert venues. Participants will stay in a downtown Indianapolis 4-star hotel. Downtown Indianapolis offers numerous cultural and recreational attractions.

Recording and Group Photo package
Each student member and director receives a professionally-produced recording and group photo.

Choir Hosts
Each invited choir will be assigned a host to help guide you through the Festival weekend and is committed to ensuring that you have the best possible experience before and during the Festival. Hosts are familiar with Music for All events and festivals.

Festival Invitation Visit and Director “Fam” Trip
Every choir is offered a visit to your school from a member of the Festival team. This site visit, which is required for first-time participating schools and/or directors, helps to assure your students, parent boosters and administration understand the magnitude of your achievement.

A highly recommended familiarization trip to Indianapolis for directors of all accepted ensembles will take place at the Festival performance venues and hotel facilities. Music for All will take directors on a city and site inspection of the performance halls, warm-up rooms, clinic rooms and the Festival hotels. The philosophy behind the event, Festival schedule and costs will be thoroughly discussed to ensure a complete understanding of pre-planning information for your ensemble. The “Fam” Trip for the 2018 ensembles will be on the Sunday after the November 2017 Grand Nationals in Indianapolis, Indiana. Transportation and housing for the “Fam Trip” to Indianapolis is at the participating ensemble’s expense.
How to Apply

2018 MFA National Choir Festival Application Deadline:
June 5, 2017
Completed application, audition recording and all application materials must be received in the Music for All office by June 5, 2017. Online application for the 2018 Festival will open in December 2016, at www.musicforall.org/choir. Ensembles will be invited following the recorded application/audition process, or as pre-qualified by the MFA choral artistic education committee.

The Application Process
The Music for All National Festival audition process offers a unique opportunity for a wealth of input in to your program from a world-class panel of music educators. The audition process is a tool you can use to take your program to the next level. All auditioning ensembles and ensembles pre-qualified by the MFA choral artistic education committee receive recorded and written evaluation from the audition listening panel. The listening is “blind”—ensembles are not identified to evaluators in the listening process. Evaluators recommend the ensembles that demonstrate an exemplary level of excellence to receive an invitation to perform at the National Festival.

Requirements for Application
Application consists of the completed Festival application form submitted with the audition recording and application fee. Specific requirements for application and audition recordings are included in the Requirements for Application and Participation section of this packet.

The application fee is $250 for choirs. All applying groups receive recorded and written evaluation from the evaluation/selection panel. Submission of your application is a commitment to attend and perform if accepted (unless you select the “Input Only” box on your application). Please be sure that you have booster and administrative approval and support prior to applying.

“Input Only” Audition Option
Ensembles who want the evaluation and input from the panel of audition evaluators, but who do not wish to receive consideration for an invitation to the 2018 Festival, can choose to send an audition recording and application for input only by checking the “Input Only Option” box on the application.

Festival Packages
2018 Festival Package prices will be included in application materials published in December 2016. For reference and planning purposes until the 2018 application is published, 2017 package prices for quad occupancy range from $540 to $650, depending on length of stay. 2018 package prices will increase as required to cover anticipated higher costs for housing, meals, venues, and other Festival expenses. Commuter packages may be available.

Music for All welcomes the MFA National Choir Festival to the Music for All National Festival family of events:
Orchestra America National Festival
Chamber Music National Festival
National Concert Band Festival
Sandy Feldstein National Percussion Festival
Honor Orchestra of America
Honor Band of America
Jazz Band of America
Middle School National Music Festival