Welcome to the 29th Annual Music for All National Festival presented by Yamaha!

This year’s National Festival is comprised of the National Concert Band Festival, the Sandy Feldstein National Percussion Festival, the Orchestra America National Festival, the Chamber Music National Festival, and the National Choir Festival. The following pages contain details associated with your participation in the week's activities. Please become familiar with this information and pass along the critical items to your parents and students.

ABOUT MUSIC FOR ALL PROGRAMMING

Music for All programs are dedicated to providing the highest quality educational experiences possible for students and teachers across the nation. These programs emphasize the value of creativity, teamwork, and discipline in scholastic music settings, principles that our participants carry with them as they pursue their personal and professional goals.

We believe that every student in America should have access to high-quality educational experiences like the National Festival, which is why we invest in initiatives that increase accessibility for students in traditionally underserved districts and communities. At Music for All, we are dedicating ourselves to the creation of a world where music truly is for all.

2018 marked the introduction of Music for All’s newest advocacy initiative – the Advocacy in Action Awards. We are extremely excited to share outstanding examples of scholastic music advocacy representing music programs, schools, and communities across the United States. View our 2020 class of winning submissions at advocacy.musicforall.org.

ABOUT INDIANAPOLIS & FESTIVAL TRAVEL

YOUR TRIP TO INDIANAPOLIS

We encourage you to review your ensemble’s schedule and update your travel itinerary accordingly. Once finalized, submit your itinerary to Music for All and we will compare it with our Festival schedule. This helps avoid any potential scheduling conflicts. If traveling by air, check with your airline about rules regarding instruments well in advance. Airline policy and federal security rules and measures often change.

If you are scheduling any activities for your group outside of those organized by Music for All (i.e. museum tours), please notify us immediately so that we ensure that we schedule meals, concert blocks, and other commitments around your planned activity.

GROUND TRANSPORTATION

Ground transportation while in Indianapolis is the responsibility of each participating ensemble. This includes all transportation to and from concerts, meals, and student socials. Once again, be sure to review the Festival Schedule and refine your own itinerary accordingly. By now, you should have booked your own buses or made arrangements with Lew White Tours (317) 217-1884; www.lwti.com, or another group transportation provider. If you are responsible for housing your bus drivers, be sure that you have made necessary
arrangements for their sleeping rooms, either with us or at another hotel. Please pay special attention to transportation needs and compare those against your bus drivers’ legal permitted driving hours.

GETTING AROUND DOWNTOWN
The central core of downtown Indianapolis is fairly compact. The Festival hotels are connected by indoor pedestrian walkways to other downtown facilities including the Circle Centre Mall and Indiana Convention Center. Clowes Memorial Hall and the Schrott Center for the Arts are 6.5 miles (20 minutes drive) north of downtown on the campus of Butler University. The Warren Performing Arts Center is 11.5 miles (20 minutes drive) east of downtown. The Palladium is located 25 miles (35-40 minutes drive) north of downtown, in Carmel. The STAR Bank Performing Arts Center is located 20 miles (30-35 minutes drive) north of downtown, in Zionsville. The Indiana Historical Society, and St. John’s Church are all located in downtown Indianapolis and are within half a mile walking distance from the JW Marriott complex.

DRIVING IN INDIANAPOLIS
Like other metropolitan areas, Indianapolis experiences rush hour times. The metropolitan area encompasses a radius of approximately 20 miles from the downtown city center. Rush hour times in Indianapolis run from approximately 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Please allow extra travel time for traffic and inclement weather.

CAR PARKING
Music for All does not control the pricing listed below; prices are subject to change.

- **JW Marriott, SpringHill Suites, Fairfield Inn & Suites, and Courtyard Marriott:** $47/day for self-park and $52/day for valet. Both have in/out privileges.
- **Gate Ten Parking:** ([www.eventparkingindianapolis.com](http://www.eventparkingindianapolis.com)) parking is available at 343 West McCarty Street (south of downtown Indianapolis), with a shuttle to several downtown locations, and is a lower cost alternative to hotel parking. Please visit their website for more information.
- **St. John’s Church & Crown Plaza:** There are several parking lots and garages located around the downtown area that are within walking distance of both venues. Prices vary.
- **Butler University (Clowes Memorial Hall and the Schrott Center for the Arts):** Car parking is available at the garage on Sunset Blvd. just north of both venues at per hour rate.
- **Warren Performing Arts Center, STAR Bank Performing Arts Center, & Indiana Historical Society:** Car parking is free, but limited.
- **Palladium at the Center for the Performing Arts:** Free parking is available on the street surrounding the theater, and the city’s self-park garages. The nearest garage is at the Tarkington and Studio Theater garage, south of the Palladium.

DEPARTING THE HOTEL FOR ACTIVITIES
If you are traveling by bus, be sure to coordinate with your bus drivers and/or equipment truck staff regarding pick-up times. Throughout the entire weekend, groups should plan to pick-up and drop-off from the “JW Event Center Drop Off” area accessible via West Washington Street on the west side of the hotel and the front drive of the Crown Plaza Hotel accessible via Capitol Avenue. The designated unload/reload area for your buses is a small, shared space. Please have your buses pull to the farthest end of the drive when ready to load.

Plan to use the event center lobby areas as a common meeting place for your entire group when planning to leave the hotel, but avoid causing congestion at doorways and other hotel entrances. Always exit the hotel as a group to avoid staggered departures by small groups of students unless necessary. It creates less chaos and
lessens the chance that someone will be left behind. We suggest you take attendance before leaving the hotel. We also suggest that students not leave the hotel alone and that groups walk with an adult chaperone when possible.

Indianapolis is a safe city. However, students and adults should always exercise the caution expected of any visitor to a new and unfamiliar city.

WEATHER IN INDIANAPOLIS
Indianapolis weather varies during the month of March. The average temperature in mid March is 40 degrees. Expect highs that range from 35 to 50 degrees and lows in the 25 to 35 degree range. Snow and/or rain may be in the weather forecast. Please bring appropriate attire in case of inclement weather and check weather forecasts before leaving home.

DRESS CODE
The expected dress code at National Festival is business casual. **No jeans or shorts should be worn during the week's activities with the exception of the Student Social.** The Student Social has no particular dress code; however, please use your best judgment in giving directions to your students. In addition, each ensemble is asked to dress, in semi-formal attire (jacket for boys) or nicer, for the banquet Saturday evening. Concert attire is perfectly acceptable.

**SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS**

REQUIRED CHAPERONE MEETING
Instead of a chaperone meeting while on-site, Music for All will hold an online video conference meeting the week prior to Festival. At least one chaperone from each ensemble is required to take part in one meeting. This is important, as details regarding luggage, instrument storage, banquet seating, and more will be discussed.

The online video conference will take place TWICE (you are only asked to take part once):

- **Tuesday, March 3rd at 2:00pm Eastern Time**
- **Wednesday, March 4th at 7:00pm Eastern Time**

OPENING SESSIONS
The **Opening Session for High School Ensembles** will be from 1:00–2:30 p.m. on Thursday in the Grand Ballroom in the JW Marriott. Please plan to be in your seats no later than **12:50 p.m.**

The **Opening Session for Middle School Ensembles** will be from 3:00-4:00 p.m. on Thursday in the Wabash Ballroom in the Indiana Convention Center. Please plan to be in your seats no later than **2:45 p.m.**

Friends and family that are not in your festival package are invited to attend the Opening Sessions! Optional Parents Sessions will immediately follow both sessions and will last approximately 30-45 minutes.

The **Indiana Convention Center** is located a block southeast of the JW Marriott complex. The Wabash Ballroom is located on the north side of the first floor of the building. To enter the building, you may use the Convention Center main entrance off of Maryland St. or the skywalk connecting the Convention Center with the JW Marriott. The skywalk entrance is on the second floor, next to the Starbucks and set of escalators leading to/from the hotel's main lobby.
REHEARSALS
Please refer to the Festival Schedule for your assigned rehearsal location. Rehearsal blocks are scheduled with 15 minutes of set up and tear down time “built in.” Your group should be completely cleared out of the rehearsal room by the end of your rehearsal block. Please exhibit the same courtesies you expect by managing your time and use of facilities during your rehearsal time.

- **Instrumental Rehearsal Rooms** – each room will have 60 music stands, 80 chairs, a digital piano, and a basic set of percussion (timpani, bass drum, concert toms, xylophone, bells, marimba, and vibraphone). If your ensemble needs more than 60 stands, please bring your own wire stands to these rehearsals. Please also note that additional percussion equipment is generally NOT available for rehearsals or warm-up.

- **Choral Rehearsal Rooms** – each room will have chairs or choral risers, a digital piano, and one music stand.

MASTER CLASSES
We are fortunate to have top applied faculty and professional musicians teaching master classes throughout the National Festival to add to your students’ experience. These sessions are primarily lecture and demonstration by the master class clinician. There are several blocks of master classes held throughout the weekend, but your ensemble will only be scheduled to attend one (or two for chamber ensembles and percussion ensembles). Times will be included in your itinerary sent in February and final communication will be available at check-in. Instrumental ensembles: please have your students bring their mouthpieces, instruments, and solo material to class.

MEALS, SOCIALS, & BANQUET

MEALS
Specific meal times and locations will be coordinated for your group and listed on your final itinerary. All groups will eat breakfast each morning in the hotel they are staying at (groups staying at any of the four hotels in the JW Marriott Complex will eat in the JW Marriott Event Center). Lunch and dinner locations will vary between the hotels and performance venues. Additionally, all groups will have a special opportunity to eat at a local restaurant and your assigned time and location will be noted on your individual schedule.

Please follow the meal times precisely, as the start times are calculated to accommodate the dining room capacities. We have carefully considered your specific needs to eat early or late (to accommodate an early warm-up time, for example) in the scheduling of all meals. Meal times have been coordinated with hotel and catering personnel. Without prior approval, changes cannot be accommodated.

Vegetarian, dairy free, gluten free, and other dietary needs can be met and are available upon request. Please fill out the Special Meal Request form by February 1. **NOTE:** individuals with specific dietary needs/requests should still self-identify at each meal and may ask to talk to wait staff with any questions or requests.

STUDENT SOCIALS
Your chaperones **must** attend the Student Social and are ultimately responsible for your students. Students will be allowed to leave early to return to their rooms, if you wish, accompanied by a chaperone. Because students may want to return to their rooms earlier than others, we suggest that your chaperones schedule at least two departure times from the social and communicate this with your group in advance.
The Instrumental High School Student Social will be held Thursday from 10:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. The tentative location is the Pavilion at Pan Am. Light snacks and a DJ will be provided. Final information will be included in your check-in packet.

The Middle School Student Social will be held Thursday from 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. The tentative location is the JW Marriott. Light snacks and a DJ will be provided. Final information will be included in your check-in packet.

The “Create Friendship, Share Song” Choir Social will be held Saturday from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the JW Marriott Event Center.

DIRECTOR/CLINICIAN EVENING SOCIALS & RECEPTIONS
Socials are a wonderful time for all directors and clinicians to meet each other and learn about the other programs represented at the Festival. Director & Clinician Socials will be held Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings, as well as two “Meet the Masters” receptions on Saturday afternoon.

- **Thursday’s social** will be held at the Music for All office at the same time as the instrumental high school student social (10pm-12am).
- **Friday’s social** will be held at the Rhythm! Discovery Museum at Circle Centre Mall (10:30pm-12:30am).
- **Saturday’s social** will be held in the Event Center of the JW Marriott (10:30pm-12:30am).
- **Choral Masters Brunch** will be held downtown (10:45am-11:55am) on Saturday morning. (Exact location is TBD.)
- **Instrumental “Meet the Masters” Reception** will be held at the JW Marriott (3:00pm-4:00pm) on Saturday afternoon.

GALA AWARDS BANQUET
The National Festival will feature two Gala Awards Banquets on Saturday evening at the JW Marriott. The designation of which ensembles will attend which banquet will be indicated on your final itinerary (both banquets will include each type of festival ensemble). They will occur in the Grand Ballroom and White River Ballroom of the JW Marriott Event Center. **Doors for both banquet halls will open at 4:00 p.m. and begin at 4:30 p.m.** Banquet seating assignments will be available by 12 p.m. on Friday, March 13, and can be picked up at Festival Headquarters by yourself or your ensemble host.

During the banquet, we will recognize all ensembles and their directors. In addition to presentations to each director, each school may designate two student representatives to receive awards on behalf of your ensemble. We recommend not selecting students who are members of instrumental honor ensembles, as they may be released early to prepare for their evening concert. Your ensemble will receive a participation plaque, personalized student certificates, and commemorative Festival patches.

**Reminder:** Please discourage your students from removing table number cards, napkins and other items as souvenirs. Each missing item may be charged back to your ensemble at a substantial charge.
Honor Concerts & Special Performances

Chamber Music Concert (Thursday Evening)
The 2020 Chamber Music concert will take place on Thursday evening at 8:30 p.m. at the Indiana Historical Society.

Jazz Band of America Concert (Friday Evening)
The 2020 Jazz Band of America will perform Friday evening at 8:00 p.m. at the Madam Walker Legacy Center. Ron McCurdy, professor of Jazz at the Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California at will lead the 2020 Jazz Band of America.

Honor Orchestra of America Concert (Friday Evening)
The 2020 Honor Orchestra of America will perform on Friday evening at 8:00 p.m. at Clowes Memorial Hall.
Larry J. Livingston, Chair of Conducting at the Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California, will be the conductor of the 2020 Honor Orchestra of America.

National Choir Festival Choir Concert (Friday Evening)
The 2020 Music for All National Festival Choir and the Chorale Ensemble of America will perform on Friday evening at 8:00 p.m. at The Palladium. The Ball State University Orchestra, conducted by Douglas Droste, will provide accompaniment for the concert.

Honor Band of America (Saturday Evening)
The 2020 Honor Band of America will perform Saturday evening at Clowes Memorial Hall at 8:00 p.m.
Colonel Timothy J. Holtan, 10th Lead and Commander of the U.S. Army Band “Pershing’s Own”, will be the conductor.

Honor Orchestra of America (Saturday Evening)
The 2020 Honor Orchestra of America will perform their program, a second time, on Saturday evening at 8:00 p.m. at Schrott Center for the Arts. Larry J. Livingston will be the conductor.

General Festival Information

Serving as an Audience and Your Scheduled Audience Times
Your assigned audience times are NOT optional. Audience times are assigned to ensure that each ensemble has an audience during their performance. Please understand and respect the importance of all scheduled audience times. Please review the Venue Performance Flow document for specific audience instructions by venue.

Students in an Honor Group and a Festival Ensemble
Please remember that students who are in a Festival ensemble, but are also members of an Honor group, need to arrive by the following times:

- Honor Orchestra of America - Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 a.m.
- Jazz Band of America - Wednesday, March 11 at 8:00 a.m.
- Honor Band of America - Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m.
- Choral Ensemble of America – Thursday, March 12 at 1:00 p.m.
Honor Ensemble rehearsals take precedence over non-performance activities planned for your school ensemble, including your rehearsals. ONLY your warm-up, performance, and clinic time takes precedence over an Honor Ensemble rehearsal. Honor Ensemble students are NOT permitted to leave an Honor Rehearsal for your ensemble rehearsal. Thank you for your cooperation to help make the honor ensembles successful. Be sure your students understand this and that you plan accordingly. Music for All will arrange for transportation for Honor students to and from your group’s warm-up/performance/clinic experience. Specific information and schedule for these students will be provided during the check-in process at the hotel.

TICKETS AND ADMISSION TO THE CONCERT VENUES
Every student and adult associated with your ensemble that is participating in a Festival package has admission to most events during the weekend. Directors, students, and chaperones will be given a name badge that will admit them to all areas. Please inform your students and chaperones to wear their name badge the entire weekend to gain admission to concerts, meals, and Festival activities. For those who have not purchased a Festival package (either as a chaperone or Friends & Family) but still wish to attend concerts, tickets will go on sale mid-February via Ticketmaster.

Tickets are required for the Honor Band of America Concert, Jazz Band of America Concert, and both of the Honor Orchestra of America Concerts. Seating for the Honor Band, Honor Orchestra, and Jazz Band of America concerts are available to all Festival participating ensemble students, directors, and chaperones and are already included in your package. Due to limited venue seating and schedules, your ensemble will be guaranteed seating at one of the honor ensemble concerts, which will be notated in your Festival schedule.

Admission to the National Percussion Festival, the National Choir Festival, the Middle School National Music Festival, the Featured Ensemble National Music Festival, the Invited Ensemble National Music Festival, the Orchestra America National Festival, and the Chamber Music Festival are free of charge for all spectators. The Music for All National Festival Choir Concert at The Palladium is free with general admission seating.

PROFESSIONAL AUDIO RECORING
As stated in your agreement, each student participating with an ensemble will receive a Festival patch, student certificate, and a professionally recorded CD of your ensemble’s concert. Students participating in more than one ensemble will only receive one CD with an opportunity to purchase other CDs.

PROFESSIONAL GROUP PHOTOS
Each participating student will receive a group photo of their ensemble. Students participating in more than one ensemble will receive one photo, with the opportunity to purchase a photo of the other ensemble.

NO VIDEO OR AUDIO RECORDING ALLOWED
In order to comply with copyright laws, no personal recording devices – audio or video – will be allowed into the concert halls. Please communicate this policy to your parent group.

ENSEMBLE HOSTS
Each participating ensemble will be assigned a host who will act as the liaison between your ensemble and Music for All staff. Many hosts are music educators themselves and most of them are past participating directors of National Festival. Hosts are still being confirmed and their assignments will be shared with all
participating directors in mid to late February. As they learn their assignments, your host will reach out to you directly to introduce themselves and answer any questions you may have.

**ON SITE TRANSPORTATION REMINDER**
On site, we ask that you provide in-town transportation between the hotel and performance venues for your assigned host. Please verify and ensure that your bus company's policy will allow your host to ride with you around the city.