

On behalf of the entire staff at Music for All, congratulations and welcome to the 2020 Music for All National Festival, presented by Yamaha. This year's Festival includes the Music for All National Concert Band Festival, Sandy Feldstein National Percussion Festival, Orchestra America National Festival, Chamber Music National Festival, and National Choir Festival. Also performing will be the Honor Band of America, Jazz Band of America, and Honor Orchestra, made up of talented musicians selected from high schools around the country. This multi-disciplinary, non-competitive event occurs every March and celebrates the talents of more than 3,000 students.

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.

At Music for All, we believe that every student in America should have access to high-quality educational experiences like these, but we know that barriers exist in several important communities. By investing in new initiatives to increase accessibility for urban schools, small and rural schools, and students with special needs, we are dedicating ourselves to creating a world where music truly is *for all*.

During the National Festival, your students will participate in master classes, rehearse and perform with leading musicians and educators in premier venues around Indianapolis. Our partnership with Butler University's Jordan College of the Arts provides the young musicians an opportunity to learn from world-class professionals. We are pleased that you can join us in Indianapolis in March as we create, provide, and expand positively life-changing experiences through music for all.

This letter accompanies your ensemble's Festival Agreement and other festival documents, which will be your guide to the 2020 Music for All National Festival. The information outlines important forms and deadlines which you should review as it will aid you in preparing for the festival. Your booster or travel representative listed on your original application will also receive an email sharing all of the online forms and documents.

National Festival FAQs

Please review the National Festival "Frequently Asked Questions" section from the application brochure and posted in the Directors' Lounge located on the Music for All website. The FAQ section can answer many general questions about National Festival regarding event scheduling, on-site logistics, and what is included in student packages.

Familiarization Trip

The Familiarization Trip will occur on **Sunday, November 17, 2019 in Indianapolis. Attendance is required for directors and strongly encouraged for booster representatives, even if you have participated in a previous National Festival.** The Familiarization Trip is an excellent time for you to ask questions about the Festival and tour the hotels and performance venues. You will also be given a performance schedule so you may continue to plan your trip accordingly. The tour begins Sunday morning with breakfast and concludes by 3:00 p.m. When making flight arrangements, please reserve a flight that departs Indianapolis *no earlier than 5:00 p.m. on Sunday*. A bus will take you to the airport at the end of the tour, if needed. More information about other events and the schedule for the weekend will be sent to you in late October.

On **Saturday, November 16**, you are invited to join us and experience the Bands of America Grand National Championships at Lucas Oil Stadium. There will be a formal gathering in a suite at the stadium in the afternoon, followed by an evening as our guest at the Grand Nationals Championship Finals competition. Prior to the gathering you are welcome to join us for the Semi-Finals performances. Members of the events and finance departments will be available in the suite throughout the afternoon to answer any questions you may have. As you confirm your plans for the weekend, please share them with us by submitting the Familiarization Trip Confirmation and Hotel Reservation form.

Performance Venues

We are pleased to announce the following premier performance halls that will be utilized for the 2019 Music for All National Festival:

- Clowes Memorial Hall: National Concert Band Festival – Featured High School Ensembles
- Howard L. Schrott Center for the Arts: National Concert Band Festival – Middle School Ensembles
- The Palladium: Orchestra America National Festival, Music for All National Choir Performance
- Zionsville Performing Arts Center: National Concert Band Festival – Invited High School Ensembles
- Warren Performing Arts Center: Sandy Feldstein National Percussion Festival
- Indiana Historical Society Frank and Katrina Basile Theatre: Chamber Music National Festival
- St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church: National Choir Festival

Online Downloads of Forms

All of the forms are now available for submission on our website in the Directors' Lounge. Forms can **ONLY** be submitted online and it is important that all these forms be returned to us by the specified date. Please use the Schedule of Deadlines page as a resource and checklist.

Below is a brief description of each form that we request to be submitted before you arrive in Indianapolis in March. There are different sections to break down the forms along with deadlines.

Festival Agreements, Packages, and Housing Information contains information regarding festival packages, housing, and meals. The Festival Agreement is your contract to participate in the Music for All National Festival. You must complete your ensemble's housing list (using the Excel template found in the Directors' Lounge) and submit the list by November 15. Any housing changes made after November 15 can be submitted using the Housing Change form, up until January 15. The Ensemble Travel Information form should detail your group's arrangements to and from Indianapolis. **Please note that there is no ground transportation provided by Music for All during the festival.** Though some performance venues are located in downtown Indianapolis within walking proximity of the National Festival hotels, your ensemble will be expected to move around the metropolitan area on your own for all events. If needed, transportation to and from the airport is also the responsibility of each ensemble. Lastly, arrangements for the Familiarization Trip may be made by completing the Confirmation and Hotel Reservation form.

Payments must be made according to the dates found on the Festival Agreement and Schedule of Deadlines page. Percentages are per your ensemble's total cost that you list in your Festival Agreement.

Event Information consists of a series of forms that will help shape your festival experience. **Each ensemble is guaranteed one rehearsal while on-site**, however, due to the number of ensembles and space limitations, requests for additional rehearsals may not be granted. The **Instrumentation and Voicing Breakdown** can be approximated and is simply used to determine space and materials needed for master class sessions. The **Additional Equipment Request and Stage Plot** forms help us to assist you with obtaining equipment and the correct performance set up for your ensemble. A **roster** with addresses is used to create certificates and to send congratulations and information to students. Please check for accuracy on the correct spelling of names. Music for All also completes demographic studies of participants for all programs. Contact information will not be shared with any other organization.

Ticket Information: All members of an ensemble's package will receive credentials on-site that allows access for any National Festival performance. Additionally, all ensembles are guaranteed tickets for one honor ensemble concert. **Honor Ensemble concert tickets will be assigned based on schedule and preference will be given to those ensembles that have students performing in an Honor Ensemble.** A separate Festival Ticket Order and Banquet Ticket Order form can be submitted by friends and family members not included in your ensemble's package that wish to attend these events (see section below on Friends & Family Packages for more details).

Program Book and Script Information contains information related to the National Festival commemorative program. **Please ensure that all information submitted is accurate, complete, and appears exactly as you would like it listed on all festival promotional items.** The following information must be submitted for the program book: director biographies, school/community/program biographies, musical selections, program order, personnel list, ensemble and director photos, Superintendent and/or Principal photos, and letters of congratulations. The following information must be submitted for scripting for your performance: program order and notes, director names, and school administrator names. The advertising contract should be completed by your sponsor company or organization who will be represented in the National Festival Program Book.

Repertoire Selection Information will provide you with details and deadlines regarding the repertoire selection process. Please ensure that all information is accurate. The Copyright Report and Final Program form **MUST** be completed by January 15, 2020. All custom arrangements of copyrighted materials must be supported by proof of permission to arrange. **IMPORTANT REMINDER: you must bring copies of your scores with you to be used by National Festival evaluators. Photocopies will not be permitted without written consent from the copyright holder or publisher.** Five original scores are needed for all featured bands, orchestras, and choirs; four original scores are needed for invited bands; and three original scores are needed for percussion ensembles and chamber ensembles. Please contact us if additional selections are added after you complete this form. Before submitting this form, please visit the following link for more information about our copyright process: <http://www.musicforall.org/copyright>.

Additional Items are optional forms that can be submitted at your leisure. If anyone in your group has a request for special meals due to dietary or food allergy needs, please complete the **Dietary Restrictions** form. If you are in need of a meeting space for your group while at the hotel please complete the **Additional Meeting Request** form (note: this form is only to request ensemble meetings). If you know of ensembles or directors that may be interested in participating in a future National Festival, please use the **Ensemble Recommendation** form to share their contact information. Additionally, your students are encouraged to apply for the **Revelli Scholarship** and the **Butler Dean's Scholarship**, scholarships that we will award to 2020 National Festival participants.

Friends and Family Packages will be available for purchase in mid-November. Packages are for friends and family members of your ensemble who wish to attend the National Festival as spectators, but will not be included in your group. Packages also allow for friends and family to travel to and from National Festival on different days than your ensemble, if they wish. Please see the Friends and Family Package breakdown page at musicforall.org for pricing and more information.

Ensemble Host

Each ensemble is assigned an ensemble host – an event staff member who will serve as a “liaison” between you and Music for All staff while you are on site. Most ensemble hosts are former participating directors of the National Festival or long time friends and volunteers of Music for All. The host program is complimentary. Music for All provides room and board for your host. However, you will need to plan to allow them to ride your ground transportation to and from your performance. If you know someone that you would like to host your ensemble(s) please reach out to Conlon Greismer at Conlon.G@musicforall.org with their contact information. You may also include this information on your ensemble travel form online.

Honor Ensemble Audition Date

If any of your students are interested in performing with the 2020 Music for All National Festival Honor Ensembles, applications are still being accepted!

Applications for the Honor Band of America, the Jazz Band of America and Honor Orchestra of America wind applicants will be accepted until October 1, and applications for the Honor Orchestra of America Strings will be accepted until November 1. Honor Orchestra applicants interested in being considered for the Livingston Scholarship should apply by October 1. Access the form at <http://www.musicforall.org/honor-ensembles>.

The 2020 Honor Band of America will be conducted by Colonel Timothy J. Holton, the Honor Orchestra of America will be conducted by Larry Livingston, and the Jazz Band of America will be conducted by Dr. Ron McCurdy.

Although this information has been mailed to you, please note that our future communications, including schedules, events details, and additional paperwork will be emailed to you. Be sure to add events@musicforall.org to your email address book to ensure you receive all communications. In addition, we will email periodic reminders for upcoming form deadlines. Please review the Schedule of Deadlines in this packet as this will assist in your Festival preparations, while paying special attention to the Program Book deadlines. If you have any questions, please reference the Important Contacts sheet and do not hesitate to contact us at the Music for All office.

Once again, we congratulate you on your acceptance to the Music for All National Festival and thank you for your committed participation in Music for All programming. We look forward to working with you and your students in Indianapolis this coming March!