



Music for All National Festival, presented by Yamaha
EVENT DECORUM RULES



WELCOME TO THE MUSIC FOR ALL NATIONAL FESTIVAL!

We are delighted and honored to have you as a participant in the finest festival presentation of high school and middle school ensembles in America. Throughout its history, the Music for All National Festival has been known for its excellence in performance and atmosphere. To continue that tradition, we have sought and made available only the finest accommodations and services in Indianapolis.

Because so many groups come from various standards of decorum and discipline, we would like to offer the following suggestions to you and your students. We specifically encourage you to review these items with your chaperones and with your students before you arrive in Indianapolis.

ATTIRE GUIDELINES

For times that students are not in concert attire, the dress code is business casual. **No jeans or shorts should be worn during the week's activities apart from the Student Social.** The Student Social has no dress code; however, please use your best judgment in giving directions to your students. In addition, each ensemble is asked to dress, minimally, in semi-formal attire (jacket for boys) for the banquet Saturday evening. Concert attire is perfectly acceptable as well.

HOTEL DECORUM – In General

We want the Music for All National Festival experience to be the finest experience possible; we have selected the highest quality hotels for our participants. Prior to arrival, please discuss with your students and chaperones the type of decorum necessary at the Festival hotels. The Music for All National Festival is a special and different level of event than most student activities.

We request that participants be mindful when using common areas in the hotels. Groups of students should be careful not to block hallways or other areas by sitting on the floor. Like most high school age students, it is normal for them to congregate on the floor in a group and talk, etc. We ask that students avoid doing this in the common areas of the hotel.

As a general rule, please advise your students to speak at a normal voice level and avoid calling out in a raised voice, as not everyone in the hotels are with our group and other guests must be able to go about their business without any disturbance.

Ask your students to take caution at elevators and the bottom of the escalators by stepping away immediately from elevator doors and the bottom of escalators. Elevators, in large hotels during large volume times, are in great demand. Please ask your students not to make frivolous trips on elevators and not to use them as “entertainment” features. Music for All has planned for the stairwells of the lower floors to be unlocked. Students sleeping in rooms on these floors should consider using the stairs instead of the elevators during peak times.

Please ask your students not to wear pajamas and slippers during meal functions. Students are not allowed to order pizza and meals to their rooms. Food and pizza are also not allowed in the meeting rooms of the hotel unless ordered from the hotel. If a room is used without our approval, your group will incur charges.

The Festival hotels have workout facilities. It is your decision whether your students are allowed to use these facilities. **Music for All and the Festival hotels assume no liability for student use of the hotel facilities.**

CHAPERONING – Student General Behavior

Monitoring student behavior is the responsibility of participating directors and chaperones. Because participants come from so many backgrounds and levels of expectations, we offer the following suggestions for your consideration. These are examples of the rules for behavior and conduct applicable to members of the Honor Ensembles that you may use as a reference.

Students should not be permitted in any room other than their own.

Curfew times should be established. We suggest room curfews 30 minutes after your ensemble's last activity of the day (in many cases, this time will need to be flexible based upon your arrival time back from events). We suggest "lights out" 30 minutes after the room curfew. Additionally, each Festival hotel enforces their own quiet hours between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

No room switches should be permitted after check-in. For safety and emergency reasons, Music for All and the hotel should have reliable information on the assigned and actual location of student rooms.

Student room safety: Students should be instructed to lock and bolt rooms securely for the night. At this time, no one should be permitted to enter a room except a chaperone or director. Students should be instructed never to open the door without asking the person who knocked to identify themselves.

Consider restricting use of room phones for outside calls or calls placed after curfew. Credit and calling card calls will be permitted, but we have restricted long distance service in participant rooms.

Instruct students not to remove hotel-owned items from the rooms. You will be charged for any missing items or damage done to a hotel room.

Prohibit your students from ordering room service or any other outside meals. We have included sufficient meals in each Festival package. Movies and similar services will be restricted. Nevertheless, you should instruct your students not to use or order such services.

Instruct your students not to play instruments in sleeping rooms or any area of the hotel other than those designated for rehearsal and practice purposes.

Keep doors locked. Each student will receive a room key. The room number should be memorized and kept separate from the key. Replacement keys can be made at the front desk but will be done only after presentation of proper identification.

Check each room (chaperone or director) before check-in and check-out. Any damage will be assessed and charged to the occupants of that room.

FESTIVAL ETIQUETTE – Concert Audience Etiquette

The Music for All National Festival is the premier event of its kind. Audience conduct is consistent with that expected at orchestral and other classical concerts is expected. We offer the following considerations:

Instruct your students to always be courteous to other members of the audience. They should emulate the same standards of conduct that they expect and anticipate for their own performance.

Our Festival schedule is tight. Plan, as best as possible, to be early (on time) for concert audience time. Students should be in seats when the concerts begin. If you arrive late, wait until a break occurs in the program or you are instructed to enter by ushers. Then, move quickly and quietly to your seat. Never change seats or leave the hall during a musical number.

Please avoid distracting behavior (talking, using cell phones, etc.) while music is being performed or the Master of Ceremonies is addressing the audience. Save comments until the composition is completed. Students should be reminded that others in the audience have come to listen and enjoy the program.

It is appropriate to applaud the conductor as they come to the podium at the beginning of a concert, and after each time the conductor returns to the podium (should they leave the stage during the performance). It is appropriate to applaud after each musical selection. Even though you may not have personally enjoyed the music, be polite and recognize the performers for their efforts.

Exceptions to the applause rule:

In American concert performances, it is *not* customary to applaud between movements of any one selection. For extended musical works with more than one section or movement, you should hold your applause until all sections/movements are completed. A clue to appropriateness: when in doubt, do not applaud until the conductor lowers his/her arms and turns to the audience (or steps from the podium) for recognition.

In formal concert presentations, do not applaud a soloist until the complete composition is finished.

In a jazz or contemporary pop concert, it is appropriate to recognize the soloist immediately following the solo while the music continues.

Do not bring food or drink into the concert hall. Keep refreshments in the lobby area.

Following the concert, take your program with you. Do not leave it under your seat or in the aisle.