



Music for All National Festival, presented by Yamaha

IMPORTANT EVENT INFORMATION

March 21 – March 23, 2024 • Indianapolis, IN



Welcome to the 31st 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, and the Chamber Music National Festival. The following pages contain details associated with your participation in the weekend'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 is 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*.

Music for All's Advocacy in Action Archive is a free resource for educators, parent boosters, and administrators that supports music education in our schools as a collection of best practices. We hope that by sharing these resources, we can inspire others to act in their own programs and communities. For ideas on fundraising, recruitment and retention, marketing, and promotion and more, visit 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. **Please communicate any outside activities you may like to schedule for your group (i.e. museum tours) to help avoid conflicts with your scheduled meals, concert blocks, and other Festival activities.**

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 or 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' legally permitted driving hours.**

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.

GETTING AROUND DOWNTOWN

The central core of downtown Indianapolis is 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 Schrott Center for the Arts are 6.5 miles (20-minute drive) north of downtown on the campus of Butler University. The Warren Performing Arts Center is 11.5 miles (20-minute drive) east of downtown. The Palladium is located 25 miles (35–40-minute drive) north of downtown Indianapolis, in Carmel.

ARRIVAL TO THE FESTIVAL

All groups will need to send a representative (preferably a director) to the JW Marriott Place Event Center room 109.

You will receive the following items during your Room 109 check-in:

Director credentials, student name badges, and program books. All directors, regardless of your assigned hotel, should plan to check in first at the JW Marriott Place Event Center, Room 109.

You will need to complete the following registration steps:

Turn in your Ensemble Scores
Verify/Edit your Script
Verify/Edit your Stage Plot

HOTEL CHECK-IN

Ensembles will check-in and receive room keys from Music for All representatives. You should not go to the front desk of any property.

Room keys will be distributed for groups assigned to hotels within the Marriott Place Complex, which includes the JW Marriott, Courtyard by Marriott, Fairfield Inn, and SpringHill Suites from Room 109.

Room keys for groups assigned to the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown will be distributed from a desk in the Marriott lobby.

Please note, room keys may come in small batches, based on availability from the hotel. Luggage storage will be available for all groups and is pre-assigned. Specific details about luggage storage will be relayed during check in at Room 109.

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:** \$55/day for self-park and \$60/day for valet. Both have in/out privileges.
- **Indianapolis Marriott Downtown:** \$55/day for self-parking and \$60/day for valet. Both have in/out privileges.
- **Butler University (Clowes Memorial Hall and Schrott Center for the Arts):** Car parking is available for an hourly fee at the garage on Sunset Blvd. located directly north of both venues.
- **Butler University (Shelton Auditorium):** Free car parking is available directly south of the venue.
- **Warren Performing Arts Center:** Free parking is available in the lots directly west of the WPAC.
- **Indiana Historical Society:** Free parking is in available in the lot north of the building.
- **Palladium at the Center for the Performing Arts:** Free parking is available on the street surrounding the theater as well as the city's self-park garages. The nearest garage is at the Tarkington and Studio Theater garage directly south of the Palladium and Carter Green.

DEPARTING THE HOTELS 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. **Please DO NOT utilize the hotel front drives. The JW Marriott Place Event Center Drive is an active unload/reload area. Vehicles may not park in the drive.**

JW Marriott Event Center - 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. The designated unload/reload space is limited, so please have your buses pull to the farthest end of the drive when ready to load. **You may use the parking lot at Victory Field Across the street to use as a staging area for when you are arriving and departing the Marriott Place.**

Indianapolis Downtown Marriott – Groups should plan to pick-up and drop-off on Missouri Street (directly west of the hotel) and access this space from Maryland Street. This is an active unload/reload zone and you may not park busses or vehicles.

Travel Tips - Please use the event center lobby areas as a meeting place for your group when planning to leave the hotel. Please avoid causing congestion near entrances. To avoid delays, please exit the hotel as one group (not in small groups). We suggest you implement a quick attendance system before each departure. Indianapolis is generally a safe city. However, students and adults should always exercise the caution expected of any visitor to a new and unfamiliar city. Please travel in groups and avoid unguided student "exploration."

WEATHER IN INDIANAPOLIS

Indianapolis weather varies during March and April. The average temperature is 45 degrees. Highs range from 30s-to-60s degrees and lows in the 20s-to-40s-degree range. Snow and/or rain is possible, so please bring appropriate attire and check weather forecasts before leaving home.

DRESS CODE

The expected dress at National Festival is business casual. **Please avoid jeans, shorts, and casualwear during the week's activities except for the Student Social.** The Student Social is an opportunity for casualwear (jeans, t-shirts, etc.). For the Sunday evening banquets we ask that each ensemble dress in semi-formal attire (jacket/tie, concert attire, etc.).

SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

REQUIRED CHAPERONE MEETING

Prior to the Festival, 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 attend the virtual meeting. Discussion will include check-in, luggage, instrument storage, banquet seating, and any questions. **This online video conference will be on Monday, March 11st at 8:00 p.m. EASTERN TIME.** Zoom Meeting ID is 884 2267 0563

OPENING SESSION

The Festival Opening Session for ALL participants will be from 1:00–2:00 p.m. on Friday in the Indianapolis Convention Center (ICC), Sagamore Ballroom. Please plan to be in your seats no later than **12:50 p.m.** The Sagamore Ballroom is on the second floor of the ICC. This is a 5-10 minute walk from the JW Marriott Event Center, with indoor skybridges connecting the buildings.

FESTIVAL STAGE SESSIONS will follow Opening Session on the 1st floor of the ICC from 2:15 p.m.-3:00 p.m. (please see the Daily Schedule for rooms). There will be sessions for each performance venue.

The Indiana Convention Center (ICC)

The ICC is located southeast of the JW Marriott complex, and directly south of the Indianapolis Downtown Marriott. The Sagamore Ballroom (and all festival breakout rooms) are located on the second floor of the building. To enter the building, you may use the Convention Center main entrance off Maryland St. or the skywalks connecting the Convention Center with the festival hotels. The JW's skywalk entrance is on the second floor, next to the Starbucks and set of escalators leading to/from the hotel's main lobby. The Downtown Marriott's skywalk entrance is on the second floor above the 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 from others, by managing your time and use of facilities during your rehearsal time.

- **Instrumental Rehearsal Rooms** 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 rooms.
- **Chamber Rehearsal Rooms** will have a small number of music stands, chairs, and a digital piano if your ensemble requests a piano.

FESTIVAL WORKSHOPS

We are excited to offer Workshop Sessions with leading music industry professionals. These six options are designed to help prepare students for success in their future musical endeavors. There are an additional two sessions for Middle School students to choose from. Please remember to note what sessions your students are going to attend and be present to help guide them to the correct rooms during the assigned sessions.

MEALS, SOCIALS, & BANQUET

MEALS

Specific mealtimes and locations will be organized for your group. All ensembles will eat breakfast each morning in the hotel where they are staying (groups at the JW, Courtyard, SpringHill, or Fairfield will eat in the JW Marriott Event Center). Lunch and dinner locations are determined by your schedule. Additionally, all groups will have a meal at a local downtown restaurant. Your assigned time and location will be included on your individual schedule.

- PLEASE HELP ENSURE YOUR GROUP IS ON TIME TO MEALS. The start times are determined to accommodate 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. Mealtimes have been coordinated with hotel and catering personnel. As such, onsite changes generally cannot be accommodated.
- **Vegetarian, dairy free, gluten free, and other dietary needs are available upon request.** Please fill out the Special Meal Request form. **Individuals with specific dietary needs/requests should still self-identify, and are encouraged to talk to wait staff with any questions or requests.** Special dietary items are not always on buffet tables. This is to ensure they are available when needed.

STUDENT SOCIAL

Please remind your chaperones to plan for student care at the Student Social. Students will be allowed to leave early to return to their rooms if accompanied by a chaperone. Because some 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 plan this with students in advance.

The Student Socials will be held on Friday evening from 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

- High School students social will be in the JW Marriott Event Center.
- Middle School students social will be in the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown.

Both events will feature light snacks, games & activities, and a DJ.

DIRECTOR/CLINICIAN 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 Friday and Saturday evenings.

- **Thursday's social** will be held from 10:00 p.m.-12:00 p.m. at Nevermore Union Station
- **Friday's social, sponsored by Butler University,** will be held from 8:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. – location the NCAA Hall of Fame

SATURDAY EVENING BANQUETS

The National Festival will feature several Banquets on Saturday evenings at the JW Marriott and Indianapolis Marriott Downtown. Non-package holders may purchase spots for any of the following.

- **High School Student Ensembles, Directors and Guests** will attend the Banquet at 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the JW Marriott Place Event Center (3rd floor).
- **Middle School Student Ensembles, Directors and Guests** will attend the Banquet at 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m. in the White River Ballroom of the JW Marriott Place Event Center (1st floor).

- **Honor Ensemble Students, Chaperones, and Parents** will attend the Honor Ensemble Banquet at 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m. in the Indiana Ballroom at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown (1st floor). **Banquets have assigned seating, and assignments will be available by 10am Saturday morning in room 314 of the Marriott Place Event Center. All Banquets are plated meals. Guests with dietary restrictions can request special meals through their catering staff person serving their table.**

Remind students not to remove table numbers, napkins, etc. as each “souvenir” could incur hotel charges.

HONOR CONCERTS & SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

Jazz Band of America Concert (Saturday Evening)

The 2024 Jazz Band of America will perform Sunday evening at 8:00 p.m. at the Schrott Center.

Ron McCurdy – Professor of Music at the USC Thornton School of Music- will lead the 2024 JBOA.

Honor Band of America (Saturday Evening)

The 2024 Honor Band of America will perform Sunday evening at 8:00 p.m. at Clowes Memorial Hall.

Col. Timothy Holton – 10th Leader and Commander of The United States Army Band “Pershing’s Own” -
– will conduct the 2024 HBOA.

Honors Percussion Recital (Saturday Afternoon)

The 2024 Honors Percussion Recital will take place on Saturday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. at the Schrott Center for the Performing Arts at Butler University. This concert will feature select students from the percussion ensembles attending the National Festival.

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. Please let us know if you would like to attend additional performances and we are happy to accommodate if venue capacity allows.

YOUR STUDENTS IN AN HONOR ENSEMBLE

Please remember that your Festival Ensemble students who are ALSO members of the HBOA or JBOA, need to arrive by **Wednesday, March 20 at 1:00 p.m.** to check-in and be on time for their first session.

Please note:

- **Honor Ensemble rehearsals take precedence over non-performance activities planned for your school ensemble - this includes any onsite rehearsals.**
- **These students will be with you ONLY for your warm-up, performance, and clinic time. Honor Ensemble students will not be with you for your on-site 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 with a Festival Package has admission to **most** festival events. Directors, students, and chaperones will be given a name badge that will admit them to all areas. Please ensure your students and chaperones to wear their name badges to gain access to Festival activities.

Admission to all Festival Ensemble performances (scholastic ensembles) are free of charge to spectators.

Honor Ensemble performances (i.e. HBOA & JBOA concerts) will require a purchased ticket for any non-package holders. Tickets may be purchased via Ticketmaster.

Due to limited venue seating, we will assign your Festival Ensemble to the Honor Band of America concert OR the Jazz Band of America concert.

NO VIDEO OR AUDIO RECORDING ALLOWED IN CONCERT HALLS

Please share with your group – due to copyright laws, no personal recording is allowed in the concert halls.

WATCH PERFRMANCES FROM HOME, CLASSROOM, ANYWHERE!

ALL Festival Ensemble & Honor Ensemble performances will be streamed **LIVE**, and **FREE OF CHARGE** on **Box5TV**. Visit <https://box5tv.com/> or www.festival.musicforall.org for information.

COMMEMORATIVE ITEMS – the following items will be provided to each student:

- **Professional Audio Recording** of your ensemble's performance
- **MFA National Festival Patch**
- **Participation Certificate**
- **Group Photo** of your onstage ensemble

ENSEMBLE HOSTS

- Each participating ensemble will be assigned an MFA host to assist you and your ensemble.
- Hosts are music educators who act as liaisons to Music for All. They are there to assist you and your students and help ensure the best on-site experience.
- Specific host assignments will be shared with all participating directors when assignments are confirmed. Once connected, we encourage you to talk with them to about how they can best help.
- On site, we ask that you provide in-town transportation between the hotel and performance venues for your assigned host. Please verify that your bus company will allow your host to ride with you.