



Honor Ensemble Important Event Procedures

Music for All National Festival, presented by Yamaha

March 25 – 28, 2026



Updated 3.10.26

Welcome to the Music for All National Festival, presented by Yamaha. Once again, congratulations on your selection and participation. These ensembles are comprised of some of the finest high school musicians in America!

The following are details associated with your participation in the festival's activities. It is crucial to read through this entire packet, even if you have previously participated in the Honor Ensembles.

FESTIVAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Do not contact the hotel directly.

Please use the Festival Hotline number, listed below, during the event to reach us on-site in case of emergency or travel delay.

FESTIVAL HOTEL AND HEADQUARTERS:

JW Marriott Indianapolis, 10 S. West Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Festival Hotline – *Begins on March 25, 2025*

877.643.6043

Your Trip to Indianapolis

AIRPORT INFORMATION

Special reminder: A picture ID is required (driver's license, passport, or state or school ID) to board a commercial aircraft, and most airports require that you arrive two hours early. Students should be aware that most airlines only allow one carry-on and one personal item. If you are flying with your instrument, make sure you check with airport guidelines. You may find this link helpful: <http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information>

When you land in Indianapolis, students are to deplane and proceed to the baggage claim area. Music for All representatives will meet students at the bottom of the escalators next to the baggage claim carousels. **If you did NOT purchase shuttle transportation within the Travel Arrangements Form, transportation from the airport to the JW Marriott hotel is the responsibility of each student.**

If your flight is CANCELED, please call Music for All's Event Hotline as soon as possible – 877.643.6043.

DRIVING

Students driving themselves must check-in their car keys with the Lead Chaperone upon arrival - **no student is allowed to drive once they arrive.**

Students will pick up their keys following check-out with staff on Sunday morning.

PARKING: Music for All will not cover the cost of parking at the hotel or surrounding areas. **Parking your car at festival is the responsibility of the participant.**

CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS

The Music for All National Festival operates in the Eastern Time Zone.

GETTING AROUND DOWNTOWN

Once you check-in, bus transportation will be provided for all Honor Ensemble students to get to all venues for rehearsals and the concert per the schedule. Downtown Indianapolis is fairly compact. The JW Marriott hotel is connected by overhead walkways to other downtown facilities, including the Indiana Convention Center. Clowes Memorial Hall and the Schrott Center for the Arts are 6.5 miles north of downtown on the campus of Butler University.

WEATHER IN INDIANAPOLIS

Weather in Indianapolis varies during the month of March. Snow and/or rain are often in the weather forecast. Please bring appropriate attire in case of inclement weather - there will be several times students are asked to walk outside to get to dinner or other activities through the weekend. We suggest you check www.weather.com before leaving home.

Hotel Information

FESTIVAL HOTEL AND HEADQUARTERS

JW Marriott Indianapolis, 10 S. West Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204

CHECK-IN - Wednesday, March 25, 2026 - 8:30am - 1:00pm

When you enter the JW Marriott, **BYPASS THE FRONT DESK**. Proceed to the Honor Ensemble Check-in Area, which is located on **level 2** of the hotel. Go up the escalators from the main lobby, where Music for All staff will check you in and issue your room key. Room keys are magnetic cards, and each student will receive their own card. Do not lose your room card, remember to place it in a safe area, away from your cell phone, and for security purposes, **DO NOT** write your room number on your key.

Important: All participants will receive a check-in packet containing a name badge that is to be worn at all times, except when performing. This badge is your pass to all events, including meals.

We have made arrangements with the hotel to block out long-distance phone service (unless using a credit card or calling card), TV movies, and other services not included in the Festival Package price. Extra services will not be available to Honor Ensemble students.

CHECK-OUT - Sunday, March 29, 2026 - 11:00am

All students are housed in packages that include a Saturday night hotel stay. Check-out time for Honor Ensemble students is before 12:00pm. Every student must check-out with the Music for All staff in the **main lobby** before their departure. Students driving home may pick up their car keys following their check-out.

If you purchased a shuttle back to the airport, you will be provided shuttle instructions following the Honor Ensemble concert. Students will meet in the hotel lobby before your scheduled shuttle departure. Transportation from the hotel is typically scheduled at least two hours before your flight's departure time. Your shuttle time may be earlier to accommodate shuttle groups. **The last shuttle will depart for the airport at 11:30am, regardless of the afternoon flight departure time.**

EARLY DEPARTURES: If you choose to depart the group (your assigned room and chaperone care) after the concert on Saturday night, rather than Sunday morning, **YOU MUST** inform Music for All and check-out with your chaperone before your departure. **All early departures will be from the main lobby of the JW Marriott hotel - THERE WILL BE NO EARLY DEPARTURES FROM THE CONCERT VENUE.** There are no refunds associated with early departure.

Packing List

- Business casual clothes for rehearsal- no jeans, athletic wear or shorts (*see dress code*)
- Concert attire (*see below*)
- Casual clothes for the student social – jeans are permitted **ONLY** for this event
- Coat or jacket with other winter items (scarf, gloves, hat, etc.)
- Raincoat or umbrella
- Your instrument with your name, address, and school marked on the case
- Any necessary supplies or instrument accessories (e.g. reeds, valve oil, etc.)
 - Brass Players: Remember to bring any necessary mutes as indicated in the music
 - All percussionists must bring sticks and mallets. Percussionists should bring triangles/wood blocks/tambourines if they have them
- Spending money for quick snacks at the vending machine or to purchase festival souvenirs

DRESS CODE: BUSINESS CASUAL

At the Music for All National Festival, participants adhere to a business casual-formal dress code, as well as a code of conduct, both of which enhance the world-class atmosphere of the Festival.

Jeans, athletic wear (leggings and/or sweatpants), t-shirts, hoodies, and shorts are **NOT** to be worn during the event, except for the student social.

CONCERT DRESS: FULL CONCERT BLACK

- Full Tuxedo, or a black suit with a white dress shirt, and black bow tie.
- Closed-toed black shoes and tall black socks that cover the whole ankle when seated. **If you must wear open-toed shoes, they are to be worn with black pantyhose.**
- Mid-calf length or longer black dress.
- Black pants suit with a black jacket or black blouse.
 - NOTE: Sleeveless dresses or blouses are not allowed.

Scheduled Activities and Events

ORIENTATION MEETING AND OPENING SESSION: A REQUIRED meeting for all Honor Ensemble members begins at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday. An overview of the Honor Ensemble experience and introductions of the conductors, staff, and chaperone team will take place. In addition to the Honor Ensemble orientation, the opening session for the Music for All National Festival for *all* participating students is on Thursday at 1:00 p.m.

REHEARSALS: Rehearsals are critical. Your time together is very limited, and your conductor will expect to begin rehearsals promptly. Therefore, you must be in your seat, warmed-up, and tuned by the designated time. Do not delay the rehearsal by arriving late or unprepared.

CROSSOVER STUDENTS: Honor Ensemble students participating with their school ensembles will be dismissed from Honor Ensemble rehearsal for their school ensembles' **warm-ups, performances, and clinics only**. Your director has been informed and will adjust accordingly. Music for All will arrange transportation for you to and from your ensemble's warm-up, performance, and clinic. You and your ensemble director will receive specific instructions on-site regarding this adjusted schedule and transportation.

STUDENT SOCIAL: The Student Social will include a DJ, dancing, and snacks. Honor Ensemble chaperones will escort all students to and from the social as well as serve as chaperones for the event. You may wear jeans at this event.

WORKSHOP SESSIONS: We are excited to provide workshop sessions with leading music industry professionals to all students performing at the Music for All National Festival. These classes are designed to help prepare students for success in their future musical endeavors.

GALA AWARDS BANQUET: Saturday evening's Honor Ensemble Banquet will be held at Hillcrest Country Club. **Students should be dressed in their concert attire for the banquet.** Adults who have purchased packages are included, and a la carte tickets will be available for purchase in March.

ENSEMBLE PHOTO: All students will receive a group photo as part of their package. Each student will also have an opportunity to pose for an individual photo in concert dress - this is optional, and the individual photo is not included in the package. Information on ordering individual photos will be provided during the weekend.

Honor Ensemble Concerts

<p><u>HONOR BAND OF AMERICA</u></p> <p>Clowes Memorial Hall, Butler University</p> <p>Saturday March 28, 2026 8:00pm EST</p> <p>4602 Sunset Avenue Indianapolis, IN 46208</p>	<p><u>JAZZ BAND OF AMERICA</u></p> <p>Schrott Center for the Arts, Butler University</p> <p>Saturday March 28, 2026 8:00pm EST</p> <p>610 W 46th St. Indianapolis, IN 46208</p>
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TICKETS

All seats for the Honor Ensembles' concerts are reserved, and seating is limited. Tickets can be purchased through Ticketmaster beginning March 1, 2026.

Ensemble chaperones and family members who are package holders will receive their tickets while in Indianapolis as part of their pre-purchased package.

POST-CONCERT FAMILY RECEPTION

There will be an open reception for each Honor Ensemble in the performance venue immediately following the concerts with light refreshments provided. All Honor Ensemble members, guests, and family are encouraged to attend.

Following the reception, ALL Honor Ensemble members will be bused back to the hotel with their chaperones.

EARLY DEPARTURES

All Honor Ensemble students are housed in packages that include a Saturday night stay. **There are no refunds associated with early departure.** As with each night's stay, we will do bed checks following the performance.

If for any reason you and your parents choose to depart the group on Saturday night after the concert (your assigned room and chaperone care), rather than Sunday morning, YOU MUST inform Music for All and check-out with your chaperone before your departure.

All early departures will be from the main lobby of the JW Marriott hotel - **THERE WILL BE NO EARLY DEPARTURES FROM THE CONCERT VENUE.**