2018 PREMIERE MUSIC FOR ALL NATIONAL CHOIR FESTIVAL PRESENTED BY YAMAHA

APPLICATION INFORMATION

March 15-17, 2018 Indianapolis, Indiana

Application deadline: June 5, 2017
March 15-17, 2018 • Indianapolis, Indiana

Music for All introduces a new positively life-changing experience for voices.

Presented in partnership with the Indianapolis Children’s Choir and Youth Chorale; the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir; and The Jordan College of Arts, Butler University

The Music for All National Choir Festival is part of the Music for All National Festival and an integral part of Music for All’s ongoing mission to create, provide, and expand positively life-changing experiences through music for all.

The Music for All National Choir Festival is a non-competitive experience for outstanding middle school, high school, and youth choirs of all voicings. The festival is a celebration of musical excellence, combining world-class performance and evaluation opportunities with an exhilarating atmosphere of camaraderie in music.

Music for All’s vision is to be a catalyst to ensure that every child across America has access and opportunity to participate in active music-making in his or her scholastic environment. We use our resources to provide national programs that recognize and support music students’ performance and success, offer music educator training and professional development, and deliver tools and resources to participants and their communities that will assist them in supporting music education by promoting awareness of music’s impact on student growth and achievement.

As one of Music for All’s many programs, the National Choir Festival shines a national spotlight on outstanding choirs, providing educational programs, and spectacular musical experiences for singers in a positive, supportive environment.

A NON-COMPETITIVE, SUPPORTIVE EXPERIENCE

The non-competitive atmosphere of the Music for All National Choir Festival provides a place for growth, cooperative encouragement, and mutual respect among music programs, students, parents, boosters, and administrators.

Directors select their own programs; there is no required repertoire. There are no ratings or rankings so directors and their ensembles are free to stretch themselves, reach for new heights and strive for innovation, growth, and excellence, instead of focusing on a rating or placing.

Participating students experience an atmosphere of mutual respect while enjoying concerts from other outstanding ensembles. The Festival’s dress code and standards of conduct enhance the world-class atmosphere of the Festival. Ensembles that perform at the Festival are recognized as being among the finest in the nation. Participation is a “credential” worth having. The preparation process itself for the Festival can have a positive effect on your music program.

Music for All is honored to have the support and involvement of many music organizations. The final massed-choral concert with orchestra will include separate tracks for treble voices and mixed voices. The concert will be in one of Indianapolis’ finest concert venues. Master classes are presented by leading applied faculty and artists.
Gala Awards Banquet
The formal banquet for students, directors, parents, staff, and evaluators culminates the Festival with first-class standards that distinguish the Music for All National Festival. Guests enjoy a plated dinner, recognition, and presentation of awards to each ensemble. The banquet, with over 2,500 guests, is sure to be unforgettable for you, your students, parents, and supporters.

World-Class Venues and Facilities
Choirs will perform for evaluation in the beautiful St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. Festival ensembles stay at outstanding hotels, including the Marriott Place Indianapolis, featuring the JW Marriott and four Marriott hotel properties, and additional downtown hotels, surrounded by and walking distance from numerous cultural and recreational attractions.

Recording and Group Photo package
Each student member and director receives a professionally-produced recording of their evaluation concert, and a group photo.

Choir Hosts
Each invited choir will be assigned a host to help guide you through the Festival weekend and is committed to ensuring that you have the best possible experience before and during the Festival. Hosts are familiar with Music for All events and festivals.

Festival Invitation Visit and Director “Fam” Trip
Every choir is offered a visit to your school from a member of the Festival team. This site visit, which is mandatory for first-time participating schools and/or directors, helps to assure your students, parent boosters, and administration understand the magnitude of your achievement.

A mandatory familiarization (“Fam”) trip to Indianapolis for directors of all accepted ensembles will take place at the Festival performance venues and hotel facilities. Music for All will take directors on a city and site inspection of the performance halls, warm-up rooms, clinic rooms, and the Festival hotels. The philosophy behind the event, Festival schedule, and costs will be thoroughly discussed to ensure a complete understanding of pre-planning information for your ensemble. The “Fam” Trip for the 2018 ensembles will be on Sunday, November 12, 2017. Transportation and housing for the “Fam Trip” to Indianapolis is at the participating ensemble’s expense.

PART OF A COMPREHENSIVE CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE IN MUSIC-MAKING
The Music for All National Choir Festival is part of the Music for All National Festival, presented by Yamaha, which also includes:

Orchestra America National Festival
Chamber Music National Festival
National Concert Band Festival
Sandy Feldstein National Percussion Festival
Middle School National Music Festival
Honor Orchestra of America
Honor Band of America
Jazz Band of America

“This was by far the most positive event we have ever participated in. The level of professionalism from the organization and evaluators is exactly what we want to expose our children to.”
Completed application, audition recording, and all application materials must be received by June 5, 2017. Online application is available at www.musicforall.org/choir. Featured ensembles will be invited following the recorded application/audition process.

The Application Process
The Music for All National Festival audition process offers a unique opportunity for a wealth of input into your program from a world-class panel of music educators. The audition process is a tool you can use to take your program to the next level. All auditioning ensembles receive recorded and written evaluation from the audition listening panel. The listening is “blind” – ensembles are not identified to evaluators in the listening process. Evaluators recommend the ensembles that demonstrate an exemplary level of excellence to receive an invitation to perform at the National Festival.

Requirements for Application
Application consists of the completed Festival application form submitted with the audition recording and application fee. Specific requirements for application and audition recordings are included in the Requirements for Application and Participation section of this packet.

The application fee is $250 for choirs. All applying groups receive recorded and written evaluation from the evaluation/selection panel. Submission of your application is a commitment to attend and perform if accepted (unless you select the “Input Only” box on your application). Please be sure that you have booster and administrative approval and support prior to applying.

“Input Only” Audition Option
Ensembles who want the evaluation and input from the panel of audition evaluators, but who do not wish to receive consideration for an invitation to the 2018 Festival, can choose to send an audition recording and application for input only by checking the “Input Only Option” box on the application.
## 2018 Music for All National Festival
### Package Description and Pricing | March 14-17, 2018 • Indianapolis, Indiana

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Package Includes:</th>
<th>PACKAGE A</th>
<th>PACKAGE B</th>
<th>PACKAGE C</th>
<th>PACKAGE D</th>
<th>PACKAGE E</th>
<th>PACKAGE F</th>
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**NOTES:**

1. Additional package meals are available at an additional cost.
2. Each attending ensemble must bring adult chaperones at a ratio of 1 chaperone per 12 students, exclusive of the head director. Chaperones may be housed in king or double rooms with no more than 2 chaperones per room.
3. Each participating school of non-chamber ensembles will be responsible for selling one full page ad in the program book at $1,000, payable to Music for All to help cover the cost of production. Chamber Ensembles: One ensemble to three ensembles $600 for 1/2 pg; four or more chamber ensembles $1,000
4. In order to be present for the Opening Ceremonies, each attending high school ensemble must arrive by Noon on Thursday and each attending middle school ensemble must arrive by 3 p.m. on Thursday. All ensembles must be present through Saturday evening's concerts.
5. Level 1 price is for JW Marriott or comparable hotel. Level 2 price is for Springhill, Fairfield, Courtyard, or comparable hotel.

### Package Payment Schedule

By agreeing to participate in the Music for All National Festival with one of the Festival Package Plans, the participating ensemble or Honor Ensemble student agrees to pay the total package amount in three installments by the dates listed as follows:

1. 25% deposit of total amount due by October 15, 2017.
2. 50% of total amount due by December 15, 2017.

**NO CHANGES to Packages that reduce an ensemble's commitment can be made after December 15, 2017.**

3. Final 25% or balance of total amount due by January 15, 2018. Final rooming list due by January 15, 2018. The balance due is based upon your January 15, 2018 or December 15, 2017 final package totals, whichever is greater. Upon invitation to perform in Indianapolis, ensembles will be sent a detailed Festival Package Packet with contract. If no representative is in attendance at the required Familiarization Trip Sunday, November 12, 2017 in Indianapolis, the ensemble's invitation will be recalled and the initial 25% payment forfeited.

COMMUTER PACKAGE PRICING available for ensembles from schools within 75 miles of the Marriott Place Indianapolis. Commuter price is $310 per person. Commuter Package includes all features of Package A above EXCEPT: NO housing and the only meals included are Friday and Saturday lunch, Friday dinner and Saturday's Gala Awards Banquet. Additional meals are available at an additional cost.

* Honor Band members must report for a meeting at 7 p.m. Wed., March 14, 2018.
** Honor Orchestra must report for a meeting at 7 a.m., Jazz Band members at 8:30 a.m., both on Wed., March 14, 2018.
*** One per ensemble with festival packages
**** Students in both an honor ensemble and a Featured or Invited ensemble receive one (1) CD/Photo package of their school ensemble performance OR their honor ensemble performance.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

By applying, am I obligated to attend if accepted?
Yes! You are obligated to attend unless you select the “Input Only” option on your application.* Submission of your application serves as a commitment of your planned attendance, upon acceptance of your ensemble to the Festival. Prior to submitting an application, be certain you have secured all necessary approvals, including administration and booster, to accept an invitation should you receive one.

Once you have applied to the Festival, it is highly recommended that you and your music boosters begin preliminary planning for your ensemble’s attendance. Numerous hours will go into the organization of your trip so we encourage you to start this process as soon as possible. If you select the “Input Only” option on your application, your group will not be considered for an invitation to the Festival.

When must we arrive to participate?
We encourage you to purchase a package that focuses on your convenience and allows your ensemble to be prepared to perform at its best. Ensembles may need to consider arriving in Indianapolis on Wednesday evening to ensure sufficient time for the check-in process and being present at the Opening Session. High Schools must plan to arrive no later than 11 a.m. on Thursday (in order to participate in the 1 p.m. Opening Session). Middle Schools must plan to arrive no later than 1 p.m. on Thursday (in order to participate in the 3 p.m. Opening Session). You may not depart prior to 6 p.m. on Saturday evening after the Gala Awards Banquet concludes. We encourage you to stay and attend the 8 p.m. concert series Saturday evening if possible. Choruses may depart after the Gala Banquet if necessary.

NOTE: Hotel rooms are not guaranteed to be available until 3 p.m. the day of your arrival.

Must I attend the Familiarization Trip?
Yes. If invited, you or another director representative must attend the Sunday, November 12, 2017 Fam Trip. Travel to Indianapolis and hotel will be at your expense. Music for All will pay for meals on Sunday and provide complimentary tickets to Bands of America Grand National Championships events. Chamber ensembles are encouraged to have a director/coach attend.

What will the Festival really cost us? Is it all inclusive? What’s “extra”?
Most of the costs of participation are included in the Festival Package pricing (see page 5). Items that are not included are discussed below.

Extra Meals
Depending on the package purchased, most of your meals are included with packages found on page 17 of this packet. Meals not included in your chosen package may be added at an additional charge or you may choose to arrange these meals off property on your own. Please call Music for All for details.

Program Book Advertisements
Part of what makes the Music for All National Festival such an unparalleled experience for students is the attention to detail and world-class quality that goes into every aspect. Music for All produces a glossy, high-quality program book for the Festival that includes information on all of the participating ensembles. This program is a lifelong keepsake and eliminates the need for ensembles to produce their own programs for the more than 2,500 participants and spectators.

The cost of production of this substantial, full color program book is underwritten by advertising sold by each of the participating ensembles to businesses and community members to “sponsor” the ensemble’s section of the book. Ensembles will participate in selling advertising to support their section of the program book. As part of the program book advertising sponsorship program, each student ensemble performer or adult who purchases a package will receive a complimentary program book.

Each school will be responsible for selling ads for one full page in the program book at $1,000, payable to Music for All to help cover the cost of production. Invited and Featured choirs, concert bands, and orchestras will then receive a total of three pages of informational editorial in the program book; invited percussion ensembles receive two editorial pages. Additional choirs, concert bands, and orchestras from schools with invited ensembles will receive two editorial pages; additional percussion ensembles will receive one page.

Program book ad requirement for Chamber Ensembles:
One to three chamber ensembles participating — required to sell 1/2 page of advertising at $600; ensembles (all together) receive up to two pages of editorial.*

Four chamber ensembles participating — required to sell one full page of advertising at $1,000; ensembles (all together) receive up to three pages of editorial content.*

Further details on the program book editorial content are included in the participating ensemble notebook upon invitation. *Editorial content includes concert musical selections, personnel, director/coach biography, ensemble and director/coach photos, school, and community information.

Additional Individuals in Director Rooms
Each invited ensemble receives one complimentary room (and meals and admission). Additional individuals are allowed in the director room (i.e., assistant directors, spouses, family, etc.—contact Music for All for information on additional costs for these individuals); however, meals and concert tickets are not included and must be purchased separately. To enhance security and to help ensure Festival decorum, chaperones may not be housed in a director room.

CD and Photo Package
Each student member of a participating ensemble will receive one performance CD and ensemble group photo as part of the Festival Package. Students in both an Honor Ensemble and Invited Ensemble receive a CD/Photo package of their school ensemble. If desired, additional CDs and Photos may be purchased.

Each director will receive a CD recording. The director will also receive an advance audio CD copy of the group’s performance shortly after the Festival. For invited ensembles, these recordings form the basis of the Festival CD set. Upon receipt, each director will be asked for feedback on the recordings themselves and (when necessary) the editing choices made to reduce the recording to 38 minutes in length. Editing over 70 hours audio recordings and subsequent review, approval, and duplication for professional distribution is a large project that takes a considerable amount of time. Typically, CDs for the Festival are ready for distribution and delivery (in bulk) to the participating school address around the end of August.

The package includes a color group photograph of the ensemble taken on stage for each director and student, provided on-site after Gala Banquet.

Local Ground Transportation
Ground transportation is the responsibility of each participating ensemble. While not required, most ensembles have found that use of pooled services reduces costs and stress in the planning process. Music for All has a working relationship with a local ground transportation company, which allows participating groups to pool their local travel needs and purchase transportation at an attractive price. Information will be provided to the invited ensembles. The National Choir Festival will take place within a walking footprint.

Additional Equipment
Music for All will provide resources for you to secure any additional pieces of percussion equipment. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the performing ensemble to secure equipment beyond that supplied by Music for All for rehearsals and performances.

Pianos
Music for All has secured pianos that are provided to the performing ensembles for their performance. Pianos are provided for choral rehearsal and performance. Contact the festival coordinators to discuss potential availability of the organ at St. John’s Church.
Scores and Advance Program Recording
For the Festival performances, each Featured Concert or Chamber Choir, Band, or Orchestra is required to submit three original scores of each piece to Music for All (five scores are preferred) or have secure written permission from the publisher to make and submit three (or five) photocopies. Percussion ensembles, Invited Bands, and Chamber Ensembles are required to submit three copies of original scores or have secured and provide Music for All with written permission to make photocopies. Music for All remains in strict compliance of copyright laws. Music for All will require each participating ensemble to submit their music program information form by January 15, 2018. All ensembles—choirs, bands, orchestras, and percussion ensembles—will be required to send an audio recording of their Festival concert program in advance for Music for All officials to confirm length of program and scheduling.

What is the permitted length of concerts?
Featured Choirs and Chamber Choirs — Perform 20 minutes of music within a 30 minute concert block.
Featured Bands Stage — This opportunity is for high school bands. “Featured Bands” are on a one hour schedule and includes a maximum of 40 minutes of music, reading of program notes, and set changes on a 60-minute cycle. Note: only 38 minutes of music will appear on the CD.
Invited Bands Stage — This opportunity is for high school bands. “Invited Bands” perform a maximum of 25–30 minutes of music and receive a 25–to 30-minute clinic on the performance stage. These bands are on a 75-minute schedule cycle, which includes performance of music, clinic, optional warm up chorale, reading of program notes and set changes between pieces. Because of limited setup and tear down time, bands will not be able to use risers for their performance.
Orchestras — Orchestras are on a one hour schedule and includes a maximum of 40 minutes of music, reading of program notes, and set changes on a 60 minute cycle. Note: only 38 minutes of music will appear on the CD.
Invited Percussion Ensembles — Perform 25 minutes of music within a 40-minute concert block, with the reading of program notes and set changes between pieces.
Middle School Bands — Perform for 30 minutes, including music, reading of program notes and set changes between pieces, on a 45-minute cycle.
Chamber Ensembles — May perform up to 20 minutes of music — including music, set changes and reading of program notes — on a 30-minute cycle.

Do I have to stay at the Festival hotels?
Yes. The Music for All National Festival is a premier event and has chosen the finest hotels, including the Marriott Place Indianapolis, featuring the JW Marriott and four other Marriott properties and other downtown hotels, to serve as the official Festival hotels. By staying at these hotels, participants form a special, deeply rooted community. The Festival hotels become the “music universe” for the duration of the festival and serve as a catalyst to help electrify the experience.

Is attendance required at all scheduled events and activities, including audience times?
Yes. The Festival promises to be educational and inspirational for your ensemble, and you will want to be part of the full experience. It is imperative that your ensemble attends all scheduled events. Countless hours of preparation go into the schedule to ensure that each performing ensemble receives a complete and attentive audience. Ensembles that do not participate in their assigned audience time may forfeit their right to apply for this Festival in the future. Attending other ensemble performances is part of the educational aspect of the Festival and separates the Music for All National Festival from other festivals. As a performing ensemble, playing to a knowledgeable and attentive audience is much more rewarding.

What is the dress code?
Participants adhere to a dress code as well as a code of conduct that enhance the world-class atmosphere of the Festival. No jeans or shorts are worn during the weekend activities with the exception of the Thursday night evening social. Thursday evening’s student social has no particular dress code; however, good taste is always appropriate. In addition, attendees are asked to dress in semi-formal or formal attire, jackets for boys, for the Gala Awards Banquet Saturday evening.

When do we have to pay for participation?
Is it lump sum, or may I make deposits?
Music for All allows its participating ensembles to make staggered payments as follows:

1. 25% deposit of total amount due by October 15, 2017.
2. 50% of total amount due by December 15, 2017. NO CHANGES to Packages that reduce an ensemble’s commitment can be made after December 15, 2017.
3. Final 25% or balance of total amount due by January 15, 2018.

The balance due is based upon your January 15, 2018 or December 15, 2017 final package totals, whichever is greater.

What happens to our luggage if we check out of the hotel on Saturday?
Official check-out time is 11 a.m. on your check out day. If your ensemble is departing Saturday evening following the Honor Band of America concert or Honor Orchestra of America Concert, your ensemble must be checked out of their hotel rooms by midnight Saturday night. Music for All has made arrangements for groups to store baggage in secured rooms and also have rooms set aside for changing clothes at the Marriott Place and Butler University prior to the banquet and changing back to travel clothes following the Honors concert Saturday evening. Choirs may depart after the Gala Awards Banquet.

What happens when we check in to the hotel and our rooms are not available?
Official check-in time at the Festival Hotel is 3 p.m. each day. Music for All will make every effort to allow ensembles to at least a portion of their hotel rooms prior to the Opening Session at 1 p.m. (High School students) and 3 p.m. (Middle School students) on Thursday.
Check-out time is 11 a.m. We will have storage space as well as changing rooms available if the hotel is unable to accommodate your early check-in or late check-out.

Do I need to book a hotel room for my bus and truck drivers?
Yes. Be sure to include a room for your bus and truck drivers on your rooming list. Even though you may not know the name of your drivers, make sure you reserve a room for him/her. You may list the name “bus/truck driver” in this room, as a starting point. Drivers are not required to stay at the Festival hotel or purchase Festival packages.
Keep in mind check-out time is 11 a.m. for all. So if your driver needs to gain additional rest before leaving on Saturday night, you will need to book a room for Saturday night. The hotel will not allow for a late check-out.

Where do I park my buses during the Festival?
Music for All can provide information to assist you in making arrangements to park your buses during the Festival. Overnight parking is not permitted at the Festival hotels.

Do directors have to attend the director socials and other activities?
The Music for All National Festival features world-class opportunities, including building positive relationships between performers, educators, and evaluators. The social events encourage camaraderie, and although they are not required to attend, directors are highly encouraged to participate with fellow directors and to meet the clinicians and evaluators of the Festival. Traditionally these activities are a wonderful opportunity for the directors to interact one-on-one with the finest music educators in the country. We can’t imagine a music educator not wanting to take advantage of every one of these opportunities to network and socialize!
1. Please submit an unedited audio recording of 12–20 minutes of applicant ensemble's performance. Audio recording should not only display the choir's technical proficiency but also demonstrate their musical expression and artistry. Remember, your ensemble's audition performance is only as good as the quality of the recording. Be sure to submit a high-quality, high-fidelity recording.
   • Concert Choirs and Chamber Choirs must submit three contrasting selections.
   • There is no required music list, but it is recommended that the music be moderate to difficult.
   • THREE conductor's scores for each selection must be mailed to the Music for All office for the audition pieces.
   • Photocopied scores are not permitted in any Music for All audition process or event without written permission from the publisher.
   • Recording must be made after November 1, 2016.
   • For optimum sound, all recordings should be in stereo. Any deviation from this standard may result in a loss of sound quality.

2. Invitations may be issued to more than one choir from one school based on the merit of the audition recording(s), ONLY if the school's premier or “first” choir is one of those. Likewise, invitations will not be extended to second or third choirs UNLESS the first choir has also applied and been invited. (NOTE: All choirs are audio/video recorded, however, only invited choirs will be featured on the Festival CDs.) A copy of the recording is provided to each director. Multiple Concert and Chamber Choirs from one school may apply, but must be completely autonomous. Individual students can only be part of one group. Ensembles are required to be present from the “Opening Ceremonies” (1:00 p.m. Thursday afternoon for high schools, 3:00 p.m. Thursday evening for middle schools) through the Awards Banquet on Saturday evening. Ensembles assigned Thursday performances are advised to arrive on Wednesday.

3. In order to encourage multiple ensembles from one school to apply, there is a discounted application fee for multiple ensembles from one school — First ensemble application fee: $250; Second ensemble application fee: $150; Third or more: $100 each. This fee is non-refundable. The fee is designed to offset the costs of evaluators’ time and the evaluation, while offering your program personal input from leading educators.

4. The director should list two prominent music educators who have worked with or heard the choir during the past year to be contacted as references, if needed.

5. Directors must include a listing of the number of students in each grade level/year of graduation (e.g. six sophomores, 10 juniors, etc.). Indicate on the application how many applicants will graduate by June 2017. All participating students must be registered at the same school or be members of the same Youth Choir. All performers who contribute to the performance MUST be students.

6. The ensemble director and a school official also acknowledge the existence of the required Familiarization Trip/Site Inspection meeting scheduled for Sunday, November 12, 2017 in Indianapolis and has the option (but not requirement) to have a director or designated representative attend. The first 25% deposit (see payment schedule on “Festival Packages” page) is due by October 15, 2017. If no representative attends the Familiarization Trip, the ensemble’s invitation may be revoked and the first payment received or indicated on the application will be paid or forfeited as a penalty.

7. The application and accompanying forms must be received by the June 5, 2017 deadline. Because there can be problems in transit, we recommend that you contact the Music for All office in advance and let us know you are sending your scores so we can contact you if it is not received. Suggested handling includes registered mail, certified mail, Express Mail, Federal Express, or overnight UPS. Send to Music for All, Attn: National Festival Applications, 39 W. Jackson Place, Suite 150, Indianapolis, IN 46225-1010.

8. If accepted, the ensemble’s signed application grants Music for All the right to use in any media the ensemble’s name, likeness, photographs, and reproduction of the performance, and the ensemble’s members for any purpose including promotion, advertising, or otherwise. For purposes of use of these rights, the signed application (on behalf of the ensemble and its members) releases and indemnifies Music for All and its agents from all claims, liabilities, and damages which may arise from such use.

9. Music for All secures the permissions to perform all published works and arrangements of copyrighted music that is performed. However, if a custom arrangement is created or a new work or arrangement is commissioned, the participating ensemble must supply to Music for All written permission from the copyright owner to arrange and perform such works at our Festival. Copyright information and program selection form(s) (if applicable) must be provided to Music for All by January 15, 2018.

10. If an ensemble, after acceptance, plans to utilize a travel agent, that agent must work through Music for All on specifics regarding the ensemble’s itinerary. The invited ensemble agrees to utilize the Music for All Festival Package hotel and meal accommodations from Wednesday night through Saturday night while the ensemble is in Indianapolis. Before any airfare or travel is purchased, the ensemble agrees to give Music for All’s Official Student Travel Partner the opportunity to quote on their travel. If Music for All’s preferred travel partner is able to match or beat another airline or travel provider’s competitive service, fares or rates, the ensemble agrees to utilize the services of the Music for All Travel Partner.