

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. All choral ensembles must arrive no later than 11 a.m. on Thursday (in order to participate in the 1 p.m. Opening Session). Middle School choir ensembles need arrive for 1p.m. opening session. You may not depart prior to conclusion of a Gala Awards Banquet on Saturday evening. *NOTE: Hotel rooms are not guaranteed to be available until 3 p.m. the day of your arrival. Luggage storage will be provided upon arrival.*

Must I attend the Familiarization Trip?

Yes. If this is your first year of participation, it is important for you or your representative to attend the Sunday November 15, 2020 Fam trip. Travel to Indianapolis and hotel will be at your expense. Music for All will provide meals on Sunday and complimentary tickets to Bands of America Grand National Championship events. Choral Artistic members will provide a repertoire workshop for participating choir directors during the Fam Trip.

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 Festival Package and Pricing page). Items that are **not** included are discussed below.

Extra Meals + Extra Nights of Stay

Depending on the package purchased, most of your meals are included with packages found on the Festival Package and Pricing page 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. Extra nights of stay outside of Wednesday through Saturday may be added for an additional fee. Please contact Music for All for details.

Program Book Advertisements

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. Each student or adult who purchases a package will receive a complimentary program book.

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. Each school or organization will be responsible for selling ads for one full-page in the program book at \$1,000, payable to Music for All. Orchestras, concert bands, and choirs will receive three pages of informational editorial. *Editorial content includes concert musical selections, personnel, director biography, ensemble and director photos, school and community information.

Additional Individuals in Director Rooms

Each invited ensemble receives one complimentary room package (including meals and admission). Additional individuals are allowed in the director room (e.g., assistant directors, spouses, family, etc.). Information on additional costs for these individuals will be included in your Festival acceptance packet. To enhance security and to help ensure Festival decorum, chaperones may not be housed in a director room.

Photo Package & CD

As part of the festival package, each student and director of a participating ensemble will receive one color group photograph (to be picked up at the Gala Banquet) and a performance CD. 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."

The editing process is extensive. Each director will receive an advance audio copy of the group's performance shortly after the Festival. Each director may provide feedback on the recordings and any editing choices made to reduce the recording to the appropriate length. Typically, CDs are ready for distribution in bulk to the participating school by the end of August.

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.

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. A list of supplied equipment will be provided by Music for All.

Pianos, Organ, & Sheet Music

Music for All has secured pianos for individual choir warm-up and performance. Contact the festival coordinators to discuss use of the organ at St. John's Church. Choirs are responsible for purchasing mass choir music which will remain in the participating choir's library.

Scores & Advance Program Recording

For the Festival Performances, each choir is required to submit five original scores of each piece to Music for All or have secured written permission from the publisher to make and submit the quantity of submitted 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, 2021**. Choirs will be required to send an audio recording of mass choir repertoire to assess preparedness.

What is the permitted length of concerts?

Choirs will have a total of 15 minutes to enter/exit the stage and perform their individual program.

Do I have to stay at the Festival hotels?

Yes. All participants must stay in official festival hotels.

Is attendance required at all scheduled events and activities, including audience times?

Yes. It is imperative that your ensemble attend all scheduled events. Countless hours of preparation go into the schedule to ensure that each performing ensemble receives an educational and inspirational experience complete with an attentive audience. Ensembles that do not participate in their assigned audience time may forfeit their right to apply for this Festival in the future. Audience participation is a unique educational aspect of the Music for All National Festival, and as a performing ensemble, singing to a knowledgeable and attentive audience is much more rewarding.

What is the dress code?

Participants adhere to a business casual-formal dress code, as well as a code of conduct to enhance the world-class atmosphere of the Festival. No jeans or shorts are to be worn during the weekend activities with the exception of student social events. The student social has no particular dress code; however, good taste is always appropriate. In addition, attendees are asked to dress

in performance attire, or semi-formal to formal attire for the Gala Awards Banquet Saturday evening.

When do we have to pay for participation?

Is it a 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, 2020**.
2. 50% of total amount due by December 15, 2020. **NO CHANGES to Packages that reduce an ensemble's commitment can be made after December 15, 2020.**
3. Final 25% or balance of total amount due by **January 15, 2021**. The balance due is based upon your January 15, 2021 or December 15, 2020 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, your ensemble must be checked out of their hotel rooms by 11 a.m. Saturday. 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 prior to the banquet and changing back to travel clothes following the Honors concert Saturday evening afterwards.

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 have at least a portion of their hotel rooms prior to the Opening Session at 1 p.m. 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.

What if there is an Honor Ensemble student in my ensemble?

If you have students in your ensemble participating in the Honor Band of America, Honor Orchestra of America, and/or Jazz Band of America, keep in mind your students need to report for an orientation meeting:

- Honor Orchestra students must report at 7 a.m. on Wed., March 24, 2021
- Jazz Band of America students must report at 7 a.m. on Wed., March 24, 2021
- Honor Band students must report at 7 p.m. on Wed., March 24, 2021

ONLY your performance time, warm-up and post-concert clinic take precedence over an Honor Ensemble rehearsal. All Honor Ensemble rehearsals take precedence over non-performance activities planned for your ensemble,

including your rehearsals. Be sure your students and directors understand this, and that you plan accordingly. Music for All will provide transportation assistance for these student(s) and a custom schedule.

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 rooms for them. You may list the name "bus/truck driver" in these rooms, 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. **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 will provide information to assist you in making arrangements to park your buses during the Festival. Overnight parking is not permitted at the Festival hotels. There is a fee for downtown overnight bus parking.

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!

Choral Ensemble of America

Up to four balanced SATB quartets per director may apply through October 1, 2020. Quartets may not apply if their entire choir has been invited to participate. Students are required to attend the 1pm Thursday opening ceremony through the Gala Banquet. Each accepted participant will receive an honor ensemble pin.



NATIONAL CHOIR FESTIVAL OF AMERICA

REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATION AND PARTICIPATION

Music for All National Festival • March 25-27, 2021 • Indianapolis, Indiana

APPLY ONLINE at www.musicforall.org/festivalapplication



1. Please submit your ensemble's unedited audio recording of no more than 15 minutes. Audio recording should display the choir's proficiency as well as musical artistry. Your ensemble's audition is only as good as the quality of the recording. Submit a high-quality, high-fidelity recording.
 - Choirs must submit three contrasting selections.
 - There is no required music list.
 - FOUR 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, 2019. Recordings can be of festival performances, live concerts, or recorded performance for the purpose of audition.
 - For optimum sound, all recordings should be in stereo. Any deviation from this standard may result in a loss of sound quality.
 - Do not use any type of enhancement technique or audio editing to change the quality of the live performance.
 - **Recording submission will be by digital audio upload. Prepare digital audio file as 128k mp3. Access the online application and instructions to upload your digital audio recording at www.musicforall.org/festivalapplication.** Compact disc recording may be submitted if digital audio file cannot be uploaded.
 - Suggested recording criteria for audition recordings:
 - 1) Directional microphone, not omni microphone;
 - 2) Dynamic microphone, not condenser;
 - 3) Set meters to peak at max +3;
 - W4) Microphones should be 9' to 10' behind conductor/ensemble, and at least 10' above the ensemble.
 - All announcements and verbal identification on the submitted recording must be omitted.
 - Application recordings will not be evaluated beyond the maximum length required for submission.
2. Invitations may be issued to more than one choir from one school based on the merit of the audition recording(s). Multiple 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) through the Awards Banquet on Saturday evening.**
3. 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. On the application form, list two prominent music educators who have worked with or heard the choir during the past year to be contacted as references.
5. Include a listing of the number of students in each grade level/year of graduation (e.g. 6 Sophomores, 10 Juniors, etc.). All participating students must be registered at the same school or organization. All performers **MUST** be students.
6. The ensemble director and a school official must authorize with their signatures approval of this application, in accordance with Music for All policies. Unless the "Input Only" option is selected, by signing the application, the director and school official acknowledge that if invited to the event, the applying ensemble will participate and perform a concert not to exceed 15 minutes of music, inclusive of ensemble set changes. Furthermore, the signatures of the ensemble director and school official acknowledge acceptance of one of the event packages for the estimated number of students.
7. The ensemble director and school official also acknowledge the existence of the required Familiarization Trip/Venue Tour meeting scheduled for **Sunday, November 15, 2020 in Indianapolis.**
8. The first 25% deposit (see payment schedule on "Festival Packages" page) is due by **October 15, 2020.** 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.
9. The completed application form, administrator signatures, audition recordings, and application fee must be received by the **June 5, 2020** 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.**
10. 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.
11. 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, 2021.**
12. 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. Instrumental ensembles, please visit musicforall.org/festival for instrumental requirements.

* **Instrumental ensembles, please visit musicforall.org/festival for instrumental requirements.**



PACKAGE DESCRIPTION AND PRICING CHART

Music for All National Festival presented by **YAMAHA** • March 25-27, 2021 • Indianapolis, Indiana

Package Includes:	PACKAGE A Ensembles 4 Night Package Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat	PACKAGE B 3 Night Package Wed/Thurs/Fri	PACKAGE C 3 Night Package Thurs/Fri/Sat	PACKAGE D 2 Night Package Thurs/Fri	PACKAGE E Honor Band 4 Night Package Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat	PACKAGE F Honor Orchestra/Jazz 4 Night Package Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat	PACKAGE G Honor Orchestra/Jazz 5 Night Package Tue/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat
Nights Housing	4	3	3	2	4	4	5
Gala Awards Banquet (Saturday Dinner)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Meals	Th F S	Th F S	Th F S	Th F S	Th F S	W Th F S	W Th F S
-Breakfast	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
-Lunch	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
-Dinner	✓ Banquet	✓ Banquet	✓ Banquet	✓ Banquet	✓ Banquet	✓ Banquet	✓ Banquet
Student Social (Snack)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Workshops and Clinics	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Complete evaluation packet with recordings and comment sheets for national panel	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
CD/Ensemble Photo Package (Student ONLY)****	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ensemble Host***	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
1 Director Package Free***	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Award for Ensemble****	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
CD/Ensemble Photo Package for Director***	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Honor Ensemble Pin	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Festival Patch (Student ONLY)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Student Certificate (Student ONLY)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
PACKAGE PRICES:	PACKAGE A	PACKAGE B	PACKAGE C	PACKAGE D	PACKAGE E	PACKAGE F	PACKAGE G
Quad Package Cost Per Person	\$795	\$730	\$685	\$620	\$795	\$860	\$945
Triple Package Cost Per Person	\$885	\$795	\$750	\$660	\$885	\$945	\$1,050
Double Package Cost Per Person	\$1,015	\$885	\$835	\$705	\$1,015	\$1,075	\$1,225
Single Package Cost Per Person	\$1,535	\$1,275	\$1,225	\$965	\$1,535	\$1,595	\$1,875

NOTES:

- Additional package meals are available at an additional cost.
- Each attending ensemble must bring adult chaperones at a ratio of one (1) chaperone per 12 students, exclusive of the head director. Chaperones may be housed in king or double rooms with no more than four (4) chaperones per room.
- 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 from one school: one chamber ensemble \$350 for 1/4 page; two-three chamber ensembles \$600 for 1/2 page; four or more chamber ensembles \$1,000 for one full page.
- In order to be present for the Opening Ceremonies, each attending high school ensemble must arrive by 11 a.m. on Thursday and each attending middle school ensemble must arrive by 1 p.m. on Thursday. All ensembles must be present through a Gala Awards Banquet Saturday evening.

Package Payment Schedule

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

- 25% deposit of total amount due by October 15, 2020.
- 50% of total amount due by December 15, 2020.

NO CHANGES to Packages that reduce an ensemble's commitment can be made after December 15, 2020.

Final 25% or balance of total amount due by January 15, 2021. Final rooming list due by January 15, 2021. The balance due is based upon your January 15, 2021 or December 15, 2020 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 15, 2020 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 downtown Indianapolis (contact Music for All for details). 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 at 7 p.m. Wed., March 24, 2021.
 - ** Honor Orchestra must report at 7 a.m., Jazz Band members at 7:00 a.m., both on Wed., March 24, 2021.
 - *** 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. For an additional fee, students may purchase their honor ensemble performance CD.
- Family and Friends Packages are available for purchase by individuals. They are the same packages and pricing as above. Order instructions will be sent by January 15, 2021.