



Welcome

Welcome to IESA music! Whether you are a new music director or a director who is simply new to IESA music, we are excited that you have chosen to participate this school year. The IESA music contests allow students not only to express themselves creatively but also to gain self-confidence throughout their performances. We hope you find the enclosed information helpful. Please don't hesitate to reach out to the IESA office with questions.

History

The IESA conducted its first music contests in both solo and ensemble and organization in 1934. State music contests are held under the by-laws and direction of the IESA with suggestions for change and improvement from the IESA Music Advisory Committee. The committee is composed of six music directors from throughout the state as well as an administrator from a member school. Committee members serve a three-year term on the committee as long as they remain active directors..

What IESA offers

SOLO and ENSEMBLE: State music contests for solo and ensemble are held in 12 different areas throughout the state, taking place on four dates in March and April.

ORGANIZATION: State music contests for organization are held in 11 areas throughout the state, typically taking place in late April.

Who Can Participate?

Students in grades 5-8 from IESA member music schools are eligible to participate.

2024-2025 Contest Dates

Solo and Ensemble

- March 22
- March 29
- April 5
- April 12

Organization

- May 2
- May 3

IESA Rules and Regulations

Each year the IESA publishes its updated music **Terms and Conditions** on the IESA website. These **Terms and Conditions** contain the rules and guidelines under which the activity of Music is conducted. Please make sure to read all of the important information that is found in the **Terms and Conditions**. Please pay special attention to the scholastic eligibility regulations for all participants. Your school must hold membership with the IESA in order to participate in the music contests.



2024-2025 Deadlines

Solo and Ensemble

January 29, 2025: Host Deadline (each area must have a designated host)

February 6, 2025: Entry Deadline (all events must be purchased and paid for)

February 14, 2025: Participant Information Deadline

Organization

January 29, 2025: Host Deadline (each area must have a designated host)

February 6, 2025: Entry Deadline (all events must be purchased and paid for)

March 24, 2025: Participant Information Deadline

Contest Areas, Dates, and Hosts

Contest Areas

Contest areas are assigned based on each school's geographical location by the IESA. Preliminary assignments are posted on the IESA website in May/June. Final assignments will be posted after schools have paid for their entries. These assignments can be seen as early as January/February.

Contest Dates and Hosts

One school within your area will serve as contest host. The date of your area's contest will be determined by the host school. Schools are not able to transfer areas if no school in the area has agreed to host by the deadline. The deadline for each area to have a host is January 29, 2025.

IESA Entry Fees

S&E Fees		Org Fees	
Piano Solo	\$10.00	Orchestra	\$65.00
String Solo	\$10.00	Choir Chimes	\$65.00
Percussion Solo	\$10.00	Jazz Band	\$65.00
Brass Solo	\$10.00	Jazz Choir	\$65.00
Woodwind Solo	\$10.00	Concert Band	\$65.00
Vocal Solo	\$10.00	Show Choir	\$65.00
Piano Duet	\$15.00	Chorus	\$65.00
Mixed Instrumental Ensemble	\$15.00		
String Ensemble	\$15.00		
Percussion Ensemble	\$15.00		
Woodwind Ensemble	\$15.00		
Brass Ensemble	\$15.00		
Choir Chime Ensemble	\$15.00		
Vocal Ensemble	\$15.00		
Choir Chime Choir	\$27.00		
String Choir	\$27.00		
Instrumental Choir	\$27.00		
Vocal Choir	\$27.00		

Categories of Events: SOLO AND ENSEMBLE

Vocal Events

1. Vocal Solos

- Individual is required to perform one or two selections by memory
- Performance is limited to six minutes.
- Final ratings shall be lowered one division if it is necessary to read any portion of the score.

2. Vocal Ensembles

- Ensemble shall consist of 2-8 students, consisting of boys, girls, or mixed
- Ensemble is required to perform one or two selections by memory
- Performance is limited to six minutes.
- Ensembles consisting of 2-5 students must sing a minimum of two parts.
- Ensembles consisting of more than 5 students must sing a minimum of three parts (three parts does not include a descant).
- Ensembles comprised of only fifth and/or sixth grade contestants may sing all selections in two parts.

3. Vocals Choirs

- Choir shall consist of 9-16 students, consisting of boys, girls, or mixed
- Choir is required to perform one or two selections by memory
- Performance is limited to six minutes.
- At least one selection must be in three parts (a descant does not count as an independent voice).
- Time between selections does not count toward the time limit.
- A choir comprised of only fifth and/or sixth grade contestants may sing all selections in two parts.

Instrumental Events

1. Instrumental Solos

- Individuals shall perform one selection.
- Performance is limited to six minutes.
- One bonus point shall be given on the adjudication sheet if the selection is memorized.
- The solo may be performed on any instrument that is called for in the score.
- Drum sets are permitted.
- For any amplified instruments, performers will be required to provide all of their own equipment for the performance.

2. Instrumental Ensembles

- Shall consist of 2-5 students
- Shall consist of woodwind, or brass, or percussion including traps, or string instruments, or choir chimes, or mixed woodwind and brass.
- Ensembles shall perform one or two selections in a six-minute time limit.
- Time between selections does not count toward the time limit.
- Piano duets on one piano shall be offered as an event.
- Ensembles shall be limited to 2-5 members playing as many parts as there are members in the ensemble.
- Ensembles which do not have all required parts covered shall not be judged nor rated, but shall be permitted to perform.
- If the accompanist is called for in the score, then it must be provided.
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3. Instrumental Choirs

- Shall consist of 6-16 students
- Shall consist of woodwind, or brass, or percussion including traps, or string, or choir chimes, or mixed woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments.
- Choirs shall perform one or two selections in a six minute time limit.
- Music designated as instrumental choir music or at least four-part music may be used.
- Time between selections does not count toward the time limit.
- More than one student may play a part written for instrumental choirs.
- The band or orchestra director or student teacher may direct the choir.
- Instrumental directors should choose selections that shall challenge the students' abilities.
- Choirs which do not have all required parts covered shall not be judged nor rated, but shall be permitted to perform.

Categories of Events: ORGANIZATION

A. Concert Bands

- No minimum number of performers required
- Band is required to perform two or three contrasting selections, one of which must be a march, in a 15-minute playing time limit.
- Concert Bands that consist of only 5th -6th grade students are not required to perform a march but may perform a march if desired.
- The time between selections does not count toward the 15-minute limit.
- A single voiced electronic bass or electronic keyboard may be used as a bass lined instrument in concert bands.

B. Jazz Bands

- A minimum of nine (9) enrolled members required
- Band is required to perform two or three contrasting selections, one of which must be a swing-style selection, in a 15-minute playing time limit.
- Concert Bands that consist of only 5th-6th grade students are not required to perform a march but may perform a march if desired.
- The time between selections does not count toward the 15-minute limit.

C. Choir Chime or Hand-bell Organizations

- A minimum of eleven (11) enrolled members required
- Choir chime or hand-bell organization is required to perform two or three contrasting selections in a 15-minute playing time limit.
- The time between selections does not count toward the 15-minute limit.

D. Orchestras

- Orchestras with no minimum number of enrolled members
- Orchestra is required to perform two or three contrasting selections in a 15-minute playing time limit.
- The time between selections does not count toward the 15-minute limit.

E. Boys, Girls, or Mixed Accompanied Choruses

- No minimum number of enrolled members.
- Required to perform two or three selections by memory, one of which shall be in three indicated voices (a descant does not count as an independent voice.
NOTE: The cover of the music will list the three parts; Ex. SSA = *soprano, soprano, alto*)
- The performance time is limited to 12 minutes.
- The time between selections does not count toward the 12-minute limit.
- Accompanied choruses which have only 5th and/or 6th grade contestants may sing all selections in 2 parts,

F. Boys, Girls, or Mixed A Capella Choruses

- No minimum number of enrolled members
- Required to perform two or three selections A Capella by memory, one of which shall be in three indicated voices (a descant does not count as an independent voice. NOTE: The cover of the music will list the three parts; Ex. SSA = *soprano, soprano, alto*)
- The performance time is limited to 12 minutes
- The time between selections does not count toward the 12-minute limit.
- A Capella choruses which have only 5th and/or 6th grade contestants may sing all selections in 2 parts,

G. Jazz Choir

- A minimum of eight (8) enrolled members required
- Required to perform two or three selections by memory, one of which shall be a "swing style" selection
- The performance time is limited to 15 minutes
- The time between selections does not count toward the 15-minute limit.
- Jazz choirs which have only 5th and/or 6th grade contestants may sing all selections in 2 parts.
- There may be movement of the contestants during the performance of the event; however, jazz choirs will be judged primarily on the musical performance of the group.

H. Show Choirs

- A minimum of twelve (12) enrolled members required
- Required to perform two or three selections by memory, one of which shall be in three indicated voices (a descant does not count as an independent voice. NOTE: The cover of the music will list the three parts; Ex. SSA = *soprano, soprano, alto*)
- The performance time is limited to 15 minutes
- The time between selections does not count toward the 15-minute limit.
- Show choirs which have only 5th and/or 6th grade contestants may sing all selections in 2 parts.
- There shall be movement of the contestants during the performance of this event.



Where Can I Find Selections?

It is the responsibility of the director to make sure that all copyright responsibilities are fulfilled. **The IESA requires all instructors to provide an original copy of the score to each judge.** When buying and printing music from an online source, make sure that the music provided to the judge at contest includes a receipt for the music. This will meet the original score requirement. Below are some ideas for where to find music:

1. Books that contain a collection of solos for each instrument is an economical way to go.
2. *JW Pepper* offers a large online selection of sheet music for church choirs, concert and marching bands, and orchestras.
<http://www.jwpepper.com/sheet-music/welcome.jsp>
3. *Sheet Music Plus* is also another online music store.
<http://www.sheetmusicplus.com>

Additional Information

Scheduling

As soon as you receive the schedule for your students from your host school, you should meet with your participants and provide a handout about the contest. In the handout, provide information such as when and where each student will be performing, a map of the school, bus departure time and return time, behavior expectations, acceptable attire, and any other information you consider important.

Academic Eligibility

Students who participate in any IESA music contest must be academically eligible. It is the responsibility of directors to check eligibility on an ongoing basis beginning in January in order to ensure that all students meet eligibility requirements.

Criteria for Judging

Tone, intonation, balance, technique, rhythm, and interpretation are some of the criteria used in judging. There are other factors considered for specific instrumentation as well as general factors such as posture and stage presence. Please check the music activity page on the IESA website for specific adjudication criteria.

Late Fees

Events must be purchased and paid for (postmarked) by the entry deadline to be accepted at the regular fee rate.

After the given deadline, all event changes for S&E must include a \$25 fee made payable to the host school. Participant name changes within an entry or the elimination of an entry will continue to be accepted by the hosts with no penalty.

Solo and Ensemble & Organization - Entry deadline: February 6, 2025



How Does my School Register for Contests and

Step 1: PURCHASE YOUR EVENTS

*You must first decide which events (and how many of each) you would like to purchase.

Directions:

1. [Go to the IESA homepage](http://www.iesa.org) www.iesa.org
2. [Click on the red "Schools & Officials Login"](#) located at the top of the right of the webpage.
3. [Select your school and enter password](#) (your administrator will have this information).
4. [Click on the link for "Registration"](#) The activities listed in red on this menu indicate your school's participation last year.
5. [Proceed through all levels of the registration process](#), clicking 'Proceed...' as steps are completed.
6. [An invoice will be generated](#) as the final page of the process and a confirmation email will be sent to the email address you provided during the registration process.
7. [Submit your invoice to your bookkeeper/business manager and forward a check to the IESA office](#) for the total amount shown.

Note: The IESA only accepts school issued checks.

Please make sure your business manager has enough time to cut the check as late fees are decided based on when the IESA receives the invoice and check, not when your school registered online.

Step 2: ENTER PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

Once payment for your school's entries is received, you will be sent a **music password** and instructions for entering your participant information (names of students, performance pieces, accompaniment, grade in school, etc.).

Directions:

1. Access the website with your music-specific password.
2. Upon your first time accessing this site, you will be asked to enter your name and email address.
3. After you have entered your director information, you will then create a list of your students and accompanists.
4. Use this list of participants and enter them into their specific events. You will also indicate accompanist necessary, and the add selection information.
5. Follow these steps for all your entries.

Serving as a Host

If you are interested in hosting an IESA contest for your area, please email our office at iesa@iesa.org. Subject line - Music Host Interest.

Other IESA Music Opportunities

Pep Band Performances

Looking for another way to honor the talented students in your school? Consider having your pep band perform at an IESA State Tournament.

National Anthem Singers

The IESA is looking to showcase both individuals and choirs by having them perform the National Anthem at the State Tournaments.

The Application Process

Application forms are available on the music activity page on the IESA website. Fill out this form, select the dates and sites that accommodate your students, then submit an audio clip to the IESA office (iesa@iesa.org). Subject line - National Anthem Application

The IESA will review all submissions and make their selections in early December and again in January. Students will have the opportunity to perform at IESA Basketball and Volleyball State Tournaments. The Association will also be seeking anthem singers for State Cheer, State Wrestling, and State Track.

Deadlines for submissions:

Deadline: Friday, November 1st
Girls Basketball

Deadline: Friday, January 10th
Boys Basketball
Girls Volleyball
Cheer
Wrestling
Track



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