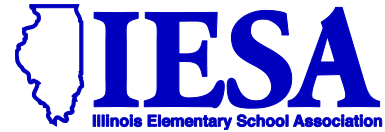




# New Music Director



*Students with band and orchestra experience attend college at a rate twice the national average.*

- Band Across the USA

## Welcome

So you decided to participate in IESA music competition. You may be a new music teacher in your school or simply new to IESA music contests. Either way welcome to IESA music!

It is proven that music education makes a tremendous impact on the developmental growth of every child and helps to level the “learning field” across socio-economic boundaries.

IESA Music Contests allow kids to express themselves creatively and help improve their self confidence. The information in this manual is meant to give you some insight into the world of IESA music contests. The ideas and suggestions are simple suggestions to get you started. It is the Music Advisory committee’s hope that the information in the packet will be enlightening and useful.

If you have any questions please contact the IESA office.

## Special points of interest:

- \* Rules and Regulations
- \* Entry Fees
- \* Dates
- \* Contest Areas
- \* Other Music Opportunities with the IESA
- \* Promoting your music program.

## History

In 1934 the IESA conducted its first music contests in both solo & ensemble and organization. State contests are held in 12 areas for solo & ensemble typically in the end of March or early April. Organization contest has 11 areas across the state that take place in late April or early May.

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, and an administrator from a member school. Committee members serve a three year term on the committee as long as they remain active directors.

In order to participate in the music contests, your school must hold membership with the IESA. If you are interested, please contact the IESA office by email ([iesa@iesa.org](mailto:iesa@iesa.org)) or phone (309-829-0114).

## IESA Rules and Regulations

Each year the IESA sends out an initial mailing for the activity of music. Included in this mailing is the Terms and Conditions for the activity. The IESA Terms and Conditions contain the rules and guidelines under which the activity of Music is conducted. Please make sure to review all of the material that is contained in the Terms and Conditions. All documents are also available on the IESA website on each activity page.

*Please pay special attention to the scholastic eligibility regulations for all participants.*

## Categories and Events - Solo & Ensemble

### A. Vocal Events

1. Vocal Solos: one to two selections by memory in a six-minute time limit. Final ratings shall be lowered one division if it is necessary to read any portion of the score.
2. Vocal Ensembles: consisting of two to eight students, shall be boys, girls or mixed, performing one or two selections by memory in a six-minute playing time limit. Time between selections does not count towards the time limit. Ensembles consisting of 2-5 students must sing a minimum of two parts. Ensembles consisting of more than five must sing in a minimum of three parts (three parts does not include a descant). Ensembles composed of only fifth and/or sixth grade contestants may sing all selections in two parts.
3. Vocal Choirs: consisting of nine to sixteen students, shall be boys, girls, or mixed, performing one or two selection by memory in a six-minute time limit. At least one selection must be in three parts; a descant does not count as an independent voice. Time between selections does not count towards the time limit. A choir composed of only fifth and/or sixth grade contestants may sing all selections in two parts.

### B. Instrumental Events

1. Instrumental Solos: shall perform one selection in a six-minute time limit. One bonus point shall be given on the adjudication sheet if the selection is memorized. A solo may be performed on any instrument as 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 performance.
2. Instrumental Ensembles: consisting of two to five students, shall consist of woodwind, or brass, or percussion including traps, or string instruments, or choir chimes, or mixed woodwind and brass. Each ensemble shall perform one or two selections in a six-minute time limit. Time between selections does not count towards the time limit. Piano duets on one piano shall also be offered as an event. **Ensembles shall be limited from two-five members playing as many parts as there are members of 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 accompaniment is called for in the score it must be provided.
3. Instrumental Choirs: Instrumental choirs shall be composed of *six* to sixteen members, playing woodwind, or brass, or percussion including traps, or string, or choir chimes, or mixed woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments performing one or two selections in a six-minute playing time limit. Music designated as instrumental choir music or at least **four-part** music must be used. The time between selections does not count toward the six-minute 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 the correct number of contestants shall not be judged nor rated, but shall be permitted to perform.

## Categories and Events - Organization

### A. Concert Bands

Concert bands with no minimum participating numbers of enrolled 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade member students performing 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 5<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> grade students are not required to perform a march as one of the contrasting selections, 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

Jazz bands with a minimum of nine (9) enrolled members performing two or three contrasting selections, one of which must be a swing-style selection, in a 15-minute playing time limit. The time between selections does not count toward the 15-minute limit.

### C. Choir chime or hand-bell organizations

Choir chime or hand-bell organizations with a minimum of 11 enrolled members performing two or three 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 participating numbers of enrolled 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade member students performing two or three 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

Boys, Girls, or Mixed Accompanied Choruses with no minimum participating numbers of enrolled 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade member students performing 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 will be limited to 12 minutes. The other selections must be in a minimum of two parts. The time between selections does not count toward the 12-minute limit. Accompanied choruses, which have only fifth and/or sixth-grade contestants, may sing all selections in two parts.

### F. Boys, Girls, or Mixed A Cappella Choruses

Boys, Girls, or Mixed A Cappella Choruses with no minimum participating numbers of enrolled 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade member students performing two or three selections A Cappella 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 will be limited to 12 minutes. The time between selections does not count toward the 12-minute limit. A Cappella choruses which have only fifth and/or sixth grade contestants may sing all selections A Cappella in two parts.

### G. Jazz Choir

Jazz choirs with a minimum of 8 enrolled members performing two or three selections by memory, one of which will be a “swing style” selection in a 15-minute playing time limit. The time between selections does not count toward the 15-minute limit. Jazz choirs which have only 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>-grade contestants may sing all selections in two 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

Show choirs shall only attend organization music contests with a minimum of 12 enrolled members performing 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 fifth and/or sixth-grade contestants may sing all selections in two parts. There shall be movement of the contestants during the performance of this event.

## IESA Entry Fees and Due Dates

The music entry deadline is the Thursday of Week 31 on the IESA standardized calendar. Entries must be postmarked by that date to be accepted at the regular fee rate. Entry fees are indicated per entry. Entry information must be entered online through the Member School Center on the IESA website. In order to register the number of entries per category, you must obtain your school password from your administrator. This information is sent to your school administrator each spring. ***The above deadline is for every school no matter when your area holds its contest for both solo & ensemble as well as organization.*** If your school misses the initial deadline for Organization, you can pay double fees and still enter by the final entry deadline. Final Entry Deadline for Org: Wed. Week 36

Each school entering the music state contest must submit its participant information online through the Member school Center to the IESA Office. Participant information is to be completed by the Wednesday of Week 33 for Solo & Ensemble and by the Friday of Week 39 for Organization. After the Wednesday of Week 33, 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.

To submit your entries online, each director will need to follow these steps:

1. Got to the IESA homepage [www.iesa.org](http://www.iesa.org)
2. Click on the red 'Member Center Login' located at the top of the left-hand menu.
3. Select your school and enter password (*your administrator will have this information*).
4. Click on the link for 'Dues and Music'. The activities listed in red on this menu indicate your school's participation last year.
5. Proceed through all levels of 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 with a check 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.

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.). Instructions for participant entry information is as follows:

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. (*This will be stored for the host school to access to send you information.* )
3. After you have entered your Director information, you will then create a list of your students and accompanists.
4. You will then use this list of participants and enter them in to their specific events. You will also indicate accompanists, if necessary, and the add selection information.
5. Follow these steps for all your entries.

**"The music contest rules are fair for all groups....even less-experienced ensembles. The IESA gives you the flexibility to choose the music which best fits the instrumentation and participation numbers in your group. Whether your band is developing or highly proficient, the IESA music contests are right for you.**

**If your school already pays the IESA membership dues, why would you pay twice by joining another organization?"**

**David Conrad, Principal  
Manteno Middle School**

## Organizing your Music Program

A. **Where to find selections?** So you are new to music contest and you don't know where to find suitable selections for junior high students. Below are some ideas for where to find music. Keep in mind it is the responsibility of the director to make sure that all copyright responsibilities are fulfilled. Also the IESA requires that all instructors 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 the judge at contest includes a receipt for the music. This will meet the original score requirement.

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 & 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/>

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## Contest Time

- A. As soon as you receive the schedule for your students from your host school, you should meet with your participants and give a handout about contest. In the handout, you should provide them with information about when and where each student will be performing, a map of the school, when and where the bus leaves and approximate return time, acceptable clothing, behavior expectations, and anything else you consider important for them to know.
- B. Make sure you have checked the academic eligibility of all your students. Only those meeting this requirement will be permitted to perform. The IESA suggests you begin checking your students eligibility in January so you can head off any potential problems early for ensembles, choirs and organization events.
- C. **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 IESA website music activity page for specific adjudication criteria.

## Contest Areas

Contest Areas are grouped geographically by the IESA administrator in charge of the activity. Preliminary assignments are posted on the website each May/June. Final assignments are also posted on the website after schools have paid for their entries. These can be seen as early as January/February. The date of the contest is set by the host school and approved by the IESA.

One school within your area will host contest. Schools are not permitted to transfer areas if no school offers to host by the host deadline of January 29.

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## Important Music Dates

### January 29 - Music Host Deadline:

- Every contest area must have a host by this deadline.

### Thurs. Week 31 - Initial Entry Deadline for both S&E and Organization:

- Entries must be submitted on-line and postmarked by this date. Submit entries and create the invoice on-line through the Member Center using your school password.

### Wed. Week 36 - Final Entry Deadline Organization

- Entries received from Feb. 3– March 11 are doubled. No fees will be accepted postmarked after the March 11 deadline.

### Wed. Week 33 - S&E Participant Information Due On-line

### Fri. Week 39 - Org. Participant Information Due On-line

- All Information regarding paid entries is due and must be entered on-line. This information will be made available to host schools for the purpose of scheduling. [On-line participant information includes: student name(s), year in contest, grade, accompanist, and selection(s).]
- You will enter this information in the Music Entry Center using your music password sent to you from the IESA office via US Mail. This password changes every year. The password mailing is sent in late January to early February. The Music Entry Center can be found through the Member Center on the IESA website. Click on Member Center Login on the IESA home page and enter your music password.
- After the entry deadline, all event changes must include a \$25 check made payable to the host school. Participant name changes within an entry or the elimination of an entry will continue to be accepted with no penalty.

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## Promoting Fine Arts

### MEDIA COVERAGE

Recognition is a valuable bi-product of participation by students in interscholastic activities. The participation and recognition in interscholastic fine arts contests is no different. The responsibility of getting information about IESA Music Contest to the local media outlets rests squarely on the shoulders of the member school music director, with assistance from the school administration.

The IESA offers the following suggestion for music directors to gain access to proper contacts in the local media, to maintain a “good working relationship” with personnel in the local media, and to establish a communication system between your school and the media.

1. Determine Local Media outlets that have the potential to provide coverage for your school.
  2. Set-up meeting(s) with personnel at designated media outlets who have the responsibility to write, photograph and/or read on the air stories or scripts regarding school’s students. (*this could be one meeting hosted by the school or a series of*
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*meetings conducted at the respective media outlet offices.)*

3. Post meeting: work to build this relationship with media contacts.
  - Provide information about Music students on regular basis.
  - Have lunch to suggest unique stories about students and programs.
  - Suggest ideas for photos that can be used to highlight stories (i.e. school play, winter musical, IESA contests)
  - Email interesting stories and highlights of your programs.
4. Encourage local radio to allow your students to perform their state selections live or tape delayed. (great way to show case Music Best of Day winners)
5. IESA Contest: Provide information about schools entries in IESA Music contests before the competition. Provide the names of students and events in which they will compete, date and site of contest. **Sample Releases included.**
6. Post IESA Contest: immediately following competition send the results of your students who achieve success (Saturday night following contest). **Sample Releases included.**

## Create a Web Page

Work with your school's technology staff to create Music web pages on the school website.

1. Post Events
2. Post all contest dates, times and participants
3. Post all contest results. Highlight IESA Best of Day and IESA Judges Choice winners.
4. Promote your program

## SAMPLE PRE-CONTEST MEDIA TEMPLATES

### PRE-CONTEST SAMPLE MUSIC S&E RELEASE

<Name of Your School> will be represented by <#> students in the annual IESA Music Solo and Ensemble Contest. The contest will be conducted <date> at <host school>.

Music makes a tremendous impact on the growth of every child. Music education allows students to express themselves creatively and bolster their self confidence. Participation in IESA Music contests helps students to develop goal setting skills needed to succeed in the classroom and beyond.

Solo and Ensemble competitions are conducted in vocal and instrumental events. Students can compete in solos, ensembles and choirs in both vocal and instrumental. Students from <school name> scheduled to compete in the state contest <date> are:

#### Student Name

*Ex. John Smith*

#### Event

*Trumpet Solo & Brass Ensemble*

- *The ARTS improve students overall academic performance.*
- *THE ARTS teach students to be more tolerant and open.*
- *THE ARTS allow kids to express themselves creatively.*
- *THE ARTS help students bolster their self confidence.*



## SAMPLE PRE-CONTEST MEDIA TEMPLATES

### PRE-CONTEST SAMPLE MUSIC ORGANIZATION RELEASE

<Name of Your School> will be represented by <#> students in the annual IESA Music Organization Contest. The contest will be conducted <date> at <host school>.

Music makes a tremendous impact on the growth of every child. Music education allows students to express themselves creatively and bolster their self confidence. Participation in IESA Music contests helps students to develop goal setting skills needed to succeed in the classroom and beyond.

Organization competitions are conducted in vocal and instrumental events. Events include concert band; jazz band; choir chime; orchestra; boys, girls or mixed accompanied or a cappella choir; and show choir. Students from <school name> scheduled to compete in the state contest <date> in the following events:

#### Events

*Show Choir*  
*Concert Band*

#### Members

*Nicole Miller, Sheri Small, John Jones, etc....*  
*Jeff Jones, Julie Smith, Nicole, Miller, etc...*

## SAMPLE POST CONTEST MEDIA RELEASES

To make sure your post-contest media release are printed in your local paper or read on your local radio stations, make sure that you fax or email your release immediately after contest. (That night or the next morning for best results.)

### POST-CONTEST SAMPLE MUSIC RELEASE

Students from <school name> competed in the annual IESA <S&E or Organization> State Contest <date> at <host>.

Earning Division 1 Ratings for (school name) were:

S&E

Student Name  
*Ex. John Smith*

Event  
*Trumpet Solo*

ORGANIZATION

Event  
*Concert Band*

Members  
*John Smith, Julie Jones, Sally Ride,...*

In addition, contest judges at both solo & ensemble and organization events select a student and/or group whose performance is determined to be the best that judge saw during the contest. That student and/or group earns IESA "Best of Day Award".

The Best of Day Award winners from <school name> are:

S&E

Student Name  
*Nicole Miller*

Event  
*vocal solo*

ORGANIZATION

Group  
*Girls a cappella choir*

Members  
*Nicole Miller, Sally Ride, Sheri String,...*



**IESA**

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### Young people who participate in the arts are:

- 4 times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement
- 3 times more likely to be elected to class office within their schools
- 4 times more likely to participate in a math and science fair
- 3 times more likely to win an award for school attendance
- 4 times more likely to win an award for writing an essay or poem

## Other Music Opportunities with the IESA

Do you want another way to honor the talented Music students in your school?

- How about having your pep band perform at an IESA state tournament?

And/Or

- How about an individual or choir perform the national anthem at a state tournament?

Selection forms are available on the IESA website on the music activity page. Fill out the form, select the dates and sites you wish to perform and submit an audio clip to the

IESA office. Early Nov. is, generally, the deadline for National Anthem/Pep Band submissions for Girls Basketball tournaments. Mid-January is the deadline for submissions for National Anthem/Pep Band opportunities in the new year.

The IESA will review all submissions and make their selections in early December.

Students will have the opportunity to perform at IESA state basketball and volleyball tournaments throughout the state.

The Association will also be looking for national anthem singers for State Cheer, State Wrestling, and State Track.

Information regarding these opportunities is available on the IESA website.

