

# IOWA ALL-STATE MUSIC FESTIVAL

November 20 - 22, 2025  
IOWA STATE CENTER - AMES, IOWA

October 2025

TO: MEMBER SCHOOLS REGISTERED FOR 2025 ALL-STATE AUDITIONS  
RE: IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONCERNING THE FESTIVAL

There is important information directors must review as they prepare for this event. Several decisions and plans must be made **before** audition day. Included in this packet are materials your school will need **if** you are successful on audition day - **DO NOT DISCARD!**

The registration fee for ALL students accepted into the All-State Festival is **\$32.00**. This fee covers the cost of the Friday noon meal, transportation, medal, certificate, and bumper stickers.

## MEALS

**The registration fee covers the cost of the Friday lunch meal for all All-State students.** Students will eat a catered meal at Hilton Coliseum on the concourse level. The student's name badge will be their admittance for the Friday noon meal.

Regarding other meals during your time in Ames, there are no restaurants in the immediate vicinity of the Iowa State Center. Options to consider are:

- ❖ **Eat on site** – Meals are catered and served on the concourse of Hilton Coliseum. All meal plan requests **must be received in the IHSMA office by November 11**. Email the enclosed “Meal Ticket Request Form” to [este@ihsma.org](mailto:este@ihsma.org). **Requests received after November 11 will not be accepted.** Payment is preferred at the time the order is placed but can be sent later. Meal stickers/tickets will be included in your registration packet. On-site plans include:
  - **Four-Meal Plan.** The four-meal plan includes breakfast and supper on Friday (lunch is already provided for participants), and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. The cost is **\$50.00**.
  - **Two-Meal Breakfast Plan.** The two-meal breakfast plan includes breakfast on Friday and Saturday. The cost is **\$21.00**.
  - **Friday Lunch for Directors.** The cost of this meal is **\$13.50**.
  - **Friday Supper.** The cost of this meal is **\$14.50**.
  - **Saturday Lunch.** The cost of this meal is **\$14.50**.
  - **Saturday Supper** meal from the IHSMA, which will permit plan holders supper on Saturday before the concert. This plan includes pizza and water or pop served in C.Y. Stephens Auditorium. The cost for this one meal is **\$10.70**.

\*If there are special dietary needs for those participating in the meal plan options, please complete the Google Form found on the Meal Ticket Information Sheet and contact Sam Franzen, ISU Conference Planning and Management, at [sfranzen@iastate.edu](mailto:sfranzen@iastate.edu) with those requests. Include the student's name, school, and the specific dietary need/request.

- ❖ **Go on your own.** There are a multitude of fast-food establishments in Campus Town, approximately 5-6 blocks west of the Iowa State Center. Those with transportation may wish to choose this option. PLEASE NOTE: There is an ISU football game this year on Saturday (game time to be determined); leaving and re-entering the Iowa State Center facility may be very difficult. **Having food delivered to the Iowa State Center is NOT an option.** Our contract with the Iowa State Center does not allow for food from outside vendors to be brought onto the premises. **The concourse of Hilton Coliseum is reserved for ONLY those students and directors who have purchased meal plans.**

Some hotels have an adjoining or nearby restaurant, while other hotels have no dining facilities. Breakfast arrangements should be taken into consideration when selecting your possible hotel assignment and based on your access to transportation.

**THURSDAY EVENING** - ISU will permit students to purchase a Thursday evening meal by paying at the door of Seasons Marketplace (Maple-Willow-Larch Commons). The cost of the meal is \$15.75 and will consist of the usual variety offered by the University. Payment is by credit card only. Cash is not accepted. Seasons Marketplace is open from 4:30 – 8:00 p.m.

### **COMMUTERS**

The decision to stay in Ames utilizing one of the hotels assigned or to commute to the Festival is one that schools located near Ames must make. As you are considering that decision, please understand that the weather in late November can be tenuous at best and that it is an expectation that students be present for ALL rehearsals regardless of weather concerns. Should you choose to commute, please be prepared to make alternate arrangements should the weather not permit your travel to and from the festival.

### **HOUSING**

This year's festival will employ 14 properties located at various distances from the Iowa State Center.

A worksheet for submitting your Housing request is included with this mailing. **Schools who fill out this worksheet FIRST and then login to the IHSMA website experience the greatest success.** We do not need your school's Tax I.D. number or tax-exempt certificate, as schools are required to pay both the 7% Motel Tax and the 5% State Excise Tax. **IMPORTANT:** Complete and submit the Housing Form **online**. This form will be available online Monday, October 27th at 5:00 pm. Your request MUST be submitted online no later than Wednesday, October 29th, 2025, or we will not be able to guarantee your rooms. Please be sure to use a stable internet connection when completing your request. **Cell phone connections are not a good choice!!!** If you do not prioritize all 14 properties, you will be assigned lodging after all other housing forms have been processed.

### **All-State Housing Request – Online Instructions**

1. Login to Festival Central on the IHSMA website –
  - a. <http://www.ihsma.org>, then select --> LOGIN
2. Select --> School Options
3. Select --> All-State
4. From the side menu select -> Housing
5. 3 options will appear – Instructions, Registration, and Assignments
6. Read the instructions, and then select Registration
7. Follow the onscreen prompts

Cautions/additional instructions:

1. There are 14 hotel properties; you **MUST** rank them 1-14, and each one must have a ranking before you can submit your request. The system is designed to not accept a partial ranking.
2. **Due to the location of the Hilton Garden Inn in Ames, bus transportation to and from this property is NOT available. If your students require bus transportation, PLEASE RANK THIS PROPERTY LAST (14<sup>th</sup>).**
3. When filling out your rooming list, you will find that each room has spots for up to 5 students per room, and those spots have “Student Name 1” (through 5) denoting where you should input your student’s name. **Please delete what’s there** in the text box and replace it with your student’s (or a director’s) name. **Please also delete the name place holders for any unused slots** in each room.
4. **Please place “(Director)” beside each director’s name** on the list, so that the hotel property will know who oversees your rooming block should they need to contact someone.
5. There are 4 (5 if you are sharing with another school) major sections to this process. Make sure you complete each section by selecting the “submit” button at the bottom of the section. You will need to use the scroll bar(s) located on the right side of the screen to navigate down through these sections.
6. You will not be able to make changes online once you have made your initial submission. Any changes to your request after that point will need to be made by the IHSMA Office. Please email Thad ([thad@ihsma.org](mailto:thad@ihsma.org)) with those changes.

**Assignments:** Your hotel assignments will be posted online Tuesday, November 4th. Please do not call asking for them prior to that time – you will only slow down the process. The assignments can be found online by following the above instructions and then selecting “Assignments” when you reach Step 5.

The Gateway Hotel, Quality Inn & Suites, and Spark (Radisson) Hotel Ames have restaurants in their facilities. The AmericInn, Best Western Plus University Park, Comfort Inn & Suites, Country Inn & Suites, Fairfield Inn & Suites, Hampton Inn & Suites, Hilton Garden Inn, Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Home2 Suites, SpringHill Suites, and TownPlace Suites do not have restaurants but many of them offer complimentary breakfast. Contact information for each of these properties can be found at: <https://discoverames.com/stay/>.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Many schools choose to use their own transportation between the hotels and the Iowa State Center. There is ample parking in the immediate area of the Iowa State Center.

Transportation arrangements have been made with Central Iowa Transportation (CIT) to transport students from the hotels to the Iowa State Center and back should you choose to use it. Please complete the online Google Form here: <https://forms.gle/kRo3PXjcbw509Qa58> if you wish to use this option. REMINDER: Transportation is NOT available from the Hilton Garden Inn. Complete this **by November 11**. Iowa State University DOES have a home football game on Saturday, November 22. More information will be forthcoming once game time has been established. **PLAN AHEAD!!**

### **PRE-PAYMENT OF REGISTRATION FEES**

It would serve as an advantage to the IHSMA staff and speed-up registration in Ames significantly if schools would pre-pay their registration fees for the All-State Festival. Calculate your registration fees and meal costs (if any) and send a check in the appropriate amount **by November 11**. That said, receiving your forms and information is MOST important. If payment is not possible by November 11, at least scan and send your forms to IHSMA on or before November 11. Email them to [este@ihsma.org](mailto:este@ihsma.org). **All fees must be paid by registration.**

### **ALTERNATES**

Alternates may be selected to fill positions in the All-State Band, Chorus, or Orchestra as late as Tuesday, November 11. After that date, alternates will not be used for any wind/percussion/string/choral vacancy which occurs. Because of limited lodging and confusion with the transportation, meal, and registration procedures, schools are **not** encouraged to bring alternates or additional students to the All-State Festival.

### **CONCERT ETIQUETTE**

Due to issues at previous years' festivals, it has become necessary to implement the following:

1. No banners or signs will be allowed in the audience. Any signs or banners found will be confiscated.
2. Seating: Tickets will no longer be available in the sections wrapping around the band and the orchestra. In previous years, there have been significant distractions that have taken place in those sections (audience members getting up or down, signs/banners, flash photography, etc.).
3. No flash photography is allowed.

**Please advise your students and their parents accordingly.** Thank you very much!