

STATE LARGE GROUP FESTIVAL REGULATIONS

FESTIVAL DATES

Classes 1A/3A and Classes 2A/4A Orchestra (Quad Cities Area) - May 8, 2026;
Classes 2A/4A - May 9, 2026.

1. **REGISTRATION:** Registration fees for the Large Group Festival are as follows:

Large Group Vocal: Registration Fee \$120.00

Vocal performances have an established MINIMUM performance time of 5 minutes and a MAXIMUM performance time of **12 minutes (NEW 2025)**.

CLARIFICATION: At least 3-part literature must be performed at some point during a choir's performance. Large Group Vocal ensembles include: Bass Clef Chorus (TTBB, TBB, TTB), Treble Clef Chorus (SSA, SSAA), Mixed Chorus (SATB, SAB, or divisi). *All vocal groups must perform from memory.*

Large Group Orchestra: Registration Fee \$145.00

Orchestra performances have an established MINIMUM performance time of 8 minutes and a MAXIMUM performance time of 17 minutes. Large Group Orchestra ensembles include: Orchestra and String Orchestra.

Large Group Band: Registration Fee \$145.00

Band performances have an established MINIMUM performance time of 8 minutes and a MAXIMUM performance time of 17 minutes. Large Group Band ensembles include: Concert Band.

Registration for this festival will be online. Instructions for registering online will be available on the IHSMA website. No registration fees will be returned once the initial registration deadline has passed. "Same center" changes for this festival will be allowed without penalty (i.e., changing a Bass Clef Chorus to a Mixed Chorus).

2. Performance parameters:

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Vocal	5 Minutes	12 Minutes (New 2025)
Band	8 Minutes	17 Minutes
Orchestra	8 Minutes	17 Minutes

There will be a 1 point deduction for every 15 second segment of violation (either minimum or maximum) assessed by each adjudicator. Directors choosing to perform beyond the maximum time limit should notify the timer of their intentions immediately prior to their performance.

3. **ELIGIBILITY:** In addition to IHSMA Constitution Article VI, Section 1 (Spring Bulletin, No. 264, p. 44), participation is restricted to students from member schools of the Iowa High School Music Association and enrolled in grades 7-12 only. Students may participate in multiple "like" ensembles provided they are also currently enrolled and in good standing in a corresponding curricular musical ensemble within their school, and there is no duplication of literature performed. Membership in a curricular ensemble is required for all school districts where such ensembles exist. In order to participate in multiple "like" ensembles a student must be enrolled and in attendance at a minimum of 50% of the scheduled rehearsal sessions for each ensemble. Instrumentalists wishing to participate would need to be enrolled in a curricular musical ensemble that is instrumental in nature (typically band or orchestra). Vocalists wishing to participate would need to be enrolled in a curricular musical ensemble that is choral in nature (typically chorus). This should be interpreted as the minimum requirement for school

districts to meet. To be considered a member of the respective ensemble, a student must be enrolled and in attendance at a minimum of 50% of the scheduled rehearsal sessions. 9th graders not eligible for a high school curricular ensemble as a result of district grade combinations, i.e., 7-8-9 or 8-9, will be determined to be eligible provided they meet the attendance requirements for a corresponding curricular ensemble as specified above. Membership in curricular ensembles is required for all school districts where such ensembles exist. Students enrolled in 7th-8th grade band or chorus and in attendance at 50% or more of the rehearsals meet the enrollment requirement for participation in the IHSMA Large Group Festival.

4. **SUPERVISION:** State Law (Iowa Code, Section 281, Chapter 36.18(9)) requires that all schools ensure that all contestants are properly chaperoned when engaged in interscholastic activities. The Iowa High School Music Association (IHSMA) interprets that to mean that a school official who is knowledgeable of our rules and regulations must be present to chaperone and guide these students through their festival experience. ***Participating schools MUST provide adult homeroom supervision, or they will not be granted the privilege of a homeroom. An adult supervisor must be present at all times between the points of arrival and departure. Without adult supervisors, no homeroom privileges will be granted.***
5. Each performing ensemble will be judged by a panel of three judges. Verbal commentary is provided by each judge.
6. Three sets of conductor's scores must be provided for the convenience of the judges. **All measures must be numbered.** The official rating from any judge will be lowered one divisional standard if this regulation is not abided.
7. If music is acquired through downloadable means, the director must attach the page that explains the origin (website, Note Station, CD Sheet Music, etc.) of the music and the rights to duplicate to each of the judges' copies. In the case of music that is downloaded and purchased as a single copy, an invoice must be provided showing the purchases of multiple copies.
8. Large Group Festival adjudication form information (Directors, Name, Accompanist, number in ensemble, selections to be performed) must be completed online **10 days prior to the festival** so programs can be created for each site. "Comments Only" entries will be allowed at Large Group Festival. This should be communicated to the site manager and judge panel just prior to your performance.
9. Schools **should not** photocopy copyrighted material. Judges will be instructed to withhold all ratings where a violation of this occurs. The Executive Director will disqualify performances in violation of this directive.
10. CompetitionSuite.com will be used as the adjudication platform. Judge recordings and ballot scores can be accessed after the event there. Directors using CompetitionSuite for the first time, must create a login using the email address IHSMA has on file for them. Once logged in, results (verbal commentary and performance scores with Divisional Rating) will appear once the performing group has been accessed from the left hand menu under the item called "Groups".
11. Conductors may not play an instrument in a participating ensemble, hum, or sing with the group. Choral conductors may play the piano accompaniment.
12. Conductors - Only a school-approved sponsor, or an eligible student, shall be permitted to direct any participating ensemble. (Article VI - Section 4)
13. Managers are directed to release the adjudication forms and recorded comments to directors upon their assurance of departure.

14. Site managers determine performance order. Any requests for performance times must be directed to the site manager. After the performance order has been mailed, schools may find their own “trades,” but they must remain within the classification and notify the site manager.
15. Electronic instruments, accompaniments, and/or sound effects specifically called for in the score will be allowed at the Large Group Festival. Electronic instruments may be substituted for the following acoustic instruments: harpsichord, celeste, organ, and harp. NO other acoustic instrumental substitutions will be allowed (i.e. bass keyboard for bass). Directors should consult the “Guidance Regarding the Use of SmartMusic and other Electronic Accompaniments at IHSMA Festivals” found within this Bulletin for a complete listing of requirements and suggestions.
16. An acoustical piano will be allowed for Concert Band performances provided it is played by an eligible student and the basic role filled by this instrument remains supportive in character. Directors employing this option should alert their festival manager to this need so such an instrument will be available.
17. Concert Bands may use up to 5 players total performing on violin, viola, cello, or string bass.
18. Class 1A or 3A member schools with orchestra programs may elect to have their orchestras participate in the Large Group Festival on Friday or Saturday at any of the 2A-4A sites that have a panel of string adjudicators for these programs. (Saturday: Cedar Falls or Cedar Rapids; Friday Evening: Bettendorf.) Send an email immediately after you register online indicating your desire to participate in this option. Without a note, your orchestra will be assigned to the site listed in Large Group Festival Sites.
19. If a pianist is used with an orchestra or string orchestra, the pianist must be an eligible student.
20. **ORCHESTRA INSTRUMENTATION GUIDELINES:**
 - A. **STRING ORCHESTRA:** shall consist primarily of string instruments. It may include a harp. It may include a harpsichord or piano. It may include up to 2 woodwind, brass, and/or percussion players. All players must be eligible students.
 - B. **ORCHESTRA:** shall consist of string instruments plus a minimum of 4 woodwind and 2 brass players. Percussion and piano may be included. All players must be eligible students.
21. All vocal events require **memorization**.
22. Vocal Ensembles and Concert Bands are required to perform, in its entirety, one selection from the Required Music List. This selection must have an asterisk before the title on the adjudication form. The Required Music Lists are available online at www.ihsma.org.
23. Concert Bands may petition the IBA Literature Review Committee to allow the performance of literature not found in the Prescribed Literature List by submitting a Literature Petition Form-Addition, score, and recording to the IHSMA prior to February 1. March 1 will serve as the notification date concerning the acceptance or denial of a petition. Literature petition forms can be downloaded from the IHSMA website: www.ihsma.org.
24. **Choirs may petition the ICDA Literature Review Committee to allow the performance of literature not found in the Prescribed Literature List by submitting a Literature Petition Form-Addition, score, and recording to the IHSMA prior to February 1. March 1 will serve as the notification date concerning the acceptance or denial of a petition. Literature petition forms can be downloaded from the IHSMA website: www.ihsma.org.**

