Name:_____ Voice Part:_____ Part: I or II

2026

Iowa All-State Chorus

ACCEPTED



INFORMATIONAL PACKET

Review carefully prior to your arrival in Ames!

IOWA ALL-STATE MUSIC FESTIVAL

November 19 - 21, 2026
Iowa State Center – Ames, Iowa

Dear All-State Musicians,

Congratulations! You have been selected for one of the finest musical ensembles available to Iowa high school musicians. Only about 25% of those who audition achieve this honor, making you one of 1,092 elite musicians chosen for the 2026 Iowa All-State Music Festival.

Jolesch Enterprises Photography will take formal photographs of the All-State Band, Chorus, and Orchestra during Saturday afternoon dress rehearsals. Individual portraits will also be taken before or after those rehearsals. Please wear your full concert attire, including your All-State medal(s), to the Saturday afternoon dress rehearsal. Photos may be purchased onsite or later by visiting www.joleschenterprises.com.

Below are the **housing rules and regulations** established by the Iowa High School Music Association. Because this festival brings together students from more than 150 schools, it is essential that all participants follow a consistent set of expectations. These rules are designed to ensure you are rested, prepared, and ready to perform at your best. They will be strictly enforced. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from the festival. Please note that neither high school directors nor chaperones have the authority to grant exceptions.

Rules and Regulations

Housing

1. No playing of instruments or singing is permitted between **11:00 PM and 8:30 AM.**
2. Students may meet **only in rooms assigned to them by their director.** Violation of this rule will result in dismissal from the festival.
3. Students are not to congregate in rooms billed to schools other than their own.
4. Students must be in their assigned rooms **no later than 11:00 PM** each night. Lights out and quiet by **11:30 PM.** All students must remain in their rooms until **6:30 AM.**

General

Inadequate preparation, poor rehearsal attitude, or conduct that falls short of the high standards expected of All-State musicians will be considered sufficient cause for dismissal.

We look forward to an outstanding musical experience and a memorable festival weekend. Enjoy every moment - you've earned it!

Sincerely,
Thad K. Driskell
Executive Director
Iowa High School Music Association

IOWA ALL-STATE MUSIC FESTIVAL

November 19, 20, 21, 2026
IOWA STATE CENTER - AMES, IOWA

SCHEDULE

Friday, November 20, 2026

OPEN REHEARSALS

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Chorus	C. Y. Stephens
8:45 AM - 12:00 PM	Band	Hilton Coliseum
9:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Orchestra (11:30 AM "Battle Hymn")	Scheman Building, Room 220-240
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Chorus (1:00 PM "America")	C.Y. Stephens
1:15 PM	Chamber Orchestra	C.Y. Stephens
1:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Band	Hilton Coliseum
2:00 PM - 4:45 PM	Orchestra	Scheman Building, Room 220-240
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	Chorus	C.Y. Stephens
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	Band	Hilton Coliseum
6:15 PM - 8:15 PM	Orchestra	Scheman Building, Room 220-240

Saturday, November 21, 2026

OPEN REHEARSALS

8:30 AM - 11:15 AM	Orchestra	Scheman Building, Room 220-240
8:45 AM - 12:00 PM	Chorus	C.Y. Stephens
9:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Band	Hilton Coliseum

CLOSED REHEARSALS and PHOTOS

12:45 PM - 12:55 PM	*Orchestra Group Photo*	Hilton Coliseum
12:55 PM - 2:00 PM	Orchestra (closed rehearsal)	Hilton Coliseum
2:00 PM - 2:15 PM	Orchestra and Chorus (closed rehearsal)	Hilton Coliseum
2:15 PM - 3:30 PM	Chorus (closed rehearsal)	Hilton Coliseum
3:30 PM - 3:45 PM	*Chorus Group Photo*	Hilton Coliseum
3:45 PM - 4:00 PM	Chorus and Band (closed rehearsal)	Hilton Coliseum
4:00 PM - 5:07 PM	Band (closed rehearsal)	Hilton Coliseum
5:07 PM - 5:15 PM	*Band Group Photo*	Hilton Coliseum

IOWA ALL-STATE MUSIC FESTIVAL CONCERT

7:00 PM	All-State Musicians in the Arena (Performance Ready)	Hilton Coliseum
7:15 PM	Pre-Concert Awards Ceremony	Hilton Coliseum
7:30 PM	**CONCERT**	**HILTON COLISEUM**

IOWA ALL-STATE MUSIC FESTIVAL

November 19 - 21, 2026
Iowa State Center – Ames, Iowa

2026 All-State Chorus Memorandum

Congratulations! You have been selected to be a member of the 2026 Iowa All-State Chorus. This choir is known throughout the nation for its outstanding choral reputation. Being selected is an honor for you and a tribute to the hard work and dedication of you and your director. Don't forget to thank them for all the time they invested in your preparation. This will be a weekend you will never forget. Your parents, family, directors, peers, and community are very proud of you. Please read all the materials in this packet carefully and come to Ames prepared for an unforgettable musical experience.

The Conductor for the 2026 Chorus is Dr. Christopher Aspaas. Dr. Aspaas serves as Director of Choral Activities and Professor of Music at TCU. He is very excited to work with 601 of Iowa's finest musicians!

2026 Festival Instructions

- ALL MUSIC MUST BE MEMORIZED FOR THE CONCERT
- Bring a pencil to all rehearsals
- Have your music in a 3-ring binder – have it marked inside with your name and school
- I encourage you to bring a bottle of water to rehearsal – no other food or drink
- You will be learning a new piece given out in Ames for the concert on Saturday
- **Rehearsal Saturday afternoon is a FULL-DRESS REHEARSAL. You MUST wear your choir robe to rehearsal on Saturday afternoon in Hilton Coliseum.**
- You will NOT be allowed on the floor of the Hilton Coliseum on Saturday afternoon during rehearsal OR Saturday evening before and after the concert. Do not plan on meeting family and friends on the floor of the Hilton – please plan accordingly.

Please remember that when spending the night in Ames on Thursday, November 19, all the rules and regulations set forth by IHSMA for the festival are in effect. These regulations are included in this packet. In the past, we have had students dismissed from the All-State Festival by the IHSMA Executive Committee for violations that occurred before rehearsals for the festival had even started. Curfew violations and occupancy of hotel rooms by members not assigned to those rooms seem to be the two issues most frequently ignored by students and their chaperones. Become familiar with the regulations and remember that these rules are strictly enforced. Your choir director does NOT have the authority to override the IHSMA rules.

Tardiness, talking, chewing gum, and text messaging are unacceptable during rehearsal. Violations will result in you being moved to the end of your row or to the back of the choir. You could be sent home from the festival if violations persist. Self-discipline is essential for a choir of this size to be successful.

Again, congratulations on this great achievement. I look forward to working with you in Ames. We will work together to make the 2026 All-State Chorus an unforgettable musical experience.

Thad Wilkins, Mount Vernon High School, All-State Chorus Chair
Sarah Bouska, Wartburg College, All-State Assistant Chair
Jennifer Gaesser, Creston High School, All-State Assistant Chair
Jason Heitland, Clear Lake High School, All-State Assistant Chair

Dr. Christopher Aspaas, 2026 All-State Chorus Conductor



Christopher Aspaas serves as Director of Choral Activities and Professor of Music at TCU. Christopher received his Ph.D. in Choral Music Education at The Florida State University in Tallahassee, his M.M. in Choral Conducting from Michigan State University in East Lansing, his B.M. in Voice Performance from St. Olaf. Christopher has served on the faculties of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Washington, and Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts.

At TCU, Christopher leads the Concert Chorale, TCU's flagship mixed ensemble as well as the Frog Corps, TCU's premier male vocal ensemble. He also teaches coursework in basic conducting, choral conducting, choral literature, advanced choral conducting, and oversees the graduate choral conducting program. Under his leadership, the Concert Chorale has represented TCU at the 2023 ACDA National Conference, the 2023 TMEA Annual Convention, the 2022 NCCO Conference (virtual), the 2020 SWACDA Regional Conference, and the 2018 TMEA Annual Convention.

Christopher has conducted All-State Choruses in Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Additionally, Christopher led the All-Northwest Mixed Choir in 2015 and ACDA Southern Division Men's Honor Choir in 2016. Internationally, Christopher has conducted Honor Choirs in Australia, British Columbia, Germany, Manitoba, the People's Republic of China, and the Sultanate of Oman.

Christopher has produced more than sixty compositions and arrangements for mixed, tenorbass, and treble choirs. His works are published by Augsburg Fortress, earthsongs, Gentry, Hal Leonard, and Aspen Hill Music, a publishing house founded in 2013 that is now distributed exclusively through ECS Publishing Group. His works have been featured on numerous All-State Choir performances as well as National, Regional Conferences of the American Choral Directors Association and TMEA.

80th ANNUAL IOWA ALL-STATE FESTIVAL CONCERT
HILTON COLISEUM, IOWA STATE CENTER, AMES, IOWA
NOVEMBER 21, 2026 – 7:30 PM (Awards – 7:15 PM)

ALL SEATS RESERVED AT **$30.00 plus fees**

TICKETMASTER

(Tickets on sale: Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 10:00 AM)

TICKETMASTER ONLY ACCPETS MASTERCARD, VISA, AMERICAN EXPRESS, OR DISCOVER

TO ORDER TICKETS ONLINE: www.ticketmaster.com

TICKETMASTER WILL CHARGE A 'PER TICKET' FEE

All tickets are delivered digitally and must be viewed on a mobile device. You will locate your tickets in your Ticketmaster account or in the Ticketmaster app from your smartphone after purchase.

GROUP RATE

A group rate of $25.00 per ticket, plus fees, for 20 or more tickets sold to a single purchaser is available. This group rate will be available online at www.ticketmaster.com. Select your quantity from the group rate drop down area. Click the 'Buy' button once it appears to see all of your seat locations and continue through the purchasing process. Note: All group rate tickets purchased online must be purchased in the same designated seating areas (Band, Chorus, Orchestra).

SPECIAL NEEDS

Special needs tickets (wheelchair, sight, hearing, difficulty with stairs) are available to purchase online at www.ticketmaster.com. Click the 'Request Accessible Seats' icon, and then answer the questions provided to purchase your tickers. (There is a limit of four (4) special needs tickets per order.) Special needs tickets may also be purchased from the Iowa State Ticket Office by phone at 888-478-2925 after 10:00 AM, October 27, 2026. There is a limited amount of mobility impaired seating.

OFFICIAL
EVENT MERCHANDISE

Northwest Designs is proud to be the official event merchandiser for the

2026 IHSMA IOWA ALL-STATE MUSIC FESTIVAL

Be sure to pickup your official gear onsite at the event or visit us online!



NORTHWEST DESIGNS INK

Iowa All State Music Festival Pre-order Samples

These products as well as many more will be available at www.joleschenterprises.com.



8x16 Memory Mate



6x8 Graphic Portrait



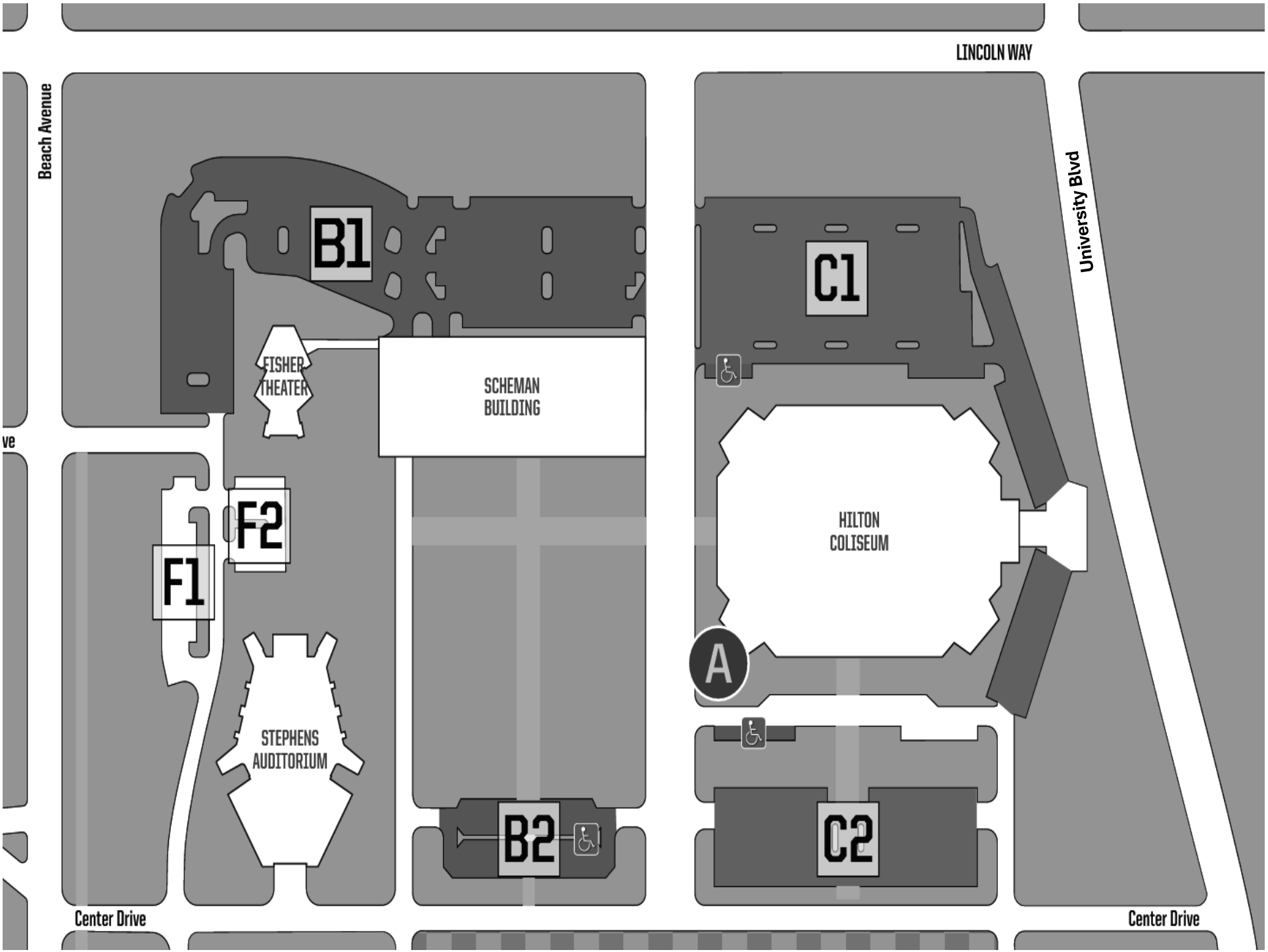
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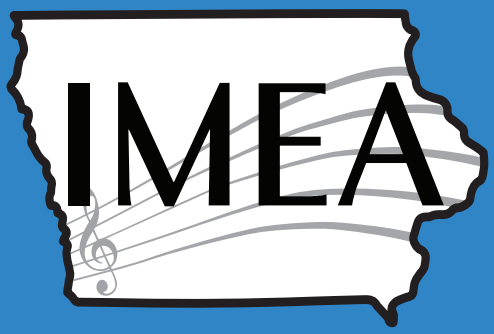
8x12 Group Photo

PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO COMPLETE YOUR PRE-ORDER

Jolesch
ENTERPRISES


LINCOLN WAY
Beach Avenue
University Blvd
B1
C1
FISHER THEATER
SCHEMAN BUILDING
F2
F1
HILTON COLISEUM
A
STEPHENS AUDITORIUM
B2
C2
Center Drive
Center Drive


IOWA
HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC ASSOCIATION


IMEA