2026

Iowa All-State Orchestra

ACCEPTED



INFORMATIONAL PACKET

Please 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

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Dear 2026 Iowa All-State Orchestra member,

Congratulations! You have been selected to be part of an orchestra composed of the finest high school musicians in the state of Iowa. Our guest conductor this year is Wes Kenney, *Music Director of the Fort Collins Symphony* and *Chair of Conducting Studies at Colorado State University*. He is looking forward to working with you on this exciting music.

CHAIR PLACEMENTS: Thursday, November 19, beginning at 3:00pm in the Scheman Building.
Chair placement auditions are required for ALL musicians in order to participate in this festival.
Room 4, which is on the ground floor of the Scheman Building, will be available beginning at 2:00 for warming up. Only the concert music in this folder will be used for the seating auditions. Specific instructions for your section are on a separate sheet in this folder. Note: **Be certain that you practice *all* of the music in this folder. Students who are inadequately prepared for chair placement auditions can, and will, be dismissed from the festival.**

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS
Bring your folder, music, a pencil and a music stand to all rehearsals. Label all parts of your stand and folder with your name and school. Tape any loose pages of music together to simplify page turns. Leave all backpacks on the side of the room and store cases under your chair. Be in your chair (look for your chair number) and be ready to play ***before*** the start time of each rehearsal. ATTENDANCE WILL BE TAKEN. **Late students will be moved to the back of the section**. **On the second violation, you will be dismissed.**
Absolutely no cell phones or headphones are to be used by students during rehearsals (except on breaks). **Any visible headphones or cell phones may be confiscated by directors and held until they can be picked up by your guardian or director. This may also apply to smart watches if issues arise.** Unprofessional behavior or failure to abide by these rules will result in the loss of your seat or dismissal from the All-State Orchestra.

TEMPI
Please take the time to write approximate tempi in your parts. Make sure you have listened to the Gershwin. There are a few tempo markers listed below, but the tempo changes frequently.

Higdon: *City Scape* from *Skyline,* quarter=128
Williams: The March from "1941", quarter=124
Gershwin: *An American in Paris*
- Beginning: quarter=116 with many adjustments along the way, such as the Vivo after 78 which is quarter=130
- Rehearsal 19: quarter=96
- Rehearsal 20: quarter= 112
- Rehearsal 22: quarter= 130
- Rehearsal 23: quarter= 90
- Rehearsal 25: quarter= 120
- Rehearsal 28: quarter= 100
- Rehearsal 29: quarter= 124
- Rehearsal 40: quarter=104
- Rehearsal 41: quarter= 120
- Rehearsal 42: quarter= 80
- Andante after rehearsal 45: quarter = 60
- Con moto after rehearsal 52: 104
- Rehearsal 55: quarter=92
- Rehearsal 56: quarter=76
- Rehearsal 57: quarter=150
- Rehearsal 65: quarter= 80
- Rehearsal 66: quarter= 60
- Rehearsal 69: quarter=124

Haydn: *The Heavens are Telling from the Creation*, quarter=100

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

The Chamber Orchestra, which will accompany the choir at the concert, will consist of 2 Flutes, 2 Oboes, 2 Clarinets, 2 Bassoons, 2 Horns, 2 Trumpets, 2 Trombones, 1 Bass Trombone, Timpani, 16 Violin 1, 16 Violin II, 8 Viola, 5 Cello and 3 Bass. Chamber Orchestra students will be required to attend the rehearsal Thursday evening and Friday after lunch (see rehearsal schedule on reverse side of this memo).

DRESS

Dress during rehearsals should be "nice school clothing", with nothing that distracts others or takes away from your ability to appropriately play your instrument. **Concert Attire** will consist of BLACK suits or Tuxedos, white shirt with black neck/bow tie, BLACK dress suits (below the knee when seated), BLACK pant suits, long black dresses (below the knee when seated), or black tops and long black skirts/pants (below the knee when seated). **Important: For the Saturday afternoon rehearsal at Hilton, students must wear their concert attire. A group photo will be taken at 12:45. All orchestra members are required to have an individual photo taken; at which time a wristband will be put on your wrist. This wristband is your pass into Hilton Coliseum Saturday evening.**

Sincerely,

Nicole Cody
Iowa All-State Orchestra Chair

IOWA ALL-STATE MUSIC FESTIVAL

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

WIND AND BRASS PART ASSIGNMENT AUDITION
due by 11:59 pm on Friday, November 6th.

Congratulations! You have been selected to be part of an orchestra composed of the finest high school musicians in the state of Iowa. Our guest conductor this year is Wes Kenney, *Music Director of the Fort Collins Symphony* and *Chair of Conducting Studies at Colorado State University*. He is looking forward to working with you on this exciting music.

You have been given all possible parts for your instrument on this year's All State Orchestra music, and **you must submit a video recording of your part-assignment audition in order to receive your official part assignment.**

Part Assignments should be announced by Monday, November 9, 2026. The audition recording is for part assignment ONLY - chair placement within each part will take place at your required seating auditions on Thursday, November 19.

Q: WHY IS THIS A REQUIREMENT?
A: Previously, students were required to learn 2-4 parts for 2-4 pieces of music. They were not assigned a part until the first day of the festival. This meant that these students were required to prepare an inequitable amount of music. By having this audition to assign parts, students will get more time to practice their specific part before the festival starts.

AUDITION EXCERPTS (all parts taken from part I for the instrument)
Flute: Gershwin- Rehearsal 54 to 55 and Higdon m. 100-108
*Piccolo: Gershwin- 3 before rehearsal 21 to rehearsal 23
Oboe: Gershwin- Rehearsal 20 to 23 and Higdon m. 194-209
**English Horn: Gershwin- 4 after rehearsal 50- rehearsal 52
Clarinet: Gershwin- Rehearsal 15-Rehearsal 18 and Higdon- m. 100-106
***E-flat Clarinet: Williams: pick-ups to m. 45-58
Bassoon: Gershwin- Grandioso after rehearsal 54- 4 after 56 and Higdon- m. 89-93
Trumpet: Gershwin- Rehearsal 74- rehearsal 76 and Higdon- m. 121-133
Trombone: Gershwin- Grandioso after rehearsal 54- 4 after 56 and Higdon- m. 231-end

*Piccolo parts for the Orchestra: music will be provided in each flute folder. Students wanting to be considered for a Piccolo position must prepare a piccolo audition mp4 recording and email it to ia.allstateorch.cody@gmail.com by Friday, November 6. Finalists will be posted online by Monday, November 9 and will audition for selection as part of the regular chair placement proceedings in Ames, Thursday, November 19, 2026. Students selected to play piccolo will still be considered to play the flute 1 part in passages without piccolo parts.

**English Horn parts for the Orchestra: music will be provided in each oboe folder. Students wanting to be considered for the English Horn position must prepare an English Horn audition mp4 recording and email it to ia.allstateorch.cody@gmail.com by Friday, November 6. Finalists will be posted online by Monday, November 9 and will audition for selection as part of the regular chair placement proceedings in Ames, Thursday, November 19, 2026. Students selected to play English Horn will still be considered to play the oboe 1 part in passages without English Horn parts.

***Eb Clarinet parts for the Orchestra: music will be provided in each clarinet folder. Students wanting to be considered for the Eb Clarinet position must prepare an Eb Clarinet audition mp4 recording and email it to ia.allstateorch.cody@gmail.com by Friday, November 6. Finalists will be posted online by Monday, November 9 and will audition for selection as part of the regular chair placement proceedings in Ames, Thursday, November 19, 2026. Students selected to play Eb Clarinet will still be considered to play the clarinet 1 part in passages without Eb Clarinet parts.

PART-ASSIGNMENT AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:
Audition must be video recorded in ONE take with a visible working clock (digital or analog) in the frame to show continuity. The student and instrument should be fully visible in the recording. Students should clearly state their name at the beginning of the video.

Audition video must be uploaded online by YOU/ YOUR DIRECTOR (google drive, dropbox, unlisted youtube video, etc.) and made viewable to ANYONE with the link. Note: DO NOT MAKE THE VIDEO PRIVATE, or the judge will not be able to watch it. Please title the video with your name and instrument.

Video link must be emailed directly to Nicole Cody at ia.allstateorch.cody@gmail.com

CHAIR PLACEMENTS: Thursday, November 19, beginning at 3:00pm in the Scheman Building ***Chair placement auditions are required for ALL musicians in order to participate in this festival.***
Room 4, which is on the ground level of the Scheman building, will be available beginning at 2:00 for warming up.

Only the concert music in this folder will be used for the seating auditions.
Note: **Be certain that you practice *all* of the music in this folder. Students who are inadequately prepared for chair placement auditions can, and will, be dismissed from the festival.**

Questions may be sent to the All-State Orchestra Chair, Nicole Cody at ia.allstateorch.cody@gmail.com

Sincerely,
Nicole Cody
Iowa All-State Orchestra Chair

IOWA ALL-STATE MUSIC FESTIVAL

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Iowa State Center – Ames, Iowa

PERCUSSION ASSIGNMENT AUDITION
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You have been given all possible percussion parts for this year's All State Orchestra music, and **you must submit a video recording of your part-assignment audition in order to receive your official part assignments. Part Assignments should be announced by Monday, November 9, 2026.**

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A: Previously, students were required to learn all the parts for 2-4 pieces of music. They were not assigned a part until the first day of the festival. This meant that these students were required to prepare an inequitable amount of music. By having this audition to assign parts, students will get more time to practice their specific parts before the festival starts.

AUDITION EXCERPTS (Please prepare all of the following excerpts)

Snare:
Battle Hymn: m. 21-30 (start at mf, then drop to mp @ m29 to account for the large performance space)
Gershwin: Rehearsal 62 - 2 after Rehearsal 63, Rehearsal 65 - Rehearsal 66
Williams: m. 3-6, m. 27-30

Xylophone:
Gershwin: 5 measures at Rehearsal 6, 6 after Rehearsal 20 - Rehearsal 21, 2 before Rehearsal 33

Vibraphone:
Higdon: m. 225-end

Timpani:
Gershwin: Rehearsal 74 - 2 after rehearsal 76
Williams: m. 125-130
Higdon: m. 81-83, m. 127-133, and m. 179-185

PART-ASSIGNMENT AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:
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Video link must be emailed directly to Nicole Cody at ia.allstateorch.cody@gmail.com

PERCUSSION SECTIONAL: Thursday, November 19, beginning at 5:00pm in the Scheman Building, room 220. ***Percussion sectional is required for ALL musicians in order to participate in this festival.***

Note: Be certain that you practice your assigned music. Students who are inadequately prepared for chair placement auditions can, and will, be dismissed from the festival.

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Sincerely,

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All-State Orchestra
STRING SEATING AUDITIONS
Scheman Building
Thursday, November 19, 2026

- Be prepared to play both parts of any divisi sections.

At 2:00, musical selections for seating auditions will be posted:

- on the ground floor outside Room 4

Beginning at 2:00, the warm-up room for all string instruments is Room 4.

At 2:45, individual audition times will be posted outside of both warm-up rooms. The first audition time is 3:00.

To ensure that you are on time for your audition, leave the warm-up room at least 10 minutes before your scheduled audition time.

The audition rooms are on the first and second floors of Scheman.

VIOLIN I	**Room 254**
VIOLIN II	**Room 262**
VIOLA	**Room 250**
CELLO	**Room 175**
STRING BASS	**Room 160**

(4:15) Band STRING BASS Room 160

Please do not tune or play outside the audition rooms. Adjudicators need quiet in the hallways in order to complete auditions.

String auditions are “blind.” Auditors do not see you; they make their evaluations based only on what they hear.

After the last audition, all students return to the audition room to receive their chair placement card.

Chamber Orchestra tonight 7 – 8:30 Stephens Stage

All-State Orchestra

WIND AND BRASS SEATING AUDITIONS

Scheman Building

Thursday, November 19, 2026

3:00 pm

No excerpts are posted for this audition.
This audition is required for participation in the All-State Orchestra.

All instrumental players audition for seating. You need to be in the room listed below for your instrument, ready to play by **3:00 p.m.** You have sectional rehearsals with your auditor after the seating audition. Do not leave until dismissed by your auditor.

Be ready to play all parts of all the music you are assigned.

Chamber Orchestra: Two flutes, two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons, two horns, two trumpets, two trombones, one bass trombone and one Percussionist will play in the Chamber Orchestra. If you are selected for the Chamber Orchestra, be sure that you attend all rehearsals (see other letter for rehearsal times). The 1st rehearsal is tonight 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm on the Stephens stage.

SOLOS
The player who is selected for first chair will perform any solos in the parts.

FRENCH HORNS
Horns are assigned a part after the initial auditions and will audition for chair placement within their assigned section.

ALL - Please bring a music stand with you to the festival, labeled with your name and school's name.
(black Manhasset or similar preferred)

FLUTE/PICCOLO	**Room 80**
OBOE/ENGLISH HORN	**Room 171**
CLARINET & BASS CLARINET	**Room 167**
BASSOON	**Room 154**
FRENCH HORN	**Room 150**
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VIOLIN II **Room 262**

VIOLA **Room 250**

CELLO **Room 175**

STRING BASS **Room 160**

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WIND AND BRASS SEATING AUDITIONS

Scheman Building

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SAXOPHONE	**Room 088**

Wes Kenney, 2026 All-State Orchestra Conductor



Wes Kenney is in his 24th season as Music Director of the Fort Collins (Colorado) Symphony. In May 2023 he retired after 20 years as Director of Orchestras and chair of conducting studies at Colorado State University. Maestro Kenney completed his tenure at CSU with two critically acclaimed performances of the Mahler Symphony No. 3. In 2022 he was named a University Distinguished Professor, the highest honor the university can award and has also been given the title of Professor Emeritus He is the 2007 Grand Prize Winner of the Varna (Bulgaria) International Conducting Competition, a 2020 Honored Artist from the American Prize, a winner of the American Prize for programming in 2020, a winner of the Ernst Bacon Memorial Prize for excellence in performance of American Music, and the 2020 American Prize Winner for best orchestral performance in the Professional Orchestra Division. In June 2023 Mr. Kenney completed his 10th and final season with Denver Young Artist Orchestra, the premier youth orchestra in the state of Colorado. DYAO has been recognized by the city of Denver for outreach and as an ambassador for Colorado. He has led that orchestra on two European tours and anchored two festivals at Carnegie Hall. In June of 2023 he led that orchestra on tour to Southern California where the audience responded with a standing ovation at Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles.

Mr. Kenney's guest conducting activities include the Acadiana Symphony (LA), Alabama Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic, Colorado Symphony, Dubuque Symphony, Lafayette (IN) Symphony, Long Beach Symphony, New Mexico Symphony, Richmond Symphony, Riverside Symphonia, Savannah Symphony, and the Virginia Symphony. International guest conducting includes performances with the Liev (Ukraine) Philharmonic, Changwon (South Korea) Philharmonic, Vietnam National Symphony (Hanoi), Vidin State Philharmonic (Bulgaria), Stara Zagora Opera Company in Bulgaria as well as the Edinburgh (Scotland) Music Festival.

Mr. Kenney has also enjoyed success directing opera, ballet, and musical theater. Previous positions include Music Director of Opera Fort Collins, Music Director of the Virginia Ballet Theater, Co-Principal Conductor of the Oakland Lyric Opera, and Guest Conductor with Universal Ballet Korea. Since 2004 he has conducted productions of *Carmen, Amahl and the Night Visitors, Sweeney Todd, Turn of the Screw, Barber of Seville, Madama Butterfly, Cenerentola, Rigoletto, Tosca, Otello, Die Zauberflote, Die Fledermaus, La Traviata, Il Trovatore, Street Scene, La Boheme, Orfeo, Pagliacci, Cavelleria Rusticana, Falstaff, Turandot, Marriage of Figaro, Serse, The Merry Widow, Aida, Don Giovanni, and Tenderland.* In addition, he has conducted over two hundred performances of *The Nutcracker, Swan Lake, The Firebird,* and many other dance works.

In six seasons as the Virginia Symphony's Associate Conductor, Mr. Kenney appeared more than 350 times with that orchestra where he was responsible for programming and conducting Pops, Family and Young People's Concerts. During his tenure with the Virginia Symphony, he was also invited to guest conduct the Williamsburg Symphonia, Virginia Chorale, Norfolk Chamber Consort and Virginia Waterfront International Arts Festival.

Named Educator of the Year by the Colorado Chapter of the American String Teachers Association in 2008, Mr. Kenney enjoyed working with talented young people in his position as Director of Orchestras at Colorado State University and has served as Guest Conductor with the Alabama, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, and Virginia All-State Orchestras. This fall he will conduct the Iowa All-State Orchestra. Awarded the prestigious Carmen Dragon Conducting Prize in 1992, Wes Kenney is a founder of the CSU Summer Master of Music Education with an emphasis in conducting program, now in its 14th year.

He was recently a guest lecturer at the Conductor's Institute held at Bard College in upstate New York, teaching alongside the late Harold Farberman and American Symphony Orchestra Music Director Leon Botstein.

Mr. Kenney is a past president of the Conductors Guild, a 2000-member service organization to the conducting profession. He currently is on the Guild's advisory board. He is a graduate of the University of Southern California and San Francisco State University. Additional studies include three years as a fellow at the Conductors Institute, several American Symphony Orchestra League and Conductors Guild Workshops, and the Sandpoint Festival. His teachers include Harold Farberman, Hans Beer, Gunther Schuller, Hans Swarovsky and Miltiardes Carides.

80th ANNUAL IOWA ALL-STATE FESTIVAL CONCERT
HILTON COLISEUM, IOWA STATE CENTER, AMES, IOWA
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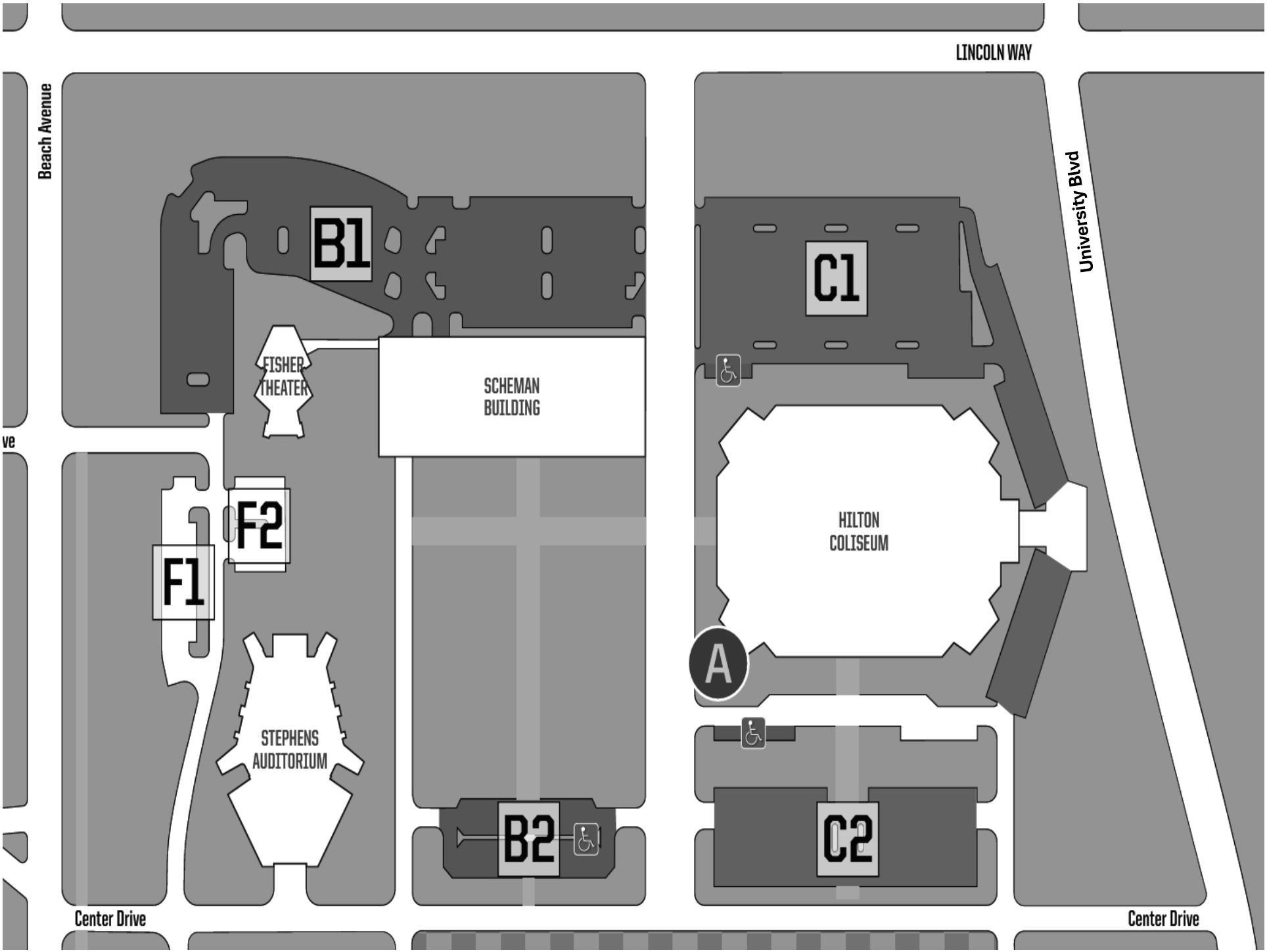
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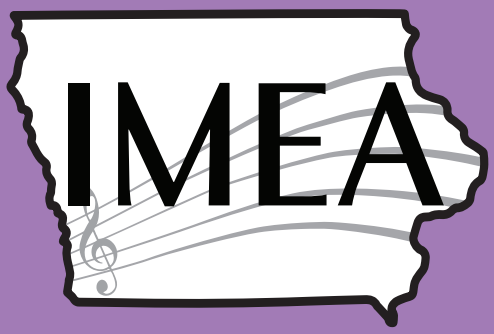
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