



MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

PROMOTING SUCCESS ON THE COURT, ON THE FIELD, ON STAGE
AND EVERYWHERE ELSE UNDER THE BIG SKY SINCE 1921.

March 1, 2024

TO: MHSА MUSIC DIRECTORS
FROM: AMY BARTELS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
RE: 2024 ALL-STATE MUSIC FESTIVAL – ONLINE AUDITIONS

In preparation for the coming All-State Band, Choir and Orchestra Festival, all music directors are encouraged to invite their students to audition.

Attached to this mailing are various materials and general information that you will need in submitting entries for the coming MHSА All-State Music Festival. Items in this packet include:

1. General Information / General Rules and Regulations / Recording Instructions
2. Student Conduct Code
3. Audition Certification Form

Directors should follow instructions exactly to avoid unnecessary problems and disqualifications of recordings for any reason. Each high school music teacher is responsible for seeing that his/her students are properly recorded according to the instructions attached. In the event of inadequate equipment, there is ample time for directors to arrange with a neighboring school to conduct their recording in other facilities. More experienced directors should willingly coach newer directors through procedures.

For your information, the All-State Music Festival will be held October 16-18, 2024, in Billings. This year's MHSА All-State Chair will be:

Amy Schendel
Lincoln Center – Fine Arts
415 N. 30th
Billings MT 59101
406-281-5048
schendelac@billingsschools.org

Note to Directors:

In order to participate in the All-State Festival, a student must attend all rehearsals, auditions, and sectionals as indicated in the Festival schedule, as well as perform in the All-State Concert. The first event begins on the Wednesday of the festival, and the All-State Concert is held Friday evening. Students who cannot meet this attendance requirement should not submit audition recordings.

Montana High School Association All-State Music Festival

General Information

NOTE: Only auditions meeting musical quality and preparedness should be submitted.

1. All-state auditions will only be accepted only through online submission. Music educators are reminded of their professional ethics in following the letter and intent of the audition process. Auditions must be UNEDITED. Choosing among several takes is not editing. Adding effects, splicing, changing tempo, pitch or other performance flaws through electronic means IS editing and is not acceptable.
2. Students playing brass, woodwind or percussion instruments are encouraged to play in either band or orchestra, if accepted, even if from a small school that does not have an orchestra program. All-State Orchestra provides advanced wind and percussion players with a very special experience that might otherwise be missed. Schools that have individuals who wish to audition for All-State but do not offer the corresponding group or have scheduling conflicts among their curricular groups may petition to audition by contacting the MHSА liaison by May 1st.
3. Directors are responsible for proper recording procedures. Directors should also exercise care in both coaching and recording to ensure that the best ethical representation of each student's ability is presented. *Check each recording!*
4. **Important:** Double-check all recordings. Be sure you, as a director, keep one master copy of the "Audition Certification" form **and mail or email a copy to the All-State Chair.**
5. Directors will need to establish an account with OpusEvent with their own log-in credentials to access the audition platform.
6. All-State Band and All-State Orchestra string students will audition for preparedness and seating placement on portions of the All-State repertoire. All-State Choir students will audition for music preparedness on portions of the All-State repertoire.

General Rules and Regulations

1. The school administrator from a member school sending students to the All-State Festival will be held responsible for seeing that all students from his/her school are properly chaperoned throughout the duration of the Festival (preferably by the student's music director) and appropriately involved in the Festival activities.
2. The name(s) of each student's chaperone(s)/director(s), along with their cellphone number, must be included on the Acceptance Affidavit.
3. In order to participate in the All-State Music Festival, a student must attend all auditions, rehearsals and sectionals as indicated in the Festival schedule, as well as perform in the All-State Concert. Placement auditions for instrumentalists and final acceptance auditions for vocalists will begin at 7:00 p.m. on the Wednesday of the festival, and the All-State Concert is held Friday evening.
4. All participating students must adhere to the MHSА All-State Student Conduct Code and should serve as ambassadors for their school and for their community.
5. Directors (or chaperones) must check their students in with Festival officials prior to the Wednesday evening auditions and pick up information packets beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Recording Instructions

The first available date for submissions is **Monday, May 1, 2024**. The deadline for submitting online auditions is **Monday, June 12, 2024**. Visit [OPUSEVENT.COM](https://opusevent.com) and navigate to the MONTANA All-State Festival portal to submit recordings.

1. **Each recording must be accompanied by a \$10.00 audition fee.** (A registration fee of \$55, plus site and meal fees, will be assessed to all *accepted* students.)

2. For 2024, use **SET A** of the audition materials, found on the FESTIVALS page of the MHSA website (www.mhsa.org). Discuss audition materials with all interested and eligible students. ***Students using incorrect audition materials, incorrect keys, or incorrect starting pitches will be automatically eliminated.***

3. Assist students in procuring the correct audition materials for their instrument or voice range in time to allow for adequate preparation (at least by April). From time to time, remind students of the audition date.

4. **The recorded material may not include any information that identifies the individual student or the school.**

5. Restrict each audition to a single recording session of no more than 20 minutes per student. (Exception – percussion auditions may take longer because of multiple setups as required by the audition.)

6. After uploading, review each recording carefully.

7. **A student may not try out for both choir and an instrumental group.**

8. All recordings must be ***uploaded with payment*** to the MHSA All-State Music Festival via OPUSEVENT.COM.

9. Complete the All-State Audition Certification and email it to the All-State Festival chair or send by postal mail.

Submissions open: **May 1, 2024**

Submissions close: **June 12, 2024**

No late submissions will be accepted.

Send the Audition Certification form to:

Amy Schendel
Lincoln Center – Fine Arts
415 N 30th
Billings, MT 59101
406-281-5048
schendelac@billingssschools.org

New this year--we have established a webpage for MHSA All-State Music Festival information. This should be your new source for everything associated with the All-State Experience, from audition information in the Spring to rehearsal and logistical information in the Fall. This will be updated as the process unfolds for 2024.

<https://sites.google.com/billingssschools.org/all-statewebsite/home>

All-State Music Festival
Student Conduct Code

1. Students are expected to be model citizens at all times while attending MHSA music events. Superior, attentive conduct is mandatory at all festival events and/or rehearsals. Full cooperation with festival management and personnel is essential to the success of each festival.
2. Illegal use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco in any form at any time will result in the students' immediate exclusion from an MHSA festival.
3. Students are to act courteously and dress appropriately in all festival locations. Through their behavior students are to show respect for all people, property, facilities and rules.
4. Students' local school rules and regulations will also apply at every MHSA festival.
5. All music must be thoroughly prepared by the accepted student and school instructor in advance of All-State rehearsals. This is the minimum standard of integrity acceptable at any MHSA All-State music festival.
6. Students must be in place and ready to rehearse prior to the beginning of every All-State rehearsal session.
7. For student safety and All-State security, all members of All-State ensembles are required to wear All-State identification badges at all All-State events.
8. Cell phone **communication** of any type during rehearsal or performance is strictly forbidden.

The Festival Manager has the authority to remove a student from the festival for failure to abide by this code and a letter will be sent to the director and school administration.

**Montana High School Association
2024 MHSA All-State Festival**

Audition Certification

Please type or print clearly! The director should retain a copy of this completed form until October. One copy must be sent to the MHSA All-State Chair.

Name of Student	Instrument/Voice	Considered for Orchestra (Check Box)
1.		<input type="checkbox"/>
2.		<input type="checkbox"/>
3.		<input type="checkbox"/>
4.		<input type="checkbox"/>
5.		<input type="checkbox"/>
6.		<input type="checkbox"/>
7.		<input type="checkbox"/>
8.		<input type="checkbox"/>
9.		<input type="checkbox"/>
10.		<input type="checkbox"/>
11.		<input type="checkbox"/>
12.		<input type="checkbox"/>
13.		<input type="checkbox"/>
14.		<input type="checkbox"/>
15.		<input type="checkbox"/>

The signatures of the director and principal attest to these requirements:

- 1) No electronic editing was used in the recording process.
- 2) The student was recorded only once and for the defined duration.
- 3) Only specified audition materials were used.
- 4) The student meets the eligibility requirements as outlined in the current MHSA Music Booklet.

Principal's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Music Director's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Email for Music Director: _____

School: _____ City: _____

Duplicate form as necessary.