



Open Letter to School Administrators and Parent Booster Organizations

*This document has been prepared to inform school administrators
and booster organizations of the benefits associated
with ensembles participating in Festival Disney*

Festival Disney is a positive and educationally meaningful festival experience for talented middle, junior high and high school performers. Participation is open to concert bands, jazz ensembles, marching (parade) bands, orchestras, choral ensembles, show choirs and auxiliary units.

As one of the largest music festivals in the nation, participants have a great opportunity to meet other students and attend performances of other ensembles. *Festival Disney* has hosted groups from 45 states and international ensembles from the Cayman Islands, the Dominican Republic, Scotland, Canada and Japan.

Performance venues have been carefully selected to provide an excellent experience for all participants. Experienced Disney Cast Members assist with all festival operations.

Specially selected, national adjudicators provide detailed, positive feedback to all ensembles through written and recorded comments, as well as personalized feedback clinics following concert performances. Directors can choose competitive and non-competitive adjudication options.

Due to the festival's focus on music education, MENC: The National Association for Music Education officially endorses *Festival Disney*.

In order to ensure the best performance experience, Ludwig/Musser Percussion and Glaesel String Instruments from Conn-Selmer, Inc. are the Official Instruments of *Festival Disney*.

To celebrate the accomplishments of all of the performers, *Festival Disney* concludes with an exciting, and uniquely-Disney, awards ceremony at a *Walt Disney World*® Theme Park. Festivals take place on select weekends throughout the Spring.

For additional information you may contact us at 866-752-0423, visit our website at www.FestivalDisney.com or email us at WDWFestivalDisney@Disney.com

We look forward to the opportunity of hosting your school's ensemble at ***Festival Disney!***

Disney Youth Programs

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Listing of past Festival Disney Adjudicators

Here is a sampling of the outstanding national adjudicators participating in Festival Disney to provide detailed, positive feedback through written and recorded comments, as well as personalized feedback clinics following concert performances.

Dr. Mitos Andaya, University of Georgia
Prof. Keith Bearden, Texas Tech University
Dr. Stephen Benham, Duquesne University
Dr. Jerry Blackstone, University of Michigan
Dr. George Brozak, University of South Carolina
Dr. Ken Dye, University of Notre Dame
Dr. Kevin Fenton, Florida State University
Dr. Richard Good, Auburn University
Mr. Jeffrey Grogan, New Jersey Symphony Orchestra
Prof. Joseph Hermann, Tennessee Tech University / American Bandmasters Association
Dr. Jay Jackson, Appalachian State University
Dr. Alex Jimenez, Florida State University
Prof. Christine Jordanoff, Duquesne University
Dr. Kevin Kellim, Washburn University
Dr. William Malambri, Winthrop University
Dr. James Morrow, University of Texas
Dr. Sharon Paul, University of Oregon
Dr. Stephen Peterson, Ithaca College
Dr. Michael Robinson, University of Georgia
Dr. David Romines, U.S. China Cultural & Educational Foundation
Dr. Philip Silvey, Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music
Dr. John Sinclair, Rollins College
Mr. Gary Smith, University of Illinois
Prof. Diana Spradling, Western Michigan University
Dr. Johnnie Vinson, Auburn University
Mr. John Watkins, University of Florida
Mr. David Woodley, Indiana University
Dr. Welborn Young, University of N Carolina- Greensboro



Testimonials from Participating Directors

"The trip was a wonderful yearlong motivator which got the students focused from Day One, not only from a musical standpoint, but also in preparing the students for the mature, responsible conduct that is expected of them while we're traveling. It was the high point of the school year for the students, and something that they looked forward to."

Sanford Sardo, Director of Choral Activities, Sanford H. Calhoun High School

"It is, without a doubt, the best festival I have attended, and this is my 18th year of traveling with the choirs. From the start, everyone I dealt with was very friendly, helpful, and accommodating. It is apparent that Festival Disney wants the students and their directors to have a positive experience. This was certainly accomplished. The adjudicators for the festival were highly qualified. Their onstage clinic was not only helpful, but it was done in a positive manner. All of my students enjoyed the experience, and so did I. They not only reinforced things that I've been teaching, but brought new ideas and approaches to their singing. I came away with several new techniques to use in rehearsals."

Michael Ehrlich, Choral Director, W.T. Woodson High School

"I felt that the Festival Disney experience was wonderful. The organization and efficiency was excellent. I was impressed by the panel of adjudicators from large, well respected university programs. The clinics for each ensemble were informative and provided useful feedback."

Susan O'Daniel, Band Director, Vergennes Union High School

"It was a great experience for my students, and the caliber of judges you had was first rate! The comments we received were constructive and helpful to the group, and the kids really enjoyed the clinic."

Marilyn Van Scoyoc, Band Director, East Hampton High School

"Our students had a positive and powerful experience. It was challenging to prepare for a competition featuring schools which were up to four times the size of Vergennes Union High School. Many of our students do not normally have the opportunity to travel outside of Vermont. This was a once in a lifetime experience for some of them."

Karen Jordan, Choral Director, Vergennes Union High School

"The ratings were not much of a concern to me or the students. The purpose of music is not to win, but to learn and feel good about how you performed. Under any circumstances it should be a positive experience, and performing on a stage at Disney made it all the more exciting."

Al Hager, Band Director, Stuart Middle School

"Festival Disney is a 1st Class operation. We enjoyed our time and look forward to participating in Festival Disney again in the future."

Chris Cansler, Director of Bands, Guyer High School