



Greetings Symphonic Celebration Participant,

On behalf of the faculty and staff at the University of South Florida, we are thrilled to congratulate you on your selection to participate in this year's Symphonic Celebration. Your band director has supplied us with a strong recommendation for you to participate in this event based on the outstanding musical ability and leadership that you demonstrate on a daily basis. Our goal at the USF School of Music is to provide you with experience that will help you grow and expand your musicianship as an individual and ensemble member. In addition to these experiences, you will also have the opportunity to spend three days on a university campus making new friends and establishing life-long memories.

In this packet you will find important festival information relating to registration, required forms, hotel accommodations, meals and much more. Parents are asked to thoroughly read through these documents with their child. It is impossible for this packet to cover answers to all questions that may arise, so please ask your band director immediately if you have any additional concerns. Your band director will then contact us if necessary and we will help in every way possible. Also, please be sure to add our official website to your internet browser's favorites list as this website will become an extremely important tool as we get closer to the start of our event.

We wish you the best over the next few months as you prepare for what will be one of the most rewarding and valuable events in your middle school career. Again, congratulations on your acceptance into the festival and we look forward to meeting you in May!

Sincerely,

Dr. Trevor A. Butts
Director of Athletic Bands
University of South Florida
School of Music



PROCESS FOR CONCERT BAND REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

Band Directors have until Wednesday, February 19th to complete our nomination process. A Symphonic Celebration staff member will notify directors via email on Friday, March 7th of who has been accepted into this year's event. The director nomination form is located on our website under the "Nominations" section.

► **NOTE:** In order to participate in this event, you must be nominated by your director.

Once you have been notified of your selection by your band director, every accepted student will receive a link to the registration form.

Deadline for Student Registration and Payment is Friday, March 28th, 2025.

After completing the student registration form, either you or your director must confirm your intent to participate by visiting our payment website link (which will be provided once the registration form is submitted) and complete the payment process. Registration fees for Symphonic Celebration cover everything related to the logistics of our event (clinician expenses, room rentals, concert hall staff, sheet music, etc.) with the exception of hotel bookings (this is outlined on page three). This year's registration fee, per student, is as follows:

Student Participant TOTAL - \$185.00	This package includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Four Meals• Festival T-Shirt• Festival Lanyard• Festival Drawstring Bag
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Registration and payment for Symphonic Celebration must be received by Friday, March 28th 2025, in order to confirm your participation in this year's event. All festival payments must be made through our payment website by credit card or debit card. **We cannot accept checks, money orders, or cash.**

All payments must be received on time! The payment website will automatically shut down at midnight on Friday, March 28, 2025. **Those students who have not completed and paid for their registration by the final deadline will be replaced with alternates.** Do not risk losing your spot in Symphonic Celebration; be sure to complete your online registration and payment information by the deadlines stated above!!

Students and Parents: Please be sure to check with your band director first on method of payment for the event. In some cases, schools may pay for this event through their booster club or school district. Once a payment has been received there will be **no refunds** unless there is an extenuating circumstance that is deemed acceptable by the Executive Director of Symphonic Celebration.

Surrounding Hotels

NOTE: Symphonic Celebration is NOT responsible for chaperoning participating students at night. Directors, Chaperones, and/or Parents must contact the hotel directly to make their housing arrangements (if needed). We will not be providing hotel blocks for students this year. For those wishing to stay at hotels, links have been provided embedded in the hotel name.

[Embassy Suites](#)

[Holiday Inn](#)

[Home 2 Suites](#)

ON-SITE REGISTRATION AND REQUIRED FORMS

Student on-site registration will take place in our School of Music Conference Center on Friday, May 2, 2025, from 11:00am until 1:00pm. Before registering all participants should have electronically filled out the Festival Guidelines/Photo and Video Release Form and the Medical Form. If those have not been submitted, you must bring signed copies to registration.

- Festival Guidelines/ Photo Release Form (*parent and band director signatures required*)
- Medical Form (*parent signature required*)

Required forms for this event are available under the student information section of our Symphonic Celebration website. Please make sure you have these documents completed, with signatures, when you report to on-site registration in the School of Music Conference Center. **Students will not be allowed to participate in the festival without these completed items.** Participants will receive their official ID badges, T-shirts and other gifts once their registration process has been completed.

MEALS AND DINING

All meals do come with a vegetarian and/or vegan option but will only be provided if this is indicated on the participants registration form. **NOTE:** All participants must remain on campus for meals during our event. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING

Participants are responsible for arranging their transportation to and from every event throughout the festival. Students, parents/chaperones, and directors who choose to be housed at our on-campus Embassy Suites can easily walk to and from the School of Music (approximately a 10-15 minute walk). Be sure to wear comfortable shoes and plan for multiple weather situations. Also, be sure to give yourself enough time every morning to prepare yourself for the day, including eating a healthy breakfast and a solid musical warm-up before rehearsals begin. Parking at Embassy Suites is free for registered guests.

Students, parents/chaperones, and directors who choose to be housed off campus will need to be sure to park in appropriate parking areas. USF Parking and Transportation Services enforce parking rules 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and Symphonic Celebration is not responsible for any parking tickets received during your time at USF. Daily Parking Permits are \$5.00 and are available through the ParkMobile app. Participants may also purchase a daily parking permit with cash at the Campus Information Center located off the main entrance to USF from Fowler Avenue.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING PARKING

Make sure you arrive early, especially on Friday as parking is very limited and spots fill up quickly in the morning academic hours.

ENSEMBLE CHAIR PLACEMENT AUDITIONS

Chair Placement Audition music will be made available to download from the Symphonic Celebration website beginning Friday, March 28, 2025. Requirements for the auditions include the downloaded excerpt, chromatic scale and concert F, Bb and Eb major scales. Please note that these auditions are for chair placements only and are not a determining factor in a student's participation in Symphonic Celebration. All students are required to go through the audition process.

Auditions for the 2025 Symphonic Celebration are being processed electronically. All participants are required to submit ONE complete video audition by Friday, April 11, 2025. The student must be clearly visible throughout the entire playing of the audition material and the highest quality audio/video recording is encouraged as these auditions determine your chair placement within our ensembles. Once you have successfully recorded your audition, students/directors are required to upload their video to a server of their choice (YouTube, Google Drive, Dropbox, etc.) and email the link to **usfsymphoniccelebration@gmail.com**. Important details for your email submission are as follows:

- **Email Subject:** SYC 2025 Chair Audition
- **Email Body:**
 - School Name
 - Student Name
 - Instrument
 - Band Director Name
 - Ensemble (Wind Band/Jazz Band)
 - Video Link

Students are encouraged to have their Band Director assist them with the audition process. Please be sure to follow the instructions accurately on each of the sheets listed below! Multiple videos will not be accepted from students. Those students who do not submit their video audition by 11:59pm on Friday, April 11, 2025, will automatically be placed last chair in an ensemble.

MASTERCLASSES

On the Saturday of Symphonic Celebration participants will attend a masterclass for their instrument led by our USF School of Music applied faculty, with additional participation by graduate and undergraduate students from their studios, members of the Florida Orchestra, Guest Artists and/or members of the Florida Wind Band. Please note that every master class is run differently and may or may not involve student participation. Participants should always bring their instruments with them just to be prepared.

PERFORMANCES

While attending Symphonic Celebration part of your time will be spent attending various performances hosted by our School of Music, including the USF Jazz Combo Concert and Bay Area Youth Winds Concert. In accordance with our attendance policy, which is enclosed in the Festival Guidelines Form, student participants must attend every concert. If you are not present at a concert you will be marked absent and may be asked to leave the festival.

CHAMBER ENSEMBLE CONCERT

As part of their musical expansion, all of our participants will be placed in a chamber ensemble related to their instrument (flute choir, trumpet choir, percussion choir, etc.). These ensembles will perform a final concert on Saturday, May 3, 2025, at 7:30pm in our School of Music Concert Hall. Performance attire for this event will be the personal shirt that students wear on Saturday, Blue Jeans, and closed toe shoes (sneakers are preferred). **This performance is closed to the public due to number of seats in the USF Concert Hall. The performances will be live-streamed, and the link will be sent out the day of the event.**

SYMPHONIC CELEBRATION WIND BAND CONCERT

Our Symphonic Celebration Concert, featuring each honor band, will be held on Sunday, May 3, 2025, in the School of Music Concert Hall. Performance times are as follows:

Jazz Band – 12:30pm

Wind Band - 1:30pm

Wind Band - 2:30pm

Each of our honor bands will perform one after the other, with a 15-20 minute intermission in between each performance to clear and reseal the concert hall. This is done to ensure every family member and band director can observe their students' performance. Each student will receive two tickets to their designated concert that will be available for pick-up by a family member at the box office on Sunday. Additional tickets will be available in limited quantities on a first come, first serve basis. All tickets to the Symphonic Celebration concert are **FREE** and are only available on Sunday, May 4, forty-five minutes before the bands scheduled performance.

Performance attire for Sunday's event will be Symphonic Celebration Festival Shirts, Black Dress-Style Pants, Black Socks, and Black Dress-Style Shoes.

SYMPHONIC CELEBRATION PACKING CHECKLIST

Print this document to check-off items as you pack

___ A folding wire music stand! Be sure to clearly label this with your full name! Please note that the School of Music will not provide music stands for rehearsals.

___ Completed forms sign electronically by parent/guardian. (This needs to be done BEFORE registering at festival)

___ Your instrument(s)! Yes, we have had people forget these before!

___ Wind Instrument Accessories: Reeds, Cork Grease, Valve Oil, Cleaning Swabs, Mouthpieces, Brass Mutes, Ligatures, etc. You never know what you might need, so plan accordingly.

___ Percussion Accessories: Our event will provide participants with all percussion instruments. Participants are required to bring their own sticks and mallets, preferably in a labeled bag.

___ Pencils: A musician's best friend. Never leave home without at least 3 of them.

___ 3 days of comfortable clothing. As a rule of thumb, if you are not allowed to wear it at your school, then you are not allowed to wear it during the festival. The weather and/or rehearsal areas may be chilly, so be sure to bring some warm clothes to layer.

___ Prescription Medication. Please let staff members at the on-site registration desk know what medications you are taking and be sure to list them on the back of your medical release form.

CONCERT ATTIRE:

Saturday Chamber Concert (05/03/25)	Sunday Wind/Jazz Band Concert (05/04/25)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Blue Jeans- Black or Brown Belt- Tennis Shoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Symphonic Celebration T-Shirt- Black Pants- Black Belt- Black Socks- Black Shoes

