

NORTH RALEIGH CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

September 23, 2025

What is the process for arrival and registration?

When you arrive to campus, enter up near the soccer field. Coming from 401/Louisburg Rd., it is the 1st entrance onto campus [turn right]; coming from Capital Blvd., it is the last entrance onto campus [turn left]. Follow the carline lanes all the way around the school to the canopies and drop off students/teachers/chaperones there. Students and chaperones should wait in the cafeteria while teachers only check in at the registration table in the front lobby. Buses and vans should exit back onto Perry Creek Road [turn left], re-enter campus up near the soccer fields and park in the upper lots.

What do we need for the registration check-in?

- Original music for judges with all measures numbered (3 sets for groups size 13+; 1 set for groups size 1-12)
- Group Bio form (optional) on your group(s) for each judge (3 for groups size 13+; 1 for groups size 1-12)

How/When do we receive our adjudication results?

You will pick up your envelopes of music, adjudication forms, certificates, and ribbons back at the registration table before you leave. Please be patient, as they will not be ready right away. Minimally, it will take 15-30 minutes after your performance to have everything ready for you. We ask that you wait to share your results with your students until after you exit the building, as it can be distracting to other students waiting outside of their performance venues.

- I will be sending out an online EVALUATION FORM to your email after the festival. Please take a few moments to complete and submit this back to me. I truly do read these and am always looking for ways to improve. Hopefully, some of your suggestions over the years have been implemented to make our festival more successful for all!

What about recorded comments – How do we receive those?

I will share those with you via Dropbox, so you will need a Dropbox account. My goal is to have those to you within a week. *Please note that due to time limitations in the Solo/Ensemble rooms and with the clinic element, those judges will not be recording comments – only brief written feedback, ratings and the clinic with instant feedback.

What percussion instruments will be available in the band venues?

Chimes, 1 bass drum, xylophone, bells and 4 timpani will be provided on stage for performance. There will also be an electric keyboard and drum kit on stage for jazz ensembles. None will be provided in the warm-up spaces or in the Solo/Ensemble performance room(s). If there is something specific you might need, please reach out to us...we may be able to provide that for you.

How many risers will there be in the choral venue?

There will be six 3-step choral risers with a back railing in the choir performance space in the MS Gym. (4 rows if you count the floor level) There will be sound shells behind the risers, an upright, acoustic piano and 1 music stand available. Note that all groups (13+) will be performing in this space. Solos/Small Ensembles/Large Ensembles will be performing in a different space without risers.

Which way do we enter the “stage” for the Choir Festival?

Your choir will enter from stage right, so when you leave the warm-up space, have the far right, last person on the top row (as you are looking at the choir) lead the group. (This is assuming you have your top row enter the risers first.)

Will there be pianos/keyboards in every room?

There will be an electric keyboard in the Instrumental Solo/Ensemble warm-up room(s) and performance space(s), as well as on stage in the Band venue. There will not be a keyboard in the Band warm-up space (13+). There will be an electric keyboard in the Choir and Vocal Solo/Ensemble warm-up rooms. There will be an upright, acoustic piano in both the Choir and Vocal Solo/Ensemble venues.

Do we have to bring our own music stands or will they be provided?

We do our best to provide enough stands in each venue (both warm-up and performance), however, please know that our stock is limited. Students may/will have to share in some circumstances, so please prepare them. If you are concerned, feel free to bring some of your own wire/collapsible stands. Just make sure to label them.

When do we pick up our lunches?

The cafeteria will have your lunches ready for you when you need them. They have the schedule and know which schools have ordered lunches. (Your lunch tickets will be at registration when you check in. I would recommend holding on to these tickets until your students are going through the line, and hand them out to them at that time.) Feel free to stop in and give them a specific time when your group/school plans to eat.

Please note: Lunches are not guaranteed unless you have:

- 1) submitted the names of your students/teachers/chaperones on the Lunch Order link, along with the # of lunches ordered for each person, AND**
- 2) paid using the online credit card link**

Is there storage available for our belongings?

Instrument storage is available in part of the HS Gym, right next to the Band warm-up space. There will be a teacher on duty to assist and watch over things. PLEASE make sure EVERYTHING is labeled, so your students end up with the correct cases, etc. Other than instrument storage, there is no designated location to leave belongings. Please leave all unnecessary items on the bus. NRCA is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Is there somewhere for our students to wait in between performances?

The cafeteria is the “holding area” for all groups. PLEASE make sure students are not left unattended. There should be enough teachers/chaperones to manage them.

Will there be food available for purchase?

Unless you ordered a “box” lunch ahead of time, there will not be extra boxed lunches. However, there may be a few extra sandwiches as well as snacks, chips, cookies, water, and some soft drinks available for cash purchase only.

Is there a hospitality room for directors?

Yes, there is a hospitality room for judges, directors, school coordinators and NRCA staff. It is located in the Elementary Workroom (ask any NRCA staff for directions). Unfortunately, we are not able to provide for parents and chaperones.

Are all performance venues open to the public?

Band/Orchestra (Sherrill Center for the Performing Arts) and Choir (MS Gym) performances are open to all. We encourage students to sit in and listen to our bands and choirs as they are able, but please have a chaperone with them to monitor. Solo & Ensemble performances are open but will have very limited capacity due to the size of the rooms and proximity to the judge. We ask that only directors and parents of the performers attend Solo & Ensemble performances.

Do all measures need to be numbered?

Yes. Please make sure to do this. It really helps your adjudicators to be able to pinpoint exact spots in the music on which to comment.

Does all music need to be memorized?

This is a requirement for all Choirs & Vocal Solos/Ensembles. Points will be deducted for not having your music memorized. It is not a requirement for Bands & Instrumental Solos/Ensembles.

Do I need to introduce my pieces to the judges/audience?

Yes, or you can have a student prepared to do it.

How long should I wait between pieces before continuing?

It is helpful to give the judges a little time between pieces so they can finish writing their comments and/or recording their comments. Typically, 30 seconds to a minute is good, although I like to look for confirmation from my judges. They will usually give you a “thumbs up” when they are ready to proceed.

How many pieces do my groups need to prepare?

Each Band/Orchestra/Choir (13+ students) needs to prepare two (2) pieces for adjudication by the judges. Bands/Orchestras may choose to perform a warmup piece (not to exceed 3 minutes) or scale that is optional and will not be adjudicated. Choirs may choose to perform a warmup scale that is optional and will not be adjudicated. Each Soloist/Small Ensemble/Large Ensemble needs to prepare one (1) piece for adjudication by the judge. Large Ensembles may choose to play/sing a warmup scale that is optional and will not be adjudicated. Small Ensembles and Soloists do not have this option.