

The 2023 University of Georgia Middle School Band Festival Final Information

ANNOUNCEMENTS: We will make critical **MidFest** announcements using our website: bands.uga.edu/midfest.

BALANCE DUE: Fees for all students should be paid before arrival but payments will be accepted at registration.

STUDENTS SHOULD BRING: In addition to items students will need for their overnight stay in Athens, each student should bring:

- Instruments
- All necessary accessories (reeds, mouthpieces, neck straps)
- Percussionists should bring sticks and mallets only.
- **Folding music stand with his/her name clearly marked.**
- Pencils
- Concert Attire (see **FINAL CONCERTS** below)

ARRIVAL: Directors and students should arrive at the School of Music on Thursday, December 7th between 3:00 and 6:30 PM. Directions will be available at the end of this document and at the **MidFest** website.

Car and van parking will be available at the Performing Arts Center (PAC) Deck near the School of Music. Parking is by car tag and is paid online only. Download the [ParkMobile app](#) and pay for deck parking. You must pay for each reentry so make sure to set your time accordingly. 20101 is the PAC deck zone. Students arriving by bus or any other vehicles (**taller than 6' 8"**) that cannot be parked in the parking deck must be dropped off at the Performing Arts Center loop. Buses will be parked at the soccer/softball complex.

Please note that PAC activities will prevent MidFest participants from entering the Performing Arts Center building on Thursday afternoon. Those parking in the PAC Deck will be directed to walk around the PAC to the School of Music.

CHECK-IN: Check-in will take place in the room 106 inside the band hall doors on the first floor of the School of Music. Directors should designate a single adult representative (**other than the bus driver**) to check in all of that school's students. *Other adults and students may wait in the 2nd floor lobby during this time.* If the group has not already paid, the adult who is checking the group in should have a check (payable to UGA Bands) or credit card for any remaining balance.

Please note that **all students from a school must check in together.** If a director will not be present, a head chaperone must be assigned. Please send head chaperone phone number and email to Rob Akridge (rakridge@uga.edu). That person will check in all students from that school. Any student who arrives at check-in without the rest of their school will kindly be asked to wait to check in until the remainder of the students from the school arrive. **You may NOT substitute students from another school when checking in!**

"NO-SHOWS": School representatives who have registered students for **MidFest** and subsequently cannot attend, for whatever reason, should contact our office immediately by email for a refund. "No shows" preclude others from attending. "No shows" will be billed for outstanding fees and will not be permitted to register or attend **MidFest** in the future until all fees have been paid. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding.

CANCELATIONS: **Canceling** after the deadline will forfeit the student's festival payment.

WEATHER EVENT: No one can predict poor weather however, due to administration fees, we are only able to refund half of the registration fees. Again, thank you for your understanding.

CAR/VAN PARKING: Parking is by car tag and is paid online only. Download the [ParkMobile app](#) and pay for deck parking. You must pay for each reentry so make sure to set your time accordingly. 20101 is the PAC deck zone.

Parking at the Classic Center will be via machines. Credit cards only and rates are: first 30 min. free, \$1.50 per hour (\$10 per day max). Directors may choose instead to pay to park on-street in Downtown Athens for Classic Center events at an hourly rate. Receipts are now available for much of the available downtown on-street parking (be careful crossing Thomas Street!).

BUS PARKING: We appreciate that bus transportation is convenient for schools with many attendees. However, our parking situation makes the use of buses inconvenient. **Directors are strongly encouraged to use car and light van transportation if at all possible.** Buses are permitted to drop students at the turnaround between the Performing Arts Center and School of Music, which is located in Lot E11 on River Road. Buses are also permitted to drop students in the parking lot behind the Foundry Street Ballrooms at the Classic Center. Bus (**including mini bus**) parking is NOT permitted on campus between 7:00 AM and 4:00PM on Thursday and Friday. Parking Services personnel will be present to ensure a steady flow of traffic in our parking lots. Cooperation with Parking Services personnel is critical to the future of this event and is appreciated. **Please make sure to have a bus driver other than the band director so the director can register students upon arrival.**

After students are dropped off, buses will be directed to the Jack Turner Soccer Complex (2330 S. Milledge Avenue). Directions are at the end of this document. Should you need a shuttle, call this number 15-30 minutes prior to your desired pickup: 706-542-1505.

AUDITION RESULTS: Results will be enclosed in the director packet at registration.

FEATURED BAND CONCERTS: The featured band concerts on Thursday night will be held in Hodgson Hall at the UGA Performing Arts Center. Students, directors, and chaperones not rehearsing in the Performing Arts Center should all enter the hall through the glass doors of the main lobby. Please note that instruments and instrument cases are not allowed in the seating areas or lobby of the Performing Arts Center under any circumstances.

Admission will be granted to badge-holding students, directors, and chaperones on a first-come-first-served basis. Guests without badges will not be admitted to the concerts. Guest Band friends and family members will be provided tickets to enter.

Directors are asked to seat all students from their school together in Hodgson Hall with no seats between students. Non-director chaperones will be issued badges for admission, but schools are encouraged to bring the minimum number of necessary persons into Hodgson Hall. The UGA Fire Marshal will not permit guests to stand during concerts.

DIRECTOR CLINICS: Please plan to attend any or all of these sessions, to be held in Room 412 in the School of Music.

Friday: 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

UGA Associate Director of Bands, **Dr. Jaclyn Hartenberger**
Chat with Jackie – Q & A session for all things band)

INSTRUMENT STORAGE: Between rehearsals, instruments may be returned to your hotel, stored in a vehicle, or stored in the rehearsal venues. Though rehearsal facilities will be locked between rehearsals, the safety of unattended instruments cannot be guaranteed. *The University of Georgia and the Classic Center are not responsible for the loss of any unattended belongings.*

TRANSPORTATION: When picking up students from the School of Music or Performing Arts Center, students may meet you at your vehicle in the PAC deck or may board your vehicle in the turnaround outside the Performing Arts Center lobby. When picking up students from the Classic Center Foundry Street Ballrooms, please proceed to the surface lot behind the ballrooms. Boarding or exiting vehicles is not permitted on Foundry Street or at the "horseshoe" on Thomas Street in front of the Classic Center main building.

LODGING: As indicated in the initial **MidFest** announcement, housing is the responsibility of the directors and chaperones. Several Athens hotel properties are listed in the announcement, including many who are offering special discounts to **MidFest** attendees. Should you have questions concerning the convenience of these properties, please feel free to contact UGA Bands at 706-542-1505. Please consider the festival schedule when planning your hotel check-in and check-out.

DINING: Directors are responsible for student meal arrangements. Some of the UGA services you may be accustomed to may not be open as normal during **MidFest**. If you wish to dine with your students at the Village Summit Dining Commons, you should visit their event page to make reservations and purchase tickets. The Red Clay Cafe, the a la carte counter service outlet on the first floor of the Joe Frank Harris Commons, will be available for Lunch on Friday.

FINAL CONCERTS: Call times for Saturday’s final concerts begin at 11:45am. Concerts take place from 12:30pm to 5:00pm in Hodgson Concert Hall at the Performing Arts Center. Students are strongly encouraged to contact their parents on Friday to let them know of their ensemble placement and their concert time. Due to safety concerns, we are unable to post ensemble placements online.

For the final concert, concert black for the students is preferred. If this is unavailable, students should dress for their final concerts as they would for a concert at their home school. Jeans, T-Shirts, hats, tennis shoes, and any other garments that draw undue attention to one’s self are not appropriate for the final concert.

Students may attend the concerts of other festival bands as their schedule allows. However, instruments and instrument cases are not allowed in Hodgson Hall or the Performing Arts Center lobby. Because of the size of the festival and limited seating availability in Hodgson Hall, parents are asked to attend only those concerts in which their children are performing.

FESTIVAL RULES: We want everyone who attends **MidFest** to have an enjoyable educational experience. To that end, the following rules will apply throughout the festival, on campus, and at the Classic Center. Please share these with all who will attend:

- Students may not smoke, drink, or be under the influence of drugs.
- Students must respect the property of festival students, staff, the University of Georgia, and the Classic Center.
 - Instruments and instrument cases may not be brought into the Performing Arts Center lobby or seating area.
 - Students must dispose of trash appropriately in all facilities, including restrooms.
 - Students will sit appropriately during events and avoid placing feet on walls, seats, or stage from the seating area.
 - Students will not bring food or drink into classroom, rehearsal, or performance areas.
- Students will treat others with respect, will use appropriate language, and will follow the instructions of festival staff.
- All concert attendees will silence mobile phones during attendance at all festival events.
- Students will arrive on-time to all festival events, and will remain attentive throughout. Students may not leave festival events unless they are under the supervision of a director or chaperone from their school.

SCHEDULE: A detailed schedule will be updated on the **MidFest** website as it develops. You will receive a final copy at check-in.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION:

• The University of Georgia Bands
250 River Road
Athens, Georgia 30602-7287
(706) 542-1505

• Athens-Clarke County Police
Emergency 911
Non-emergency (706) 613-3888

• The University of Georgia Police
Emergency 911
Non-emergency (706) 542-2200

• Classic Center
300 N. Thomas Street
Athens, Georgia 30601
(706) 208-0900

• St. Mary’s Health Care System
1230 Baxter Street
Athens, Georgia 30606
(706) 389-3000

• Athens Regional Medical Center
1199 Prince Avenue
Athens, Georgia 30606
(706) 475-7000

USEFUL WEB SITES:

• The University of Georgia Bands
bands.uga.edu/midfest
(Contains important **MidFest** information)

• The University of Georgia
uga.edu

• The Classic Center
classiccenter.com

• Athens Convention and Visitors Bureau
visitathensga.com

• Athens Downtown Development Authority
downtownathensga.com

TO CHECK-IN, HODGSON SCHOOL OF MUSIC

TRAVELING SOUTH TO ATHENS: Follow U.S. 29, GA 106, U.S.441, or U.S. 129 South to Athens. Each Joins GA 10 Loop (Athens Perimeter). Exit at College Station Road (Exit #7) and turn right. Turn right at the first light onto River Road. Stay right at the fork. Pass the School of Art and Hodgson School of Music, then turn left into Lot E-11. Continue uphill directly into PAC Deck.

TRAVELING NORTH TO ATHENS: Follow Highway 441 / 129 North to Athens. Each joins GA 10 Loop (Athens Perimeter). Take Loop 10 eastbound (Outer). Exit at College Station Road (Exit #7) and turn left. Turn right at the second light onto River Road. Stay right at the fork. Pass the School of Art and Hodgson School of Music, then turn left into Lot E-11. Continue uphill directly into PAC Deck.

TRAVELING EAST TO ATHENS: Travel east on U.S. 78 or GA 316 to Athens. If traveling on U.S. 78, exit onto GA 316 East. Turn right onto the Athens Perimeter (GA Loop 10) traveling East (There is a sign for the University of Georgia/Athens By-Pass at the junction of GA 316 and the 10 Loop). After approximately five miles on the Perimeter, exit onto College Station Road (Exit #7). Take a left onto College Station Road. Turn right at the second light onto River Road. Stay right at the fork. Pass the School of Art and Hodgson School of Music, then turn left into Lot E-11. Continue uphill directly into PAC Deck.

TRAVELING WEST TO ATHENS: Take U.S. 78 West to Athens. In Athens, travel under the Athens Perimeter (GA Loop 10) then take a left at the next traffic light onto the Perimeter going westbound. Exit the Perimeter at the next exit, which is College Station Road (Exit #7). Turn right onto College Station Road. Stay in the right lane and turn right at the first light.

FROM SCHOOL OF MUSIC TO BUS PARKING, JACK TURNER SOCCER COMPLEX (2330 S. Milledge Ave., Athens)

Exit Lot E-11 and turn right onto River Road. Merge onto the River Road Loop and remain in the right lane. At the crosswalk turn right past the Art School and Georgia Museum of Art. At the traffic light, turn left onto East Campus Road. Follow East Campus Road 1mile past College Station Road. At second traffic light, turn left on Milledge Avenue. Proceed 1.3 miles on Milledge Avenue, then turn right into the Jack Turner Soccer Complex.

FROM SCHOOL OF MUSIC TO FOUNDRY STREET BALLROOMS, CLASSIC CENTER (300 N. Thomas St., Athens)

Exit Lot E-11 and turn left onto River Road. At dead end, turn right onto East Campus Road. Follow East Campus Road through light at Williams/Baldwin Street (East Campus Road becomes Thomas Street here). At Broad Street, turn 90-degrees right onto East Broad (“Farmers” Building should be on your right at the end of the turn). Turn left immediately on Foundry Street. Pass by parking deck, under walkway, past brick buildings, then right into Classic Center Foundry Street Entrance. Proceed behind the building to the short staircase and glass doors. Students should enter here. If you wish to park here, enter the through the glass doors and purchase a Classic Center Parking Permit from the machine and display it as directed.