



Program Rules: College and Professional Band and Orchestra Ensembles Brass Bands

1. You will be able to reserve up to six (6) pieces on Wednesday, May 6 and up to twelve (12) additional pieces on Wednesday, May 20. You can have up to eighteen (18) pieces reserved at any time after that. All pieces you are considering for your concert program must be reserved. There will be two (2) confirmation periods where you will need to log into the music reservation system and confirm pieces you are still considering. If you fail to confirm your selections, they will be deleted from your reservation and available for other ensembles to select. Program drafts are due to your liaison by August 28. Your final program is to the Midwest Clinic Office by September 11.

2. Although your group will be onstage more than the actual playing time, time must be allowed for announcements, introductions, and changes of conductors. The titles you select **MUST** total your specific playing time. Our schedule does not allow for intermissions or encores.

When adding up the total music timing of your repertoire, please be aware of the time needed for set changes or changes of conductors. If you have multiple conductors or set changes, you may need to program less music to complete your concert on time. If your concert ending time arrives prior to the downbeat of the final piece on your program, you will not be allowed to play that work. Set/chair changes, should be practiced. This is especially important for the percussion section. It is also helpful to assign a backstage assistant for the purpose of directing entrance of guest conductors, thus eliminating an awkward silence and fomenting a smooth transition between selections.

Immediately following the end of your concert, it is imperative your percussion section remove all school instruments from the stage as quickly as possible so that the next ensemble may begin set-up on schedule.

3. Music performed at the Midwest in 2024 or 2025 cannot be played in 2026. This includes separate movements of the same piece, if they are only available in a single edition.

4. A composer can have only one manuscript programmed at The Midwest Clinic per year. The first of a composer's manuscripts that is reserved will be the one that is allowed, unless it is released by the director who reserved it.

5. Only two publishers may be represented twice on your program. All other publishers may only be represented once.

6. A composer or arranger may not be represented more than twice on your program.
7. Diversity in programming and performance is a key objective for the Midwest Clinic. We require your program to include at least two compositions by a composer from a historically marginalized group such as but not limited to women, Indigenous/Native, Black/African-American, Hispanic/Latinx, Asian American, and/or Pacific Islander. Your assigned liaison will provide guidance in your selection.
8. A living composer may not have more than six compositions featured during a Midwest Clinic. The first six compositions reserved will be allowed, unless a work is released by the director who reserved it.
6. All high school, youth, community, and adult concert bands are **required** to include a march on their concert. Please avoid over-simplified arrangements that compromise the integrity of the march. Middle school bands are encouraged to perform a march as well. For a list of recommended march composers, [CLICK HERE](#).
7. All college ensembles are required to perform one grade 3 or grade 4 piece from the catalog of an exhibiting publisher. For a list of new works by eligible publishers, go to: midwestclinic.org, select the Attendee Information menu at the top of the page, and then click on General Information. There should be a link to a page with new publications for consideration.
8. The selection of guest conductors is your decision. Organizations can have no more than five conductors, including the primary conductor, on their programs. In other words, you may have a total of four other conductors besides the regular conductor. We recommend that no conductor appear on more than two programs during the same year.
9. You may include your own student instrumental or vocal soloist or small ensemble.
10. Students not regularly enrolled in a school group may not perform with that group except as features.
11. A member of the Board of Directors has been assigned as your liaison. He or she will assist you as you plan your program and select your music. You can find your board liaison assignment by logging into your account on The Midwest Clinic website and clicking on the Performer Homepage.
12. Each director, in conjunction with the liaison, makes his or her own selection of music governed by the preceding policies. The Performance Coordinating Committee will examine all the programs and reserves the right to suggest possible additions or deletions, if necessary, to help balance and/or strengthen the clinic program.

Special Information About Planning Your Program

1. Most of our exhibiting publishers will send you complimentary reference scores for your selection of music. We urge you not to request complimentary full sets, as this may obligate you to play their works even if you change your mind before your final program is due. The publishers are eager for you to perform their music and will be happy to send you complimentary scores. If you want to see a full set before selecting a number, ask for a “loan” or “on approval” set from your music dealer or the publisher. When you have submitted your final program and it has been approved, and the publisher notified, most publishers will cancel the loan or approval charge and give you the set at no cost.
2. You will be approached by composers, arrangers, publishers, soloists, and conductors to program their potential releases with the promise they will be off the press by the September 11 deadline. Please do not promise to program a title that is not in print unless it is with the mutual understanding that if the score and parts are not finished on time by the deadline, a substitution will be made.
3. Music, guest conductors, and soloists cannot be added or changed after your final program has been approved.
4. Because of numerous requests and time constraints, it is not possible for any organization to make award presentations or announcements during your performance. The official Midwest Clinic plaque, certificates, and other awards given to each performing organization will be presented during your warm-up or at the end of your concert by a member of the Midwest Board of Directors.