



## 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, orchestras, and concert choirs with both competitive and non-competitive adjudication options. Specially selected, national adjudicators provide detailed, positive feedback to all ensembles through written and recorded comments, as well as personalized clinics following concert performances.

As one of the largest music festivals in the nation, participants have a great opportunity to meet other student musicians and attend performances of other ensembles. **Festival Disney** has hosted academic institutions from 47 states and numerous locations from around the world including Puerto Rico, the Cayman Islands, the Dominican Republic, Scotland, Canada, Brazil, and Japan.

The **National Association for Music Education** endorses *Disney Imagination Campus - Performing Arts*.

**Festival Disney** also fulfills many of the standards set forth in the new **National Core Arts Standards** in which students create, perform, respond, and connect. Click [here](#) to review the standards that align with a Festival Disney experience.

We are proud to provide an exceptional performance experience with **Ludwig/Musser** Percussion and **Glaesel** String Instruments from Conn-Selmer, Inc., the Official Instruments of *Disney Imagination Campus - Performing Arts*. Additionally, **Wenger** is the official acoustical and performance equipment of *Disney Imagination Campus - Performing Arts*.

To celebrate the accomplishments of all of the performers, **Festival Disney** concludes with an exciting, and uniquely-Disney, awards ceremony at the *Walt Disney World®* Resort.

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](http://www.FestivalDisney.com) or email us at [WDWFestivalDisney@Disney.com](mailto:WDWFestivalDisney@Disney.com).

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

### Disney Imagination Campus

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*Disney Imagination Campus - Performing Arts*



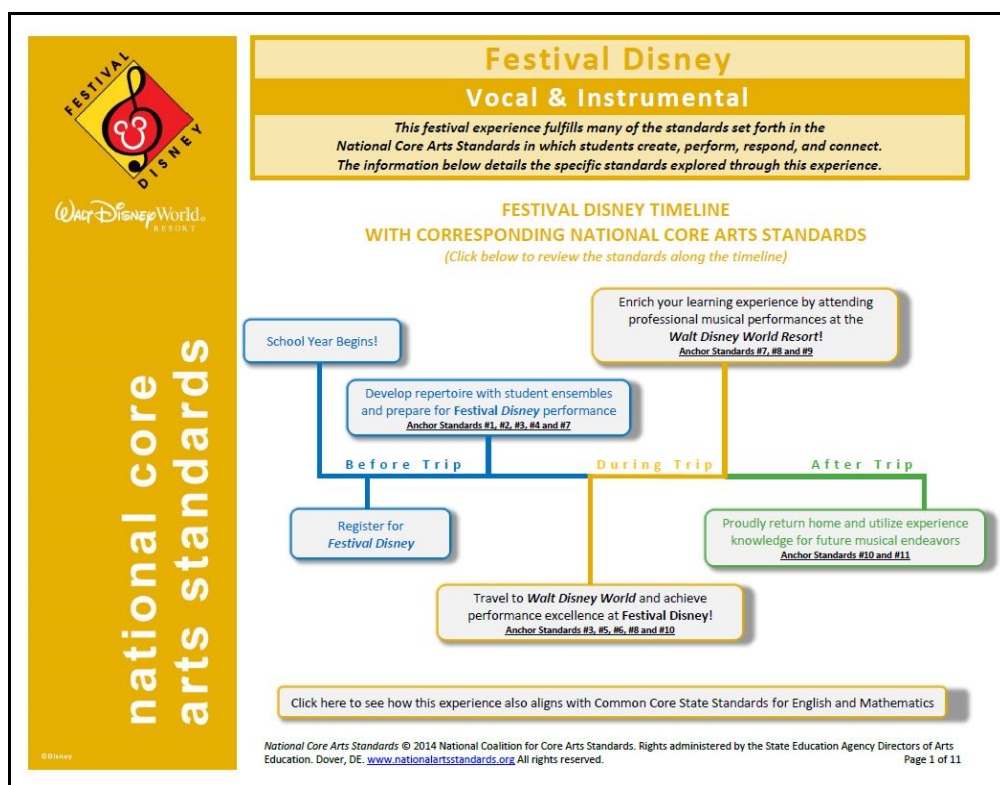
## Festival Disney and the National Core Arts Standards

The National Core Arts Standards were launched in June of 2014 by a coalition of educators and artistic associations (including NAFME – The National Association for Music Education). Last updated in 1994, these new standards are now being integrated into schools and programs around the country to help support artistic literacy as well as to help improve the quality of an American arts education.

For some school systems and educators, these standards will or have been adopted to drive the direction of their arts programs. For others, they can be used in conjunction with their own local state, city, and/or county standards. From lesson plans to field trip experiences and performances, teachers now have even more research and tools to maintain and expand the arts!

Disney Imagination Campus - Performing Arts is excited to share that Festival Disney fulfills many of the standards set forth in the new National Core Arts Standards in which students create, perform, respond, and connect. Additionally, the National Core Arts Standards were recently found by The College Board to correlate to many of the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics. Any Common Core standards that have a strong alignment to the National Core Arts Standards covered by a Disney Imagination Campus - Performing Arts experience have been identified as well. Teachers, administrators, and parents are encouraged to use these educational alignments to help initiate, validate, and support a Festival Disney experience!

To access the Festival Disney Overview, National Core Arts Standards alignments, and to register for the festival, you may visit: [www.Disneyurl.com/FestivalDisneyNationalCoreArtsStandards](http://www.Disneyurl.com/FestivalDisneyNationalCoreArtsStandards).





## **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.**

### CHORAL

Dr. Mitos Andaya Hart, Temple University  
Dr. Jerry Blackstone, University of Michigan  
Dr. Kevin Fenton, Florida State University  
Dr. John Flanery, New Mexico State University  
Dr. Hugh Floyd, Furman University  
Dr. William Powell, Auburn University  
Dr. Rosephanye Powell, Auburn University  
Dr. Russell Robinson, University of Florida  
Dr. Kathleen Shannon, West Virginia University  
Dr. Philip Silvey, Eastman School of Music  
Dr. John Sinclair, Rollins College  
Dr. Welborn Young, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

### INSTRUMENTAL

Prof. Keith Bearden, Texas Tech University  
Dr. Stephen Benham, Duquesne University  
Dr. George Brozak, Southern Illinois University  
Dr. Ken Dye, University of Notre Dame  
Dr. Richard Good, Auburn University  
Mr. Jeffrey Grogan, New Jersey Symphony Orchestra  
Prof. Joseph Hermann, Tennessee Tech University  
Dr. Willie Hill, University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Dr. Alex Jimenez, Florida State University  
Dr. William Malambri, Winthrop University  
Dr. Anthony Pursell, Tarleton State University  
Dr. Johnnie Vinson, Auburn University  
Mr. David Woodley, Indiana University



## 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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**