

34. FINE ARTS FESTIVALS

The purpose of AISA fine arts festivals is to bring students together for a non-competitive, collaborative event to explore the arts in a productive manner. Festivals are limited to AISA member schools.

a. Festival format

- AISA sponsors 3 honor music festivals, 1 each for band, choir and strings.
- Each festival is held at the same time at 3 separate locations unless an alternate arrangement is agreed upon by the AISA music faculty and ADs.
- Festivals include the top music students from all participating schools.

b. Purpose

- Festivals are designed to give a school's top musicians a chance to perform with other equally talented and dedicated musicians.
- In addition to providing a high quality musical experience, these festivals serve as an avenue for cultural exchange.
- Selection to participate in an AISA ensemble is considered an honor.

c. Repertoire selection deadline

- The host school will make all decisions regarding music to be performed.
- These decisions must be made and communicated to the other AISA music directors by January 15th of the academic year prior to the festival to allow the addition of this music to a school's annual academic purchase order.
- The host director is highly encouraged to discuss repertoire selection with all AISA music directors prior to making final decisions.

e. Repertoire purchase

- Legal copies of the repertoire music are purchased by each school for use by its own students at the AISA festival.

f. Guest conductor

- The guest conductor should be a musician whose different musical perspectives will provide a more rewarding educational experience for all involved.
- The host school is responsible for arranging the services of such an individual.

g. Accompanist (choral only)

- Choral festivals require a full-time accompanist.
- The host school is responsible for providing an accompanist.

h. Clinicians, local performers

- Many successful festivals include the participation of skilled musicians from the local community.
- Host schools are encouraged (though not required) to include performances or presentations from such individuals as part of the festival experience.

i. Facilities, equipment

- Host schools must provide appropriate equipment, instruments, and rehearsal and performance spaces to accommodate AISA ensembles. (See appendix I.)

j. Selection of festival participants / Instrumentation / Voicing

- Each school is allowed a maximum of 16 student participants.
- Choral directors are expected to send students in balanced quartets (SATB).
- The host school is responsible for creating a balanced ensemble, if necessary, by supplementing from its own program.
- Instrumental directors must consult directly with the host director regarding balanced instrumentation.
- Host schools have the final say in voicing/instrumentation decisions. Visiting directors are expected to honor such decisions.
- Host schools may use additional musicians (more than 16) if they are needed to create a balanced ensemble.
- Festival ensembles must be set at least 6 weeks in advance of the festival.
- Directors must e-mail a list of student names to the host school to allow for program printing, assigning homestay host families and purchasing festival shirts.

k. Preparedness

- It is the responsibility of each school to ensure that all students selected for an AISA music festival display a high level of both musical and personal maturity.
- Students should represent the best musicians and leaders from each school.
- It is the responsibility of each director to ensure that all students know the repertoire prior to the event. Students are expected to be able to perform their parts with confidence and accuracy before the festival begins.
- If the AISA festival repertoire is not being learned in the classroom, directors are strongly encouraged to facilitate AISA-specific rehearsals outside of class.

l. Visiting directors expectations

- The host director may ask visiting directors to submit repertoire recommendations during the year prior to a festival.
- The host director/AD will make all decisions regarding how visiting directors will assist at a festival. This could include running sectionals and/or group rehearsals, conducting, supervising or performing in one of the ensembles.
- Visiting directors are expected to take an active role in all aspects of the festival.
- All directors must be familiar enough with the festival repertoire to be able to run a sectional or conduct a full rehearsal if needed.

m. Concert dress

- Dress for AISA festival concerts is concert black.
- Men: black pants, black socks, black dress shoes, white dress shirt, black belt
- Women: black pants/skirt (knee length or longer), white dress shirt (no tank tops), black dress shoes with socks/stockings as appropriate.
- No bare legs or open toed shoes.
- No t-shirts or polo shirts.

n. Festival program

- The host school is responsible for producing an AISA festival program which includes relevant information such as concert program, musical background, festival schedule, group photos, student names, and contact information.
- The host school prepares festival shirts for sale to all participants.

Association of International Schools in Asia

AISA Fine Arts Festival Organization

Schools hosting a music festival may find this information useful.

Schools hosting a CHOIR FESTIVAL should provide a minimum of:

1 large performance space (can double as large rehearsal space)

- risers to comfortably accommodate a choir of at least 64 singers.
- grand piano (tuned immediately prior to the festival and in good working order)
- microphones / sound system / recording capabilities
- space for students to change / leave backpacks, etc., during performance
- seating for at least 200 audience members

1 large rehearsal space

- seating for at least 64 singers
- piano (tuned immediately prior to the festival and in good working order)

3 small rehearsal spaces

- piano/keyboard in each space
- large enough to accommodate at least 16 students

Area for snacks / student congregation / director lounge

AISA Fine Arts Festival Schedule

In general, AISA music festivals follow the schedule below.

Thursday

- 17:00 – 19:00 First rehearsal / read through / pass out t-shirts and booklets
- 19:30 Meet host families, late dinner

Friday

Students should wear festival t-shirt.

- 08:00 – 09:30 Rehearsal / Sectionals / Chair Auditions / Solo Auditions
- 09:30 – 10:00 Break (snacks, drinks provided by host school)
- 10:00 – 11:30 Rehearsal / Sectionals
- 11:30 – 12:30 Lunch
- 12:30 – 15:00 Rehearsal / Sectionals / Clinician performance or presentation.
- 15:00 – 15:30 Break (snacks, drinks provided by host school)
- 15:30 – 16:30 Full rehearsal
- 16:30 – 21:00 Student cultural exchange, director social
- 21:00 Students meet host families

Saturday

- 10:00 – 12:00 Technical rehearsal in performance venue
- 12:00 – 14:00 Lunch, student social time, photos, director meeting
- 14:00 – 16:00 Final rehearsal
- 16:00 – 17:00 Change for concert
- 17:00 – 18:00 AISA FESTIVAL CONCERT**
- 18:00 – 20:00 AISA banquet (location determined by host school)
- 20:00 Students meet host families

Sunday

In-country travel, sightseeing at discretion and expense of individual schools.
Return home.