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A Division of Alabama Music Educators Association

January 26, 2026

Dear School Principals and Administrative Staff,

On February 12 through 15, 2026, the Alabama Orchestra Association, a Division of the Alabama Music Educators Association and National Association for Music Education, will bring together outstanding young musicians from all over the state to the Alabama All-State Orchestra Festival. All participating students have been screened through a rigorous audition process and selected for their serious achievement in the field of orchestral music.

Each student is sponsored by an active teaching member of the Alabama Music Educators Association and participates in his/her school orchestra or band where such programs are available. These students have each spent many hours in advance preparing the music to be performed and come together to participate in a demanding schedule of seating auditions, orchestra rehearsals, and sectional coaching sessions over the four days of the festival (in addition to premiering a new composition by a national, award-winner composer).

Being able to perform in a larger group of students is highly motivating and educational. Students will be reinforced in their achievement and become more energized to continue performing. This educational experience is a benefit to them, the communities they live in, and the school programs they will return to and perform with.

Festival orchestras are conducted by outstanding teachers from across the nation selected for excellence in working with school-age students. Sectional coaches are all highly qualified specialists in their orchestra instrument. These sectional coaches are made up of our many talented teachers here in the State of Alabama.

Please excuse students and teachers participating in this valuable educational experience.

Sincerely,

Jordan Kirchner-Ford

Jordan Kirchner-Ford
President, Alabama Orchestra Association

www.alabamaorchestraassociation.org

Jordan Kirchner-Ford, President
654 Chelsea Station Circle, Chelsea, AL 35043
865-399-3865
jkirchner.1223@gmail.com

Anna Marie Tysinger, Executive Director
102 Richberry Drive, Dothan, Alabama 36301
334-655-1066
executivedirector@alabamaorchestraassociation.org