



**44th Annual Frank Mantooth
Jazz Festival
at New Trier High School
Saturday, Feb 6, 2027**

DIRECTOR INFORMATION & FESTIVAL GUIDELINES ~ 2027 - Updated 09/24/26

REGISTRATION FORMS MAY BE SUBMITTED ONLINE BEGINNING AT 8:00 a.m. CST on TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6th, 2026 AND WILL CONTINUE UNTIL ALL 45 PERFORMANCE SPACES ARE FILLED. AN ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK WILL APPEAR ON WWW.NTJAZZ.COM AT THAT TIME. A waiting list will be maintained and posted for groups that enroll after all the performance spaces are filled.

Our festival's purpose is to provide a positive, **noncompetitive** educational experience for you and your students. Historically our festival has prioritized the participation of "second bands" or "first and only" bands that typically do not participate at competitive festivals. No director should disqualify their ensemble from participation in our festival because they feel the group is not good enough. We leave it to the directors to decide if their "1st and only" band is right for our festival.

Participating schools may bring two or three bands, provided none of these bands are your school's "top" competitive band. To provide a festival experience for as many schools as possible, a school's second and third bands will be accepted after registration has been open for 24 hours. After 24 hours, priority for remaining performance spots will be determined on a first come, first serve basis. The first schools to register will be invited to bring additional bands as space permits.

Each participating school will be invited to bring one combo per participating band to perform for a combo clinician. However, combo space is limited, and we cannot guarantee that we'll be able to accommodate all combos. Combos will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

REGULAR FESTIVAL FEATURES

- A video recording of your band performance if you perform in the **Gaffney Auditorium (posted to our Youtube channel)**. Auditorium performances are recorded in stereo using more than 20 microphones and four camera angles. Bands performing in the auditorium will be broadcast LIVE on cable television and our webcast.
- Every ensemble will receive a private clinic with an outstanding jazz educator, along with an audio file of their comments during your performance.
- If your band performs on the main stage you will use our drum set, bass amp, guitar amp, vibraphone, and piano, as well as timbales and congas. **All schools must bring their own cymbals.** Please let me know if you have specific Latin percussion needs.
- If your band plays in a location other than our main stage, we will provide a drum set, piano, guitar amp, and bass amp. Bands must bring cymbals and any Latin percussion.
- Bands are strongly encouraged, but not required to stay for the evening concert featuring **The Maria Schneider Orchestra**. Please encourage your students to clear their schedules for the entire day.
- **Two** big band sight-reading sessions for junior high and high school musicians.
- **Student Jam Session** hosted by MYAC Jazz Faculty
- Special Interest Clinics on topics designed for developing jazz students.
- Instrumental master classes taught by members of **The Maria Schneider Orchestra**.

- Noon concert featuring Constantine Alexander's Firetet!
- A *Directors Big Band* comprised of our guest directors will perform on stage in the afternoon.
- The *Women In Jazz Dinner* - free to all young women participating in our festival, featuring an inspiring group of professional women jazz musicians.

PARTICIPATION FEES

- \$275 if you perform in Gaffney Auditorium (Main Stage).
OR
- \$250 if you perform any place other than the main stage.

Directors will be invoiced for their participation fees once the performance schedule has been created. Participation Fees will be due Friday, November 6th.

- NOTE: Ensembles who withdraw after MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2026 will forfeit their entire entrance fee.

EVENING CONCERT TICKETS

Performing students and chaperones participating in the day's activities are eligible to purchase \$30 tickets to the evening concert if ordered by Friday, November 6th. Each director will receive one complimentary ticket. Tickets for non-performing students and additional adults will be \$45 each if ordered on the online application form. Directors will be invoiced for their tickets, and payment will be due on Friday, Dec 4th. We are expecting this concert to sell out!

Format of our 44th Annual Frank Mantooth Jazz Festival at New Trier High School:

Each jazz ensemble is encouraged to play three pieces, or about 20 minutes of music. This will leave you with 30 minutes for your clinic. You do not need to bring scores for your clinician, but you may if you'd like.

Performance Locations:

Gaffney Auditorium (Main Stage) - 1,500 seat auditorium. Bands warm up in a separate location. Your band will perform for two clinicians and will receive two clinician comment audio files, as well as one performance video file. Your band will move to a different location to have a clinic with one of the two clinicians who heard your performance. Bands must perform using the traditional stacked horn setup, and will use New Trier's bass amp, guitar amp, drum set, vibraphones, and timbales. Students must bring their own cymbals and other Latin percussion. Only one band per school will be scheduled to perform in Gaffney Auditorium. Bands performing in Gaffney Auditorium must have 12 or more members.

McGee Theater - 240 seat auditorium. Bands warm up in a separate location. No sound system, but a great sounding space. Your band will perform for one clinician and then stay in the McGee Theater for your clinic. Bands must provide cymbals and all Latin percussion. We will provide a baby grand piano, drum set and hardware, and guitar and bass amps. We can provide a set of vibes and a small PA for vocalist if needed.

Black Box Theater - typical black box theater space with high ceilings. Bands warm up in a separate location. Bands must provide cymbals and all Latin percussion. We will provide a piano, drum set and hardware, and guitar and bass amps. We can provide a set of vibes and a small PA for vocalist if needed.

Orchestra Room - A very large space with high ceilings. Bands warm up in a separate location. Bands must provide cymbals and all Latin percussion. We will provide a baby grand piano, drum set and hardware, and guitar and bass amps. We can provide a set of vibes and a small PA for vocalist if needed.

Conference Rooms - Large meeting spaces on the third and fourth floors of our new building, fully accessible by elevator. Bands must provide cymbals and all Latin percussion. We will provide a piano, drum set and hardware, and guitar and bass amps. We can provide a set of vibes and a small PA for vocalist if needed.

Each participating school will be invited to bring one combo per participating band to perform for a combo clinician. However, combo space is limited and we cannot guarantee that we'll be able to accommodate all combos. Combos will be given performance times on a first come, first served basis.

General schedule for the day (tentative):

8:00 AM	Grab and Go breakfast sold in student cafeteria
8:30 AM	visiting school bands begin performing
10:15 - 1:45 AM	Jam Session hosted by MYAC Jazz Faculty
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Lunch available for purchase (directors receive complimentary lunch)
12:00 PM	Constantine Alexander's Firetet!
12:40 PM	Special Interest Clinic and High School Sight-Reading Band
1:40 PM	Special Interest Clinic and Junior High Sight-Reading Band
2:45 PM	Jazz Director's Big Band
3:00 PM	Master Classes with the sections of the Maria Schneider Orchestra
4:30 PM	bands depart for dinner
5:00 PM	Women in Jazz Dinner in our cafeteria
6:30 PM	Auditorium Doors Open
7:00 PM	Evening concert with New Trier's Jazz Ensemble 1 followed by <i>The Maria Schneider Orchestra</i>

Complete the [online application](#) beginning at **8:00am on October 6th**.

Email questions to nicmeyermusic@gmail.com

Looking forward to a great festival!

Nic Meyer
Director of Jazz Ensembles

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