# 2027 INFORMATION BOOKLET

Orchestra April 21-23, 2027

Band/Choir April 22-24, 2027
Grand Junction, Colorado

102nd Annual Festival Co-Sponsored by:

School District 51
MESA COUNTY VALLEY
*Every student, every day, learning for life!*

and

Colorado Mesa University

## OFFICIAL WELCOME

The City of Grand Junction and Mesa County Valley School District 51 extend to each of you a sincere welcome to our community. It is our wish that you realize a valuable musical experience and a lasting personal enjoyment as a result of participating in the Colorado West Music Invitational Festival.

## Check List for Directors

- ✔ Have you noted the deadline date for entry to be sent?
- ✔ Have you carefully and correctly typed the entry form?
- ✔ Have you arranged for transportation of students and instruments to the festival site?
- ✔ Have you notified your fellow teachers of any student absences resulting from this contest?
- ✔ Have you provided for the necessary adult supervision of students during the activity?
- ✔ Have you arranged to provide three original scores of music, with measures numbered, to adjudicators?

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

**IT IS CRITICAL THAT ENTRY FORMS BE SUBMIT BY JANUARY 15, 2027.**
****FOR OUT-OF-DISTRICT PARTICIPANTS, PLEASE USE THE ELECTRONIC ENTRY FORM ON OUR WEBSITE**

This will enable us to get the schedule to you on time. PLEASE include all appropriate information on the entry form. Indicate which students will be performing in more than one group. NO CHANGES to any portion of the entry form including classification, comments only, etc. can be made after March 10.

****If you have not heard back from our office a week after the entry deadline, please contact us because we might not have received your entry!!****

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **The Colorado West is officially a CBA Middle School Band Sanctioned Regional Festival.**
- **Observing other performing ensembles is strongly encouraged!**
- **THERE WILL BE NO REFUNDS OF ENTRIES PAID**

**Registration Desk:** There will be a welcome desk at each location. Someone will greet you when you arrive at your site. Please pick up your judge's packet at this desk after your performance.

**Music Scores Numbered:** Directors performing with concert groups such as concert band, orchestra, mixed chorus, etc., must have original music scores available for all three (3) judges. The judges will need scores for each selection performed. Directors must number the measures of these scores for the convenience of the judges. Remember, if illegal photocopies are used your group will not be rated. No scores are needed for Jazz Band events; however, Jazz Choirs need to have scores for their judges.

**Literature:** There is no required literature except that music should be suitable for festival performance and

demonstrate a variety of musical styles. Directors should plan to perform two contrasting style selections for instrumental and three contrasting style selections for vocal **not to exceed a total of 15 minutes** of performance time. This will allow enough time for your ensemble to have a short clinic by the judging panel. The music should be an appropriate level of difficulty for your ensemble.

**General Scheduling:** Unless special requests are made and/or time doesn't permit

a. Wednesday – orchestra events as needed for scheduling
b. Thursday - middle school concert events
c. Friday - high school concert events, middle school jazz/show events
d. Saturday– high school jazz/show events
e. ** Requests to accommodate special circumstances will be considered depending on availability. Please list these requests on your entry form and contact the Music Education Office with your requests as soon as you can before the scheduling begins. Priorities are given to groups with performance scheduling conflicts. Performance time requests to accommodate "fun or social activities" will most likely not be considered due to the size of the festival.

**Ensemble Size:** There are no limitations regarding the number of students performing within any of the large concert groups with the exception of chamber orchestra, which is limited to a maximum of 20 students.

**Final Ratings:** All events will be judged and/or critiqued by a panel of three professional music festival adjudicators. Competitive large group concert performances will receive a final SUPERIOR (I), EXCELLENT (II), GOOD (III), FAIR (IV), or UNPREPARED (V) rating tabulated from the judges' ratings. The final rating for each competing ensemble will be based on the tabulation of evaluations submitted by each judge. See the Standard CHSAA Final Rating tally sheets listed below. This event will also include any schools that have chosen to be non-competitive. These groups will perform for comments only. They will not be competing for awards. When any two judges agree on a rating, that becomes the final rating. i.e. I-I-III Final rating is a I. Once SCHEDULING is completed, your group may not switch between competitive and non- competitive or vice versa.

**Other Combinations:**

| Judge 1 | Judge 2 | Judge 3 | Final Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| I | II | III | II |
| I | II | IV | II |
| I | II | V | III |
| I | III | IV | III |
| I | III | V | III |
| I | IV | V | IV |
| II | III | IV | III |
| II | III | V | IV |
| II | IV | V | IV |
| III | IV | V | IV |

**Warm up:** For each participating ensemble there will be 30 minutes of time prior to the performance allotted in the assigned warm up room. Groups performing first thing in the morning or after a break in the schedule (lunch or a break) may warm-up in their performance center.

**Performance Time Limit:** All performances will have a maximum total time limit of 30 minutes including setup, performance, clinic, and exit. It is the choice of the director as to the length of the performance but keep in mind a long performance will mean a shortened or eliminated clinic.

**High School Classification:** High school ensembles- concert band, chamber orchestra, full orchestra, mixed choir, treble choir, tenor/bass choir, show choir, jazz bands and jazz choirs shall participate in festival events in classes according to the following enrollment schedule *(enrollment number should be taken from the current school year October enrollment count).* These classifications are based on a four-year high school. Three-year high schools must adjust their enrollment upward by adding 1/4 of their three-year enrollment figure to arrive at their correct classification figure.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Class IA-2A** | **1-271** |
| **Class 3A** | **272-618** |
| **Class 4A** | **619-1391** |
| **Class 5A** | **1392-Above** |

**Middle School and Junior High Classification:** Middle school and junior high classifications will be according to the chart above. A "J" will be used for junior high ensembles and an "M" will be used for middle school ensembles. Please mark your entry form accordingly.

**Classification Option:** Concert ensembles may appear in classifications higher than that for which they are qualified. No ensemble may appear in a lower enrollment classification than that for which they are qualified, unless a school enters two similar ensembles. In this situation the less accomplished ensemble may move down one classification provided there is no duplication of personnel.

**Ratings Posted:** Ratings will be posted near the performance site shortly after the conclusion of each performing ensemble. The total number of points will not be posted.

**After Your Performance:** Directors pick up your music scores. If you have to leave for another performance, please return or send a representative to retrieve your music. All judges' comments and ratings will be uploaded to your Competition Suite account that you establish when you register for the festival.

## PERFORMING AREAS

**Performing Area**
Recital Hall- CMU Moss Performing Center - North Entrance
Room- University Center – South entrance
Palisade High School
Central High School
Grand Junction High School

**Warm-Up Area**
Choir Room MPAC 006- follow signs
Second floor follow signs
Band Room-follow signs
Band Room-follow signs
Band Room-follow signs

**Storage Room**
Recital Hall- in practice area hallways; additional storage TBD
Ball Room -second floor University Center follow signs
Palisade High School- gym, follow signs
Central High School- choir room, follow signs
Grand Junction High School- orchestra room, follow signs

## EQUIPMENT

**Special requests for equipment must be made to the music office two weeks prior to the festival. This includes equipment or instruments listed on the equipment list below.**

Please bring a "set up" diagram with you. A sample form is provided in this document. During warm up, you will be asked for set up instructions and your judge's scores. The judge's rating sheets have been filled out and

provided to the judges for your performance.

1. **Equipment Available on Stage for All Concert Band and Orchestra Events**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Chairs | Set of Chimes | Set of Four Timpani |
| Music Stands | Bass Drum and Stand | Xylophone |
| Grand Marimba | Vibraphone | Orchestra Bells |
| Tam-Tam | Piano (notify Music Office 7 days prior to the event) | |

- Directors must bring their own snare drums and sticks, cymbals, bass drum beater, and miscellaneous percussion equipment
- The warm-up room will have chairs and stands only
- Risers will not be used on the stage or in the warm-up room for concert bands and orchestras

2. **Equipment at Colorado Mesa University for All Concert Choirs**

Risers, piano, podium and stand- no microphones are available. Storage and warm up areas (see above in Performing Areas)

**Recital Hall- Colorado Mesa University Moss Performing Arts Center**
Stage dimensions for Jazz and Show choirs are 31 ft. long, 24 ft. deep.

3. **Equipment at Colorado Mesa for All Jazz Choir Events-**

**Recital Hall**: **Colorado Mesa University Moss Performing Arts Center**

| **Equipment on Stage:** | **Equipment for Warm-Up** |
|---|---|
| Sound system | Piano |
| Four microphones | Music stands |
| Piano | |
| Risers | |

Jazz and Show choirs. A drum set will be available to use in the Recital Hall. Each group however, must bring their own cymbals. (Cymbal stands will be provided)

Please note on your entry form any special needs that you may have. This would include a request for any electronic device that needs to plug into the sound system, such as an iPod or laptop.

**Equipment on stage for Jazz Band Competition**

Jazz directors may bring any equipment or props they wish to use. The host will be providing the sound equipment for both Jazz band and Jazz choirs including four solo microphones. A piano and proper lighting will be provided. The time limit is 30 minutes for set up, performance, and tear down.

**Equipment on Stage**

| | |
|---|---|
| Drum Set | Bass Amp |
| Guitar Amp | Vibraphone |
| Piano/Keyboard | 5- microphones |

## AWARDS

- All ensembles receiving a "Superior" rating will receive a certificate of redemption for a plaque. The form will need to be completed by the director of the group and faxed/emailed to Lasting Impressions by May 1 to be valid. The form will be placed in the final judge's packet at the end of each performance.

- Plaques will be awarded to all high school performing groups selected as "Outstanding" in each classification among those receiving a Superior rating. This includes both concert and jazz ensembles. This will be done at the first scheduled break following the conclusion of the division. (**If there are no superior ratings, an outstanding group will not be selected).**

***ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS AND RATINGS-** Final results will be emailed within four (4) days after the completion of the Festival.

## DIRECTIONS AND PARKING

A. GRAND JUNCTION HIGH SCHOOL – 1400 N. 5th STREET

Buses may pick up, drop off, and park in the bus loop at 7th Street and Elm. Additional parking is available in the student parking lot at 5th Street and along the east side of the main gym near the bus loop. Students and directors can enter through Door 31, located off the bus loop on the south side of the building. Please do not enter through the Main Entrance.

B. CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL- 550 Warrior Way

Buses enter Central High School at the light on E ½ Road. Turn north and follow the traffic flow in front of the school where you can let the students off on the south side of CHS. The auditorium and choir room (used for storage) can be found on your left after entering the main entrance and passing the front offices. The band and vocal room and the auxiliary gym will be used for warm-up and/or storage. Buses will then proceed back to the light. Turn left on E ½ Road and proceed to the three-way stop. Turn left on 31 ½ Road and go up to Grand Mesa Middle School. Turn left and follow the parking lot to the parking area at the far end. If the groups leave between 11:00am and 12:30pm, it would be best if the students walk around the school and return to the buses at Grand Mesa Middle School since high school traffic is a problem. BUSES PLEASE DO NOT PARK AT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL.

C. PALISADE HIGH SCHOOL- 3679 G ROAD

Buses should unload students in front of the building and then go directly south towards the dirt parking lot to park the buses. Enter through the doors in the front of the building, check in at the table in the lobby, and go to the gym for storage. DO NOT PLAY HERE! Follow the signs to the band room for warm-up. Performances will take place in the auditorium. Only park in the visitor parking- DO NOT use assigned staff parking spaces.

D. COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY- 1100 North Avenue

Please refer to the CMU Parking Map (also attached below) for parking lot locations. Anyone driving personal vehicles can park in any commuter lot (dark red on the map, labelled CP#) April 23-24 without getting ticketed.

Students arriving on buses need to be dropped off at the CP9 commuter lot (as in the past). The best place to pull up is the south end of the lot. After drop off, all buses, short buses, and vans will need to park in the M10 lot or behind (to the east of) the True Value/RiteAid building on the corner of Orchard and 12th Street.

E. SCHOOL IN SESSION- HOMEROOM AREA

Classes will be in session at Grand Junction High School, Central High School, Palisade High School and Colorado Mesa University during the festival. Please respect these facilities and keep the noise level down. With classes being in session at these schools it eliminates the possibility of individual homeroom assignments and causes some parking and security problems. However, it provides the advantage of student body participation in contest sessions.

F. SECURITY

School District 51 is not responsible for the protection of your equipment during the festival and cannot accept financial obligation for any material losses. School insurance does not cover the loss of privately owned property from any area within our buildings. It is strongly recommended that all equipment be returned to and locked in school buses between performances or that chaperones are assigned to watch equipment.

G. DISCIPLINE

Schools are subject to their ratings being removed or dropped one level if this becomes a problem with the students misbehaving and causing a commotion during the festival. It is the responsibility of each director to supervise their students and to make sure that they are following proper festival etiquette.

H. BALLOTS

All ballots are completed for you and will be located at the judges' assistant table for you to pick up after the judge's clinic. You will receive a packet containing the judging sheets and other pertinent information. All judge's recordings will be available through Google Drive.

I. STUDENTS, DIRECTORS, AND JUDGE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

We ask that students, directors, and judges place a high priority on being prompt and function within the schedules as published in this program. To accommodate all schools requesting entrance into the festival it is necessary to follow a very tight and demanding performance schedule. Your cooperation in this regard at previous festivals provided very smooth flowing programs. We hope your efforts will allow this festival to operate equally well. **We also encourage groups to observe and support other performing ensembles.** Thank you!

J. MEALS

There are several fast-food businesses on North Avenue near Grand Junction High School and Colorado Mesa University. Also, there are several fast-food outlets in the Clifton area not far from Central and Palisade High School. The students will **not** be able to eat lunch at the high schools.

# Instrumental Set Up

(Choose One)

## Straight Instrumental Ensemble Layout

# of percussion chairs_____ # of percussion stands_____

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Percussion set up (see below)

# of chairs for row 4_ _____ # of stands for row 4_ # of chairs for row 3_ _____ # of stands for row 3__ # of chairs for row 2_ _____ # of stands for row 2__ # of chairs for row 1_ _____ # of stands for row 1

## Curved Instrumental Ensemble Layout

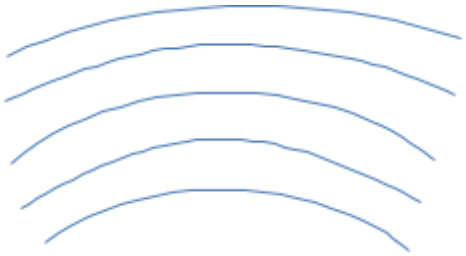
# of percussion chairs

# of percussion stands_____

Percussion set up (see below)

# of chairs for row 5_ # of chairs for row 4___ # of chairs for row 3___ # of chairs for row 2___ # of chairs for row 1

# of stands for row 5_ # of stands for row 4___ # of stands for row 3___ # of stands for row 2___ # of stands for row 1

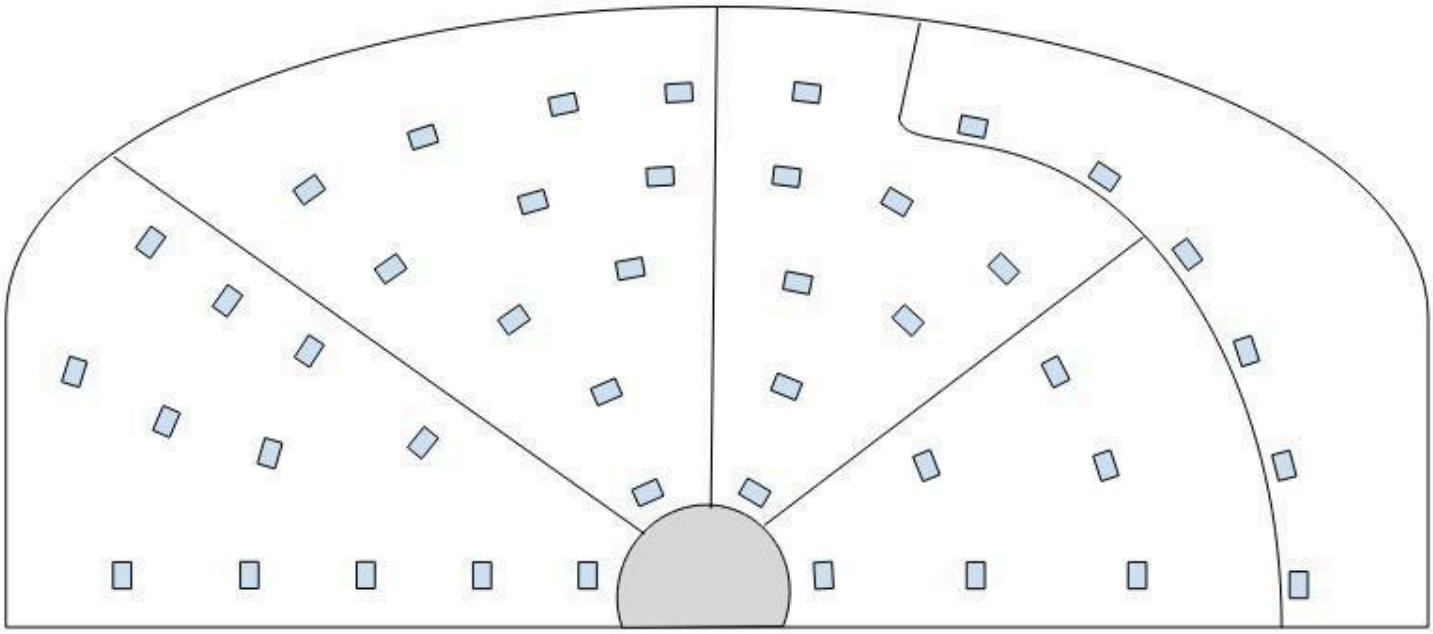


| Percussion Set Up- Use the numbers indicated in the blanks to arrange the general location | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Chimes | Marimba | Vibes | Xylophone | Bells | Bass Drum | Timpani |

# Colorado West Festival
# Orchestra Seating Chart

School: _____
Director:_____
Performance Time: _____

**TOTAL NUMBER**
Chairs: _____
Stands: _____



*Indicate which stands you would like to use with a highlighter. Add more if needed.*

**TOTAL FOR EACH SECTION**

Violin I: _____ Violin II: _____
Viola: _____ Cello: __

*Cello boards will be supplied*

Bass:_____
*Tall & short stools are available*

Piano Needed: _____
*Clavinova or Baby Grand available*

Percussion Needed: _____

_____

_____

Special Instructions: _____

_____

_____

# Jazz Band Set Up

Cross out what you don't need - add additional symbols as needed S-Stand C-Chair
Place an M where you would like a microphone placed

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SET | Bass | S | S | S | S | S | S | SET | Bass |
| Piano- | Guitar | CS | CS | CS | CS | CS | CS | Guitar- | Piano |
| | | CS | CS | CS | CS | CS | CS | | |

# Master of Ceremonies Announcer "Script"

*Please fill out this form clearly and hand it to the assistant along with your music scores before your performance.*

The performance group at this time is:

From: _____

Class: _____

Their selections for today will be:

_____, written or arranged by: _____

_____, written or arranged by: _____

_____, written or arranged by: _____

The _____ is directed by:

(Name of Ensemble)

_____

EXAMPLE:

The performance group at this time is: South High symphonic Banjo Ensemble
From: Podunk, Colorado
Class: 1A

Their selections for today will be:
"I am So Lonely", written and arranged by Sweet 16
"Take Me Home", written or arranged by Sour 16

The South High Symphonic Banjo Ensemble is directed by Dr. I.M. Great

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Kathy Joseph, Music Coordinator
Kathy.Joseph@d51schools.org
Mesa County Valley School District 51
970.254.6508
Or
Rachel Newbold, Administrative Assistant
970.254.6507
rnewbold@d51schools.org

Mesa County Valley School District 51
Music Office
543 28 ¾ Road
Grand Junction,
CO 81501

Colorado Mesa University
1100 North 12th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Grand Junction High School
1400 North 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Central High School
550 Warrior Way
Grand Junction, CO 81504

Palisade High School
3678 G Road
Palisade, CO 81526

# COLORADO WEST MARCHING BAND FESTIVAL- September 26, 2026

Saturday, September 26, 2026, has been confirmed as the date for the 50th Annual Colorado West Invitational Marching Band Festival sponsored by Mesa County School District 51.

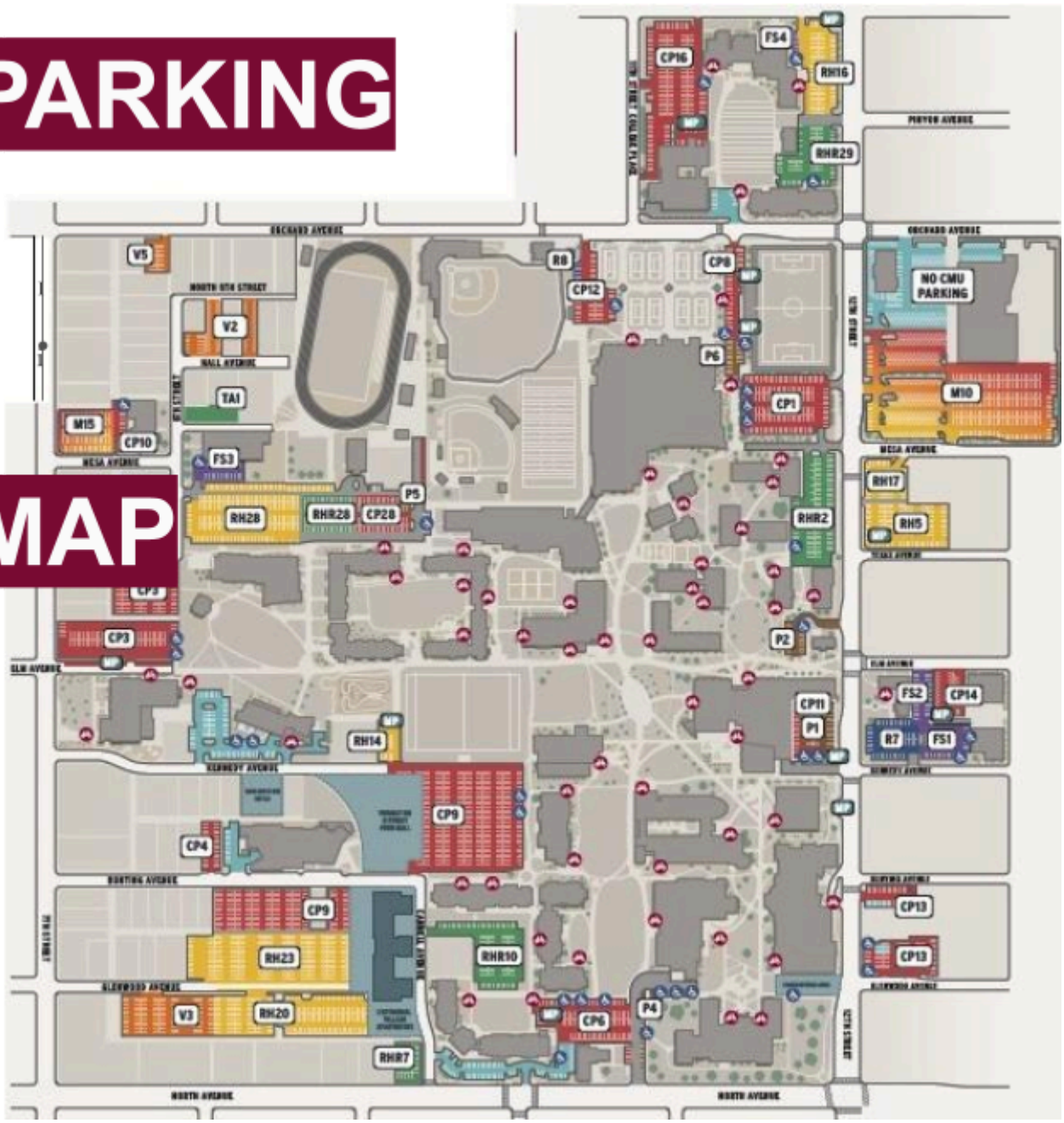
The festival enjoyed great response last fall from marching bands throughout the state and from our local public. We invite all marching band directors in the state to consider this event when planning their fall activities.



**SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING:**

**Roper Music Company- 1224 North 25th Street**
**Brian Hill- Superintendent of Schools**
**Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education Dirk Johnson, Choral Music Chair, CMU**
**Dr. Darin Kamstra, Music Chair, CMU**
**Zeb Hayward- Principal, Central High School**
**Jory Sorensen- Principal, Grand Junction HS**
**Dan Bollinger-Principal, Palisade High School**
**All MCVSD 51 music staff members and school administrators MCVSD 51 volunteers**

# PARKING MAP




COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY

## Parking Legend

Colorado MesaUnfversity
P&ndnt s«vkcs
1100 NorthA- enue
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Racks Bike

A. At-tessfble
Parldn9 Arus

0 RHldenu ff.all PAl'kln9

RHS.RHl-4, RH16.RHl7, RH20, RH23. RH2&MIO.MIS

- Re.servedResidence Ha.ll Pattdn9
  RHR2.RHR7,RHR10. RHR28, RHR29.TA1
- Commuter Parkin9
  CP1.CP3. CP4, CP6.CPS.CP9.CPIO, CPU, CP12. CP13.CP14, CP16. CP28. M10.M15
  - CP19(aUstrfftparttlng).UCstructtn (CP11spaces: 339-572)
- FACll.lty/Staff RenrvedPArkln9
  (enfot«d◆arrOU'WI)
  R7.R8
- Pay-to-Park(enforcedyearround)
  Pl, PZ.P4. PS, P6
  uc Structlft (Pl space◆311·338)
- Faculty/Staff PAl'ki.n9
  FSl, F'SZ,FS3, F'S4
  All conwnuter lots.except tht'UCStructtft(CP11)
- Motorc.ycle PArldn9 (MP)
  Availablen !elKl arNSof theUCStr\J(t\Jr'e(CP11).
  eastot Lowell HehJHaland*k>wer* tewl ofCPI.

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tlekflh;I enf«ced2•n>

0 Value PM'kln9

V2, VJ, VS

coloradomesa.edu 970.248.1921

Colorado Mesa University Vocal Performing Center Map



# MOTELS AND HOTELS
# GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO

For lodging and dining information, please contact Visit Grand Junction at 800-962-2547, 970-244-1480 or visitgj@gjcity.org. Visit Grand Junction can perform a room rate and availability survey for discounted sleeping rooms, specific needs (i.e. interior corridors, complimentary breakfast, etc.) or assist with dining options for large groups. In addition to lodging and dining, Visit Grand Junction can assist with optional activities to help with free time for students.

**Complimentary rooms for directors whose groups are reserving rooms may be available at some motels. Please check with the individual motel to see if this is an option.**

***Colorado West Music Festival***

***History***

The Grand Junction community has been host to the annual Colorado West Music Festivals dating back to the year 1926. The festival originated under Audrey Stong, Director of Bands in Grand Junction from 1924 to 1930. Mr. Stong and his father opened a music store in Grand Junction in 1924 and soon realized the need to organize a boy's band that would create a market for musical instruments. (There exist some fascinating similarities between Audrey Stong of Grand Junction and Harold Hill of MUSIC MAN fame.) Mr. Stong created a band in Grand Junction and within two short years produced the First Colorado West Music Festival. The original competition was held in downtown Grand Junction on 5th Street between Main and Rood Avenues- right here in "River City".

Frank Hall coordinated festival activities temporarily from 1930 to 1932. Bill Gould continued festival traditions until 1940. During this time bands and choirs traveled to Grand Junction from throughout Colorado, Utah, and the entire Western Slope. The local community became completely involved in festival activities. Many families welcomed visiting students into their homes and served as their host throughout the festival.

Marion Jacobs became the band director and music supervisor for the community in 1941. With the exception of two years in military service, "Jake" coordinated local festival activities for an unbelievable 37 years. Charlie Steen directed festival activities for "Jake" during these two years. Mr. Jacobs became Mr. Music on the Western Slope during these 37 years and led the way for excellence in music performance and music education. The Grand Junction High School Band developed an enviable record leading to national recognition under the baton of Marion Jacobs.

In 1978, Mesa College (Colorado Mesa University as of 2011) assumed co-sponsorship of the festival. The festival format was reorganized and the festival became the Colorado West Invitational Music Performance Festival. All marching activities were eliminated from the spring festival in 1978 and placed in a separate marching band festival held annually on the first Saturday in October. Events for jazz bands and jazz choirs were incorporated into the spring festival at this time and became traditional events in the festival format.

This festival will enjoy continued success for many years involving numerous talented young students. The success of the festival must be attributed to the traditions initiated by Audrey Stong, Frank Hall, Bill Gould, Charlie Steen, and Marion Jacobs. These great men of music are a sincere credit to the excellence achieved in music and music education throughout Western Colorado and the entire mountain state area.

Respectfully,

Kathy

Kathy Joseph
MCVSD Music Director

References: W.M. Wood- Grand Junction, Colorado Don Craig- Grand Junction, Colorado Leland Schmidt- Grand Junction, Colorado Joe Grantham-Grand Junction, Colorado