

## Call for Invited Performance Ensembles -2026 National Conference, San Francisco, CA

Hello,

My name is Stephanie Holmes, and I am the president of California ASTA. I wanted to let you know about a special performance opportunity for California Educators at this year's conference in San Francisco February 25-28, 2026.

2026 ASTA National Conference Invited Ensemble Performances are open for application to Cal-ASTA members. Performances will take place in the large hallway spaces in different parts of the hotel, adjacent to our conference session rooms and NOF performance spaces. Conference attendees will be able to gather and watch performances throughout each conference day. With the conference being in your backyard, this is an excellent opportunity to feature string performing groups from across California

ASTA will be sharing each performance space with our colleagues at SAA. The combined number of accepted groups is currently TBD.

### ASTA National Conference Invited Ensemble Selection Process Information/Considerations:

- Performance Quality. Each group must upload two recordings in the application.
- Compatibility with the performance venue.
- Variety of performing group genres. ASTA prides itself on supporting string teaching and performing in all styles and genres. We welcome groups from traditional, fiddling, rock, jazz, classical, and other styles to apply.
- Variety of ages and abilities. As string teachers supporting all learners, we welcome groups regardless of age and abilities. Mixed-age groups, community groups, college chamber ensembles, and student groups are all welcome.
- All string instruments and instrumentation are welcome.
- Priority consideration is provided to California resident ensembles. The ensemble director must be an ASTA member at the time of submission and performance.

**This opportunity is open to all ensembles in the state NOT already performing at the conference (for instance: NOF group or session demonstration group).**

## Instruments and Performance Needs

- No instruments will be provided; the group is expected to come ready to perform at the event.
- No piano or keyboard will be provided. If needed, the group must bring it with them, along with extension cords for electric support as needed. Music stands and chairs will be provided.
- Preference is for acoustic or nearly acoustic ensembles due to sound bleed in the conference space. Electric instruments are welcome so long as levels are monitored throughout the performance and requests for adjustments are honored.
- Given the size of the performance space available, groups can be NO LARGER than 20 players.

## ASTA National Conference Registration Information:

- The Ensemble Director must be registered to participate in the conference.
- Invited Ensemble performers will receive complimentary conference registration for their performance day. If you wish to attend additional conference days, paid registration will be required.
- For those traveling as an ensemble with minors

In December, a Minors Release Form will be sent to have families complete.

In January, a Chaperone and Bus/Travel Form will be sent for the directors to complete.

Application closes October 1, 2025

Application LINK:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/0198768977ac7b0a9b74eb8938c10dbf>

Application notifications will be sent by November 2025

Hope you can join us!

Stephanie Holmes

President CalASTA