

2026 Schedule

Thursday, April 23	All elementary, junior, college, and open entries
Friday, April 24	Senior vocal entries and senior instrumental large ensembles
Saturday, April 25	Senior instrumental entries

Definitions

General

Students	all persons attending public, private, homeschool or online educational programs
Non-competitive	LHJF participants that receive feedback but are not scored
Accompanying musicians	non-competitive musician(s) that accompany competitive solo entries, vocal combos or vocal large ensembles. Non-students are permissible as accompanying musicians.

Competition Levels

Elementary	an LHJF competition level including students in grades 6 and under
Junior	an LHJF competition level including students in grades 6 - 9
Senior	an LHJF competition level including students in grades 9 – 12
College	students enrolled in a college or university during the semester in which LHJF occurs
Open	an LHJF competition level including non-students

Note: *entries in the 6th or 9th grade must register in the competition level that applies to their school. A 6th grader enrolled at an elementary school should register as “elementary,” and a 9th grader enrolled at a high school should register as “senior”. 6th and 9th graders enrolled at a middle school or junior high should register as “junior.”*

Divisions

Senior entries will be placed into Divisions based on the population of their school.

Division I	Entries from high schools with a student population 1200+
Division II	Entries from high schools with a student population 500 - 1199
Division III	Entries from high schools with a student population 499 or fewer

Categories

Solo	an entry with one competitive vocal or instrumental performer
Combo	an entry with a vocal or instrumental group of 9 or fewer competitive performers. Vocal combos must include at least 2 vocalists.
Large Ensemble	an entry with a vocal or instrumental group of 10 or more competitive performers

Notes for Directors

Activity Waivers

An activity waiver is required for every student participating in the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival Competition. These online forms must be submitted by a parent or guardian prior to **March 1**. A link to the form will be provided via email to the registration contact.

Performance Information Forms

Entry information including the set list and personnel details is collected onsite using Performance Information Forms. Blank forms will be provided at Director Check-In, or bring a printed copy of the fillable form available on our website. Each entry is required to provide a completed Performance Information Form to the site volunteer in the performance room.

Competition Rules

Locations & Schedule

Competitive performances take place in several venues across the University of Idaho campus where performers will receive scores and feedback from world-class adjudicators. A winner and runner up will be selected for every category and division in a performance room.

For each entry, a designated warm up room will be available with basic amenities (see Equipment & Amenities section for more detail). Both the performance AND adjudication clinic take place in a room nearby. Time is limited in the warm up and performance rooms, as follows:

Entry Type	Warm Up Period	Performance	Clinic	Transition	Total Time in performance room
Solo	10 min	10 min	8 min	2 min	20 min
Combo	20 min	15 min	10 min	5 min	30 min
Large Ensemble	30 min	20 min	15 min	5 min	40 min

Equipment & Amenities

The following equipment will be available in warm up and performance rooms. Please bring your own cymbals, maximum of two.

Please inquire at jazzinfo@uidaho.edu to reserve congas or vibraphones. These instruments are available on a first come, first serve basis from the Lionel Hampton School of Music. Reservations must be made at least 2 weeks prior to the festival.

To review the generic stage plot, please review the Performance Room Diagrams section. A PA system is provided at each performance site as described within this document. Requests for additional or special equipment will not be accommodated.

Item	Warm Up Room	Performance Room
Microphone(s)	NO	YES (see Performance Room Diagrams)
Guitar amp & bass amp	YES	YES
Piano or keyboard	YES	YES
Drum set/hardware with Hi-hat	NO	YES
Cymbals	NO	NO
Drum pad	YES	NO
Music stands	as available	YES
Auxiliary percussion	NO	NO
Drumsticks	NO	NO
Spare monitor	NO	NO
Patch cords	NO	NO
Additional keyboard or stand	NO	NO
Acoustic or electric bass	NO	NO
Vibraphone	NO	reservation only
Congas	NO	reservation only

Scoring

Each entry will receive a score out of 100 in the following criteria. The overall score will be calculated out of 100 using the indicated weighted percentages.

	Instrumental Entries			Vocal Entries		
	Solo	Combo	Large Ensemble	Solo	Combo	Large Ensemble
Improvisation – creative phrasing, stylistic ideas, interaction with other musicians	30%	20%	15%	15%	15%	10%
Time – drive steadiness, rhythm	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%
Intonation – ensemble, section, individual	10%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%
Articulation – appropriateness to style	10%	10%	10%	15%	10%	15%
Balance/Blend – section, ensemble	10%	15%	20%	10%	15%	20%
Dynamics – contrast, musicality	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Style/Interpretation – rhythmic, melodic	10%	10%	10%	15%	15%	10%
Programming/Presentation – variety, suitability, preparation, memorization, stage presence	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%

Winners and runners up are selected from each performance room based on their overall scores. The winners and runners up will be verbally announced during the evening concert and published on the LHJF website. Directors will receive the following results via email.

Within **24 hours** of the completed competition:

- Overall weighed and criteria scores
- Category & Division average scores

Within **30 days** of the festival:

- Category & Division winners as announced during the evening concert
- Video recording of competitive performance and adjudicator clinic, accessible for 60 days

Awards

All winners will receive a trophy and certificate, and runners-up will receive a certificate. After intermission at the evening concert, trophies may be retrieved by the entry's director as announced by the emcee. Any awards not picked up will be shipped to the mailing address provided during the registration process.

LHJF Sweepstakes Competition

Vocal and instrumental large ensembles are eligible for the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival Sweepstakes Competition. Adjudicators review the scores and daytime performances to select outstanding nominees for the Sweepstakes Competition.

Senior level nominees are required to attend the evening concert to compete live on the ICCU Arena main stage. If a nominee is unable to perform for any reason, a new nominee will be selected. The winner will be selected by a panel of adjudicators.

Thursday: One (1) outstanding junior ensemble will be selected and announced as a Sweepstakes winner. Attendance at the evening concert is not required to win.

Friday: Two (2) outstanding senior vocal large ensembles will be nominated and compete for the Sweepstakes Competition.

Saturday: Two (2) outstanding senior instrumental large ensembles will be nominated and compete for the Sweepstakes Competition.

Awards

Winners of the Sweepstakes Competition receive a rotating Sweepstakes trophy at the evening concert and complimentary registration for one ensemble in the following year's Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival.

Avista Scholarship Competition

Senior vocal and instrumental soloists are eligible for the Avista Scholarship Competition, provided they are present at the evening concert. Adjudicators review the scores and daytime performances to select outstanding nominees for the Avista Scholarship Competition. If a nominee is unable to perform for any reason, a new nominee will be selected.

Friday: Two (2) outstanding vocal soloists will be nominated for the Avista Scholarship Competition. The nominees will perform live in the main stage concert at the ICCU Arena. The winner and runner up will be selected by a panel of adjudicators.

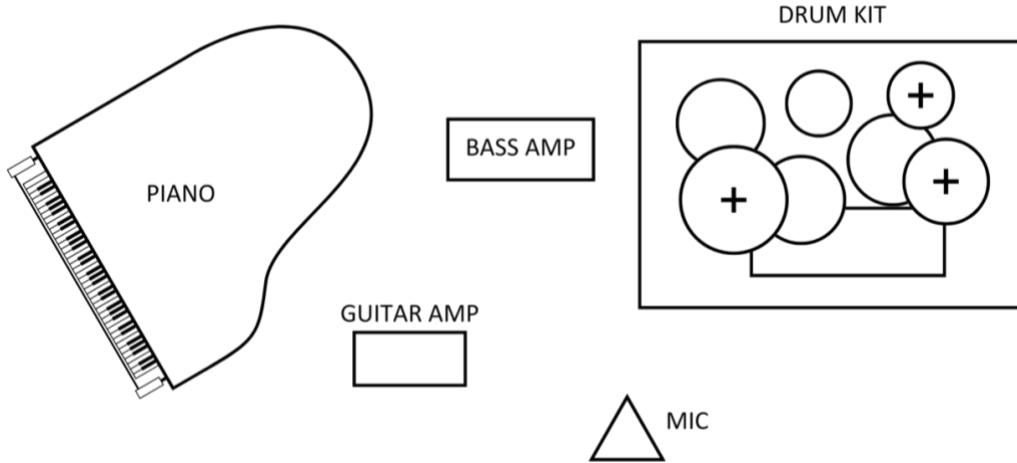
Saturday: Outstanding instrumental soloists will be nominated for the Avista Scholarship Competition. The nominees will perform as a combo live in the main stage concert at the ICCU Arena. The winner and runner up will be selected by a panel of adjudicators.

Awards

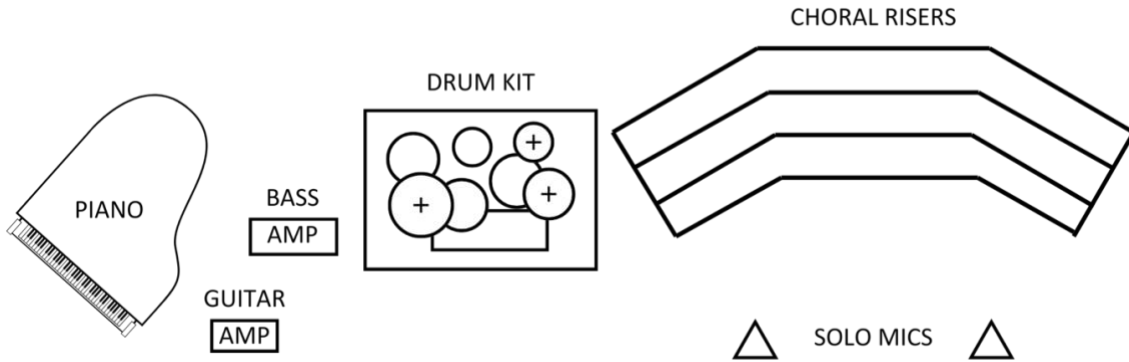
The winners receive \$1,500 and the runners up receive \$1,000 in an Avista scholarship to use toward any degree at the University of Idaho.

Performance Room Diagrams

Vocal or Instrumental Solos & Combos



Vocal Large Ensembles



Note: entries registered as multi-mic vocal large ensembles will be provided with up to 16 handheld microphones.

Instrumental Large Ensembles

