

October 1, 2025

Dear Colleague,

It is our pleasure to announce —

THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL BOCH FESTIVAL

Band & Orchestra Festival at the Strauss Performing Arts Center
Friday, January 30th | Saturday, January 31st
<http://music.unomaha.edu/boch>

Conductors

Dr. Joshua Kearney, Wind Ensemble
Prof. Peter Wilger, Honor Band
Dr. Matthew Brooks, String Orchestra

This exciting two-day event will include rehearsals of the honor ensembles: Wind Ensemble, Honor Band, and String Orchestra, masterclasses with UNO faculty, and performances by UNO faculty. The Bands and String Orchestra will perform their final concerts Saturday afternoon, January 31st, at the Strauss Performing Arts Center Concert Hall on the campus of the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Schedules will be posted on the 2026 BOCH Festival website – music.unomaha.edu/boch.

Applicants must submit audio or video recordings along with the application information via the 2026 BOCH Festival website—music.unomaha.edu/boch. Click the button that says, “Click here to apply for the 2026 BOCH Festival!” See below for specifics regarding the audition requirements for each area.

Timeline

- **The online application must be completed by Monday, November 24, 2025.**
- Accepted students will receive notification via email in mid-December. At that time part assignments and final instructions to confirm attendance will be included.
- Students selected for the BOCH Festival should plan to arrive on campus the afternoon of Friday, January 30, 2026.

Band Audition Requirements

All Woodwind, Brass, and Percussion Students

Woodwind and Brass:

- **Length:** 4 to 5 minutes.
- **Scales:** Chromatic scale covering the entire range of the instrument and one major scale.
- **Solo repertoire:** Chosen from standard solos or standard etudes written for the instrument (or a combination of both). Repertoire selected should include at least two contrasting styles and tempo changes. All-state etudes are acceptable.

Percussion:

- **Length:** 4 to 5 minutes
- **Solo repertoire:** chosen from standard solo repertoire with contrasting sections or contrasting etudes that are written for the instrument from *at least two of the following areas*: snare, keyboard percussion (mallets), and timpani. All-state etudes are acceptable.
- These audition recordings will be used for both ensemble selection and part assignments.

Students placed in the Wind Ensemble will re-audition at 3:00 PM on Friday, January 30, 2026 for part assignments. Audition materials will be posted on the BOCH website (music.unomaha.edu/boch) and will also include sight-reading and scales. All Honor Band members will have their band and chair positions assigned in advance and will not need to re-audition for placement. Any Honor Band/Wind Ensemble flute players that wish to be considered for a piccolo position in their ensemble will audition at 3:00 PM on Friday, January 30, 2026.

String Orchestra Audition Requirements

- **Solo/Etude:** Students who auditioned for their respective all-state orchestra may submit those recordings. All others should play a standard etude or solo (2-3 minutes) that reflects the technical level of the student.
- **Scales:** In addition to the above, each instrument should play one major and one harmonic minor scale (at least 2 octaves, more if possible).

Select students (based on recorded BOCH audition) will be invited to audition for principal or section leader. Principal audition material will be made available on the BOCH Festival website once participant selections are made.

Festival Participation Fees

Each accepted student will be charged a \$50.00 participation fee.

The UNO BOCH Festival has become one of the largest and most successful in the region. We hope you will encourage your students to audition for the festival, and we look forward to receiving your students' audition materials. Please direct any questions to Dr. Kearney (Bands) at jskearney@unomaha.edu or Dr. Brooks (String Orchestra) at matthewbrooks@unomaha.edu.