



2026 INTER-SCHOOL MEDLEY STUDENT PACKET

FINALE MEDLEY

The opening and finale medleys are collaborative medleys with cross-school representation. You have been selected by your director to participate, and this packet will provide you with all that you need to know before we see you for the first rehearsal.

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IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS TRACK

What	Date and Time	Where
Waiver and Emergency Contact Forms Due	Friday, May 15 by 4:00 PM	Fill it out HERE!
Staging Rehearsal #1	Saturday, May 23 9 AM – 6 PM	Des Moines Civic Center 221 Walnut Street, Des Moines, IA 50309
Staging Rehearsal #2	Wednesday, May 27 9 AM – 1 PM	
Final Tech, Dress Rehearsal and SHOWCASE	Thursday, May 28 CALL TIME: 9:15 AM – End of Showcase	

REQUIRED WAIVER AND EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM

Students are required to submit a completed waiver/release to participate in the Awards Showcase and related activities. Waivers should be submitted no later than **Friday, May 15, 2026 at 4 PM**.

Students without a release/emergency contact form on file prior to their first rehearsal will not be allowed to participate in rehearsals or other activities and, as a result, will not receive a ticket for their use for the showcase.

Please email your confirmation to your director as proof of submission.

LINK TO WAIVER: <https://ihsmta.wufoo.com/forms/2026-ihsmta-personal-release-emergency-contact>

WHAT TO EXPECT - PREPARATIONS AND REHEARSALS

Preparations

All students participating in the medley must learn and memorize the medley music before arrival. If you are interested in a solo, please see “Solo Auditions” below.

You can find the medley music and rehearsal tracks here:

[FINALE MEDLEY MUSIC](#)

Arrival

When you arrive, please use the Ticket Office entrance located on Walnut Street. If you need to park your car, there is a variety of paid street parking and parking garages within the vicinity of the theater. Please reference <https://desmoinesperformingarts.org/directions-and-parking/> for more information on options.

First Rehearsal - Morning Audition & Placement Activities

You will be placed in a “morning group.” Your group will rotate through three sessions:

- Solo auditions
- Dance assessment
- Get-to-know-you activities



The solo auditions and dance assessment will help our creative team decide where you will perform in the medley.

Dance Assessment

You will learn a short piece of choreography that will be part of the final section of the medley. All students will perform this section.

If you'd like to feel more prepared, you can learn the choreography ahead of time using this video from our choreographer.

DANCE PLACEMENT VIDEO

At the end of the session, you will perform the choreography in a small group. This helps us see how you move and work with others—just do your best!

Solo Auditions

If you would like, you may audition for a solo.

Because of limited time, each group is assigned specific solos:

- Group D(Listed as A in the music): [Solos #1 and 2]
- Group E(Listed as B in the music): [Solos #3 and 4]
- Group F(Listed as C in the music): [Solos #5 and 6]
- All Groups: [Solos #7 and 8]

Here is a link to where you can find your school's morning placement group: [Inter-School Medley Assignments](#)

The music director may invite you to audition for additional solos if there is time and if they think you might be a good fit. You may want to look over other solos just in case.

Get-to-Know-You Activities

You'll also take part in fun activities to meet and connect with students from other schools.

After the morning audition and placement activities, our choreographer and music director will cast soloists and will potentially shift students to different cohorts. Students will be made aware of soloist announcements and changes after the lunch break.

WHAT TO WEAR AND BRING

Lunch

You will need to bring a SACK LUNCH on Saturday, May 23, and Thursday, May 28.

(DMPA will provide dinner on Thursday, May 28.)

Rehearsal Days



Come dressed comfortably and ready to move. The temperature in our space can fluctuate so we recommend bringing layers. For safety reasons, please wear closed-toed sneakers. No flip flops or sandals. Style of movement is anticipated to work best with sneakers.

Please bring a copy of the Medley, a pencil with an eraser and a refillable water bottle.

Show Day

WARDROBE GUIDELINES

The costume for all participating students is all black attire. Participants may choose from the following wardrobe options:

- Black dress pants and a black collared shirt (such as a button-up or polo) or black top; a black dress; or a black skirt with a black top; please include a black belt for anything with belt loops
- Black socks or black hosiery (required for any participant not wearing pants, no bare leg skin please)
- Black dress shoes, sneakers, or character-style shoes.*

Please no shorts, sweats, visible lettering/logos, or yoga pants. If wearing a dress or skirt, black hosiery is required. Dresses and skirts must be at or below the knee due to choreography considerations. Wardrobe should be solid throughout with no cutouts or midriffs showing.

Students are required to come in their performance clothes and shoes to tech rehearsal. This is used as an opportunity to ensure that all costume guidelines are met, that students have practiced performing in their performance shoes on the Civic Center stage, and that mic packs for any mic'd student work with what they plan to wear. If during tech rehearsal it is determined you do not have a good place to hook a mic, you will be asked to make a different wardrobe choice for the showcase.

*Black Sneakers are required for students in the inter-school medleys, due to the anticipated style of movement. Sneakers should be as black as possible, including the soles and laces. Here are a few options as examples.

[Example One](#) (Women's)
[Example Two](#) (Women's)
[Example Three](#) (Men's)
[Example Four](#) (Men's)



If you are unable to buy a new pair of shoes and do not have options at home available, please contact ihsmta@dmpa.org.

HAIR GUIDELINES

Long hair should be pulled back or pinned so that it is not in front of participants' eyes or faces. We want the audience to see expressive faces. Any hair accessories should be black or match your hair color.

JEWELRY GUIDELINES

Any jewelry that can be easily removed should not be worn, beyond simple stud earrings. Dangly earrings and removable necklaces, bracelets, watches, etc. are not allowed. Example of students in all black for the Awards Showcase: Look good! Feel good!



QUESTIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions or concerns, please email ihsmta@dmpa.org, or feel free to reach out to one of the following program staff members:

MK Gillette
(Main Contact for Program)
Education Program Coordinator
515-246-2385

Maddie Nau
Education Program Coordinator
515-246-2359

Karoline Myers
Director of Education
515-246-2356

**IOWA HIGH SCHOOL
MUSICAL THEATER
AWARDS**
Presented By

INTER-SCHOOL MEDLEY CHECK LIST

- ☐ Have I turned in my Waiver?
- ☐ Have I learned the medley?
- ☐ Optional: Have I learned the solos?
- ☐ Optional: Have I reviewed the dance placement video?

FIRST REHEARSAL – Saturday, May 23 from 9 AM – 6 PM

- ☐ Do I have my medley music printed out in a binder?
- ☐ Do I have a pencil and a water bottle?
- ☐ Am I in comfortable clothes that I can dance in?
- ☐ Am I wearing closed-toe shoes that I can dance in?
- ☐ Did I pack my lunch?

SECOND REHEARSAL – Wednesday, May 27 from 9 AM – 1 PM

- ☐ Do I have my medley music, pencil, and water bottle in my bag?
- ☐ Am I in comfortable clothes that I can dance in?
- ☐ Did I review the rehearsal videos?

FINAL TECH, DRESS REHEARSAL, AND SHOWCASE – Thursday, May 28 from 8:30 AM – End of Show

- ☐ Do I have my medley music, pencil, and water bottle in my bag?
- ☐ Am I in my dressy black performance clothes?
- ☐ Did I pack my lunch?