



March 6, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

We are looking forward to hosting you and your students at the All State festival - now just two months away! As is always the case, we have many, many people working to make sure all details are attended to.

I want to let you know that we have changed the All State festival headquarters hotel to the Holiday Inn Express. Our original choice, the Hampton Inn, was not able to accommodate dates outside of the block of dates I initially gave them and this made it prohibitive for some of our conductors. We also had difficulties with effective communication with their group sales department which is in transition. Let me be clear that I am not recommending that those who have already booked at the Hampton Inn cancel their reservation. It is an excellent property with the same amenities as the Holiday Inn Express and they're in the same part of town.

For those wanting to book a reservation at the Holiday Inn Express, you have two options:

1. Use this reservations link. It automatically kicks in the All State rate of \$125.00 per night if you choose dates between May 10 and 13. It also does not require a deposit.

<https://www.hiexpress.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=ex&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=BTBVT& PMID=99801505&GPC=VTA&viewfullsite=true>

2. Call (802) 257-2400 and ask for the Vermont All State Music Festival rate.

If you're curious, the Ellis Music party on Friday night will probably be at a restaurant in the same part of town as the hotels and we are looking into making a shuttle available so all can enjoy themselves without worrying about getting back to their hotel safely.

If you want to shop around for rates, location or amenities, check out the list of hotels I put together on the All State web site - lots of good choices! You will also have many great choices for places to eat.

On a different note, our ticket committee is ready to start taking orders. The BUHS gymnasium is relatively small which is why we are splitting the chorus concert (2:00) from the band and orchestra (4:30). Even with that split, we anticipate having just enough space for the audience. For that reason, please pass along to your students' families that they are **strongly urged to place their ticket orders in advance of the concert date**. The ticket pre-purchase form is available for download on the All State website.

Don't forget to send in those parade applications to Mary Harvey-Bandish!

Keep checking the All State website for more information.

Sincerely,

Steve Rice
2017 All State Music Festival Co-Host
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