

2025 VMEA

ALL-VIRGINIA ORFF ENSEMBLE

November 19-20, 2025

Hello Elementary Music Teachers! We are so excited to offer our elementary students a chance to participate in the 3rd annual VMEA All Virginia Orff Ensemble! We happily extend to you the invitation to offer your school the opportunity to join approximately 50 other elementary students in a unique Orff experience. Teachers who would like to participate are directed to choose **up to 8 students** from 5th or 6th grade who are able to play Orff instruments on the beat with excellent hand position and keep their part when playing in an ensemble. Students should be able to sing on pitch and be willing to move or dance with or without a partner. We will accept registrations on a first-received, first-registered basis. We will keep everyone updated on your registration status as we receive them. Once the group has reached its max of 50 students, we will inform members through district reps, our websites, and social media that we are no longer accepting registrations.

Overview

The All Virginia Orff Ensemble is an incredibly unique performance opportunity for our elementary students' pursuing their developing artistry and self-discovery through music.

Our All-Virginia Orff Ensemble event is the only event like this in the state of Virginia. This event provides an exciting growth experience for students, a rewarding concert for both parents and teachers, and a chance to network and positively associate with elementary music educators from the 16 districts in Virginia that are part of VMEA. The event will take place on November 20, 2025 as the opening concert for the 2025 Professional Development Conference at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott Hotel in Norfolk, VA. Rehearsal for this concert will run from 1:00 - 6:00 PM on November 19, 2025, and 8:00 –11:00 AM on November 20, 2025, with the performance following at 11:30 AM to kick off our annual VMEA Professional Development Conference.

Enclosed, you will find 1) Conductor Information, 2) Event and Payment details, 3) Music Teacher/Student Registration Form, and 4) Student Medical Information Form. Please take the time to read over the documents, review the dates, and inquire about any/all questions or concerns you may have. Music and

hotel information will be sent once your registration forms and payment are received. A block of rooms has been set up for this event at a reduced price. If you have not chosen your students yet, you may send their information as soon as you have their commitment to participate.

Your participation is encouraged! Completed registrations must be postmarked no later than **Monday, September 22, 2025**. If an extenuating circumstance prevents your school from being able to register before the cut-off date, please contact Cheryl Baker as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Cheryl Baker. We look forward to receiving your registration packets!

Very Respectfully,

Cheryl Baker
All VA Orff Ensemble Coordinator
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The Conductor

Jeff Henson is a K-12 music educator who has taught elementary music since 1998. He completed his Orff-Schulwerk levels certifications under the instruction of Marilyn Copeland Davidson, Bob de Frece, and Carol King. He received his Masters level certification under the instruction of Jane Frazee. Mr. Henson has been five-time director of the Honors Orff Ensemble for the Hillsborough County Elementary Fine Arts Festival, served as conductor for the Pasco County Honors Orff ensemble and choirs, and the Pinellas County Honors World Drumming ensemble. He has presented conference sessions for Florida Music Educator's Association State Conference and presented numerous district and state workshops on elementary music pedagogy, Orff-Schulwerk pedagogy, Recorder, and World Drumming. He has composed and arranged several single title works for Orff instruments and percussion that can be found on The Orff Room on the Teachers Pay Teachers website and is the author of the books, "Great Big House! and Other Folk Songs", "Rhymes, Rhythms, and Beyond!", "Instrument Magic", and "Sing and Play The Orff Way!", published by Playground Music Press.

The All-Virginia Orff Ensemble for VEMEA is an exceptionally rare VEMEA performance ensemble that affords our young students an opportunity very few get to experience in Virginia. The conductors and coordinators work in

tandem to develop a program suited to the Conductor's unique teaching methods and stylistic preferences, while offering the participants an engaging and challenging Orff experience.

Event Details

- Guest Conductor: Jeff Henson
- Date: November 19-20, 2025.
- Location: Norfolk Waterside Marriott Hotel, Norfolk, VA.
- You are allowed to select up to eight students from your highest elementary grade level.
- Reference recordings will be provided to each director. Directors must ensure that each student has his/her music and instrument part prepared for performance and memorized prior to November 20, 2025.
- Teachers will need to be present with their students for the duration of the event. If a chaperone will be attending, please be sure to follow your school's permissions and procedures.
- Parents are not allowed in the rehearsal room until the performance unless they are serving as a chaperone.
- Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle (labeled w/ name).
- Students and Directors will be provided with snacks.
- Teachers are responsible for bringing and keeping track of medical forms for their students.
- Student attire for the concert will be an All-Virginia Orff Ensemble T-shirt which will be given out the day of the event, black pants or skirt, black socks or hosiery and black shoes. Directors are encouraged to check outfits prior to November 20th. *
- On the first day of the event, check-in will be from 12:30-1:00 PM. Practice will begin at 8:00 AM the next morning. Doors will open for concert seating on the second day at 11:00 AM.; the concert will start at 11:30 AM.

Note*: As a VMEA endorsed honors ensemble, professionalism and preparedness are vital to the success of the event. The Guest Conductors *and* Coordinator reserve the *absolute right* to deny participation to *any* student *or* teacher whose conduct and/or dress detract from all participants' mutual and equitable experience. Please review and emphasize this with your selected students and their families.

Payment Information

- School registration fee will be \$50.00 per school which covers VMEA fees, venue fees, and provides music and a t-shirt for the teacher.
- Student registration fee will be \$45.00 per participant, which provides our budget for

the entire event (honorariums, snacks, music copyright fees, t-shirts, etc.).

- There is \$137.00 participation fee for non-VMEA/NAfME directors. If you would like to participate and are not a member yet, you may register for VMEA/NAfME at www.nafme.org.
- Send *one check* from your school or sponsoring PTO/PTA that covers the *total amount* (School fee, student fees, and any non-VMEA/NAfME educator fees).
 - Checks are payable to VEMEA. If your secretary has any problems, they may make the check payable to VMEA.
 - If an invoice is needed, please notate that on the Registration Google Form (one will be sent to you 1-2 days after submitting the form).
- All registration materials must be submitted on the Registration Google Form by Monday, September 22, 2025. Payment, along with the administration signature page must also be postmarked by Monday, September 22, 2025 and mailed to:
 - Ernest Stokes, VEMEA Treasurer
% Butts Road Intermediate
1571 Mt. Pleasant Road
Chesapeake, VA 23322

Music Teacher and School Registration

Please complete and submit the [Registration Google Form](#) by Monday, September 22, 2025.

The [Administrator Approval Page](#) must be signed and sent in with the registration fee.

Student Medical Information

Please have every participating student's Parent(s)/Guardian(s) complete the [Medical Form](#). Music teachers are required to bring a copy of this form to the event for every participating student. These forms are confidential and are to be kept in the music teacher's possession. If a school-approved chaperone is accompanying you, please discuss and review confidentiality and accessibility to student medical information with your administration.