



SITE REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ISB CONVENTION

ABOUT THE ISB

The International Society of Bassists is a non-profit, 501(C)(3) organization founded by the internationally-recognized concert artist Gary Karr. The ISB, founded in 1967, is dedicated to promoting the teaching, study, performance, manufacture and repair, and enjoyment of the double bass. Our membership is approximately 3,000 performers, teachers, luthiers, students and hobbyists of all ages and abilities, across all musical genres, in over 40 countries. Besides sponsoring a biennial convention and biennial competitions for performers, luthiers, composers and researchers, the ISB publishes a highly regarded journal three times a year. We also host an online store for members' printed music, recordings and more, and have a by invitation-only publishing arm. The ISB's website is at www.ISBworldoffice.com. Our headquarters are in Dallas, Texas, at Madeleine Crouch & Co., Inc., a firm specializing in not-for-profit association management, 14070 Proton Rd., Suite 100, Dallas, TX 75244, 972/233-9107, ext. 204, fax 972/490-4219, info@ISBworldoffice.com.

CONVENTION OVERVIEW

The ISB holds its convention every two years at a host university. Past conventions have been held at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois (1984), the University of Texas at Austin (1986), the University of Southern California in Los Angeles (1988), New York City (1991), the Interlochen Academy for the Arts (1993), Indiana University in Bloomington (1995), Rice University's Shepherd School of Music in Houston, Texas (1997), the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa (1999), Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana (2001), the University of Richmond, Virginia (2003), Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo (2005), Oklahoma City University's Wanda L. Bass School of Music (2007), Penn State University in State College, Pennsylvania (2009), San Francisco State University (2011), the Eastman School of Music (2013), Colorado State University (2015), Ithaca College (2017) and Indiana University (2019). Due to the global pandemic, we held our 2021 convention, sponsored by the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, virtually. Our recent conventions have attracted from 1,200 to 1,400 bassists, family members, guest artists and exhibitors representing 25 to 35 countries. Some attendees stay for the entire week, but most come and go as their schedules require. The largest audiences for evening concerts are range from 800 to 900 people.

Presenters travel at their own expense or find their own sponsors, although exceptions are made on a case by case basis for freelance presenters without the support of an educational institution. Presenters receive complimentary registration for the convention, and while some presenters may be reimbursed for travel and lodging, no bassist receives an appearance fee, no matter how big a star he or she may be. Non-bassist supporting musicians (pianists, drummers, chamber musicians, etc.) do receive appearance stipends, which are sometimes paid by the bassist-presenter and sometimes by the ISB. Attendees pay a fee either by the week or the day, with reduced rates for student and overseas members. The ISB often pays for meals and lodging, as well as waives conference fees, for bassists with limited financial resources if there is a special need. Parents, non-bass playing family members and chaperones pay no registration fee.

In keeping with the ISB's not-for-profit educational goals, our convention is a show of love and support by its membership and sponsors, and not a major money-making enterprise. There is an exhibit hall of approximately 30 to 40 manufacturers and suppliers as space allows (ideally something in the range of 10,000 securable square feet), and a thriving young bassists' program that attracts 40 to 60 young bassists.

The convention week is held during the first half of June, between semesters for the host university and before many professional players depart for summer festivals. The ISB holds its biennial double bass competition at the beginning of the week, with arrivals on Sunday for preliminaries and finals on Monday and Tuesday. There are divisions for solo, jazz and orchestral bassists, and two divisions for young bassists (18 and under). In 2019 the top cash prizes were \$2,500 plus expenses-paid concerts and/or various donated merchandise. We have also added a very well received Maker's Competition for new instruments, which is judged on Monday and Tuesday of the convention week. In 2019 we had 25 new instruments in the competition. In 2015 we launched a "Build a Bass in a Week" Project, with an international team of luthiers volunteering to build an instrument that will be raffled off at the end of the week. In 2019 we added public tours of the Build a Bass Project, which is a fascinating look into the world of the luthier's art and craft.

Attendees check in on Monday for an impressive schedule of lectures, recitals and masterclasses beginning with Monday evening concerts and lasting through Saturday night. Evenings feature back-to-back recitals by classical and jazz artists.

RELATIONSHIP WITH HOST FACILITY

The ISB seeks an invitation to hold its biennial convention from universities that will offer use of their facilities for minimal or no fees. There should be a faculty bass professor or local contact person to help the ISB office and convention director coordinate logistics and serve as a local representative. That person does not have to be a bassist.

The ISB travels with its own office team and enlists the support of a large number of volunteers for various activity areas, so it does not require full services of a conference bureau. But the ISB will gladly pay the costs of support technicians for audio-visual and stage management, piano tuners, building managers, etc. as requested by the host university.

Host universities benefit from international publicity as the ISB's convention destination, as well as introducing their schools of music to dozens of qualified potential music majors. There are always bassists from major orchestras around the world as well as Grammy winners in attendance.

As space allows, we try to open evening concerts to non-bassist citizens of the town at no charge, turning the convention into a community festival and building audience for our instrument, as many have never seen what the versatile double bass can do when it takes centerstage.

HOUSING/MEALS

Ideally, the host university will have a dormitory within a short walk of the music school. Most students, including the young bassists and their parents or chaperones, opt for less expensive dorm rooms. We usually have between 150 and 200 people staying in the dorms for all or part of the convention week, single and double occupancy. The young bassist program also relies on using a dormitory meal plan so participants will not have to leave the campus. For 18 and older attendees, it is helpful to have restaurants within walking distance. We offer a casual buffet dinner on Sunday night, almost always on campus and catered by the university, for 70-85 board members, judges and other guests. We also purchase boxed lunches from on-campus catering for judges and workers on the go throughout the week. In addition, the ISB selects a nearby hotel or hotels that offer reduced group rates for its presenters and adult attendees. We average 100+ hotel rooms per night, Sunday through Saturday.

MEETING SPACE

Competitions:

Beginning on Sunday, the space requirements are: practice and warm-up rooms, most with pianos, and enough concert halls or large rooms to hold preliminaries and finals for five divisions (one division goes on through Tuesday noon, the others are through by late Monday afternoon). In addition, we will need a large, securable room with some natural light for the Maker's Competition, with enough space to display 25-30 new instruments and a large table for judging.

Exhibits:

A space or spaces in that can be locked/secured overnight that will accommodate 20 to 45 pipe-and-drape and/or tabletop exhibits (rented by the ISB from a local supplier), with one or two rooms nearby for demos if possible (ideally 10,000 square feet of exhibit space). Adequate elevators for move-in/move-out if not on ground floor.

Classrooms:

At least two large classrooms (seating at least 50 each), ideally with projector, screen, piano, DVD/CD player, blackboard, etc. for simultaneous lectures, performances and masterclasses held throughout each day.

Recitals and Evening Concerts:

One large concert hall that ideally seats 800+ for evening concerts, with grand piano. Two smaller halls for jazz and classical recitals during the afternoons with rehearsals/soundchecks in the morning, at least 250 seats each, and a smaller recital hall that seats 80 to 100 (can be large choir room, a nearby chapel, theater space, etc).

Young Bassists Program:

One large locking general session room with piano (choir or orchestra rehearsal room to accommodate 40-60 young bassists and their instruments and music stands) and six or more

smaller classrooms or rehearsal spaces for various age groups. The smaller breakout rooms will be used for amateur/enthusiasts to sightread ensembles during the 12-2 PM lunch hour. Young bassists store their basses in the large general session overnight.

Storage:

Large out-of-the way locking room(s) or secured space to store bass trunks and instruments during the day and overnight, often 50+ instruments. We will provide staff to check basses in and out of storage.

Build a Bass in a Week Project:

For the past two conventions, an international team of luthiers has literally built a new double bass in a week, which we raffle off at the end of the week. It is not only a fundraiser, but also generates a great deal of publicity for the convention and has created a close-knit international community of luthiers, who normally work alone. Ideally, we would have access to a large theater scene workshop space with work benches for luthiers to bring in their own tools. All participants sign waivers.

Registration/Convention Office:

A locking room ideally located near registration tables where the back office team manages onsite registration and more. We bring our own computers, printers and office supplies.

TECHNICAL/SUPPORT

The ISB will rent from local suppliers any AV and other equipment not available from the host university. As required by the host university, the ISB will pay for use of support staff, etc. We need to be able to offer attendees free Internet access campus wide.

NEW! LIVE STREAM SELECTED EVENTS

Out of respect for the time, money and talent given by our convention attendees and presenters, and we do not want to do encourage members to watch from home, the ISB does not make convention proceedings available in real time on a streaming platform. The convention is put on for the purpose of bringing together bassists and their family members, collaborative musicians, makers and vendors from around the world all under one roof. This is how learning and change happens. That being said, in 2019 the ISB livestreamed competition award ceremonies on Monday and Tuesday evenings, concerts by 2017 competition winners on Monday night, the finals of the 2019 solo competition on Tuesday, the Young Bassists Concert on Saturday afternoon, and the closing event on Saturday night, which involved an all-star review of more than a dozen performers.

The ISB might require access to the host institution's high speed Internet, and pay for additional technical support for the host university for livestreaming. In these cases the ISB would want to receive unedited files from the host university as downloads to post in the members-only area of the ISB's website after the convention.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is a daily challenge for double bassists! Ideally, the convention host site should be within an hour's drive of a major airport, or at least readily accessible by frequent, reliable shuttle

transportation that will accommodate both attendees and their instruments at a reasonable cost. With luck, the local airport will allow our attendees to store their trunks at the airport. Also ideally, there would be free on-campus parking, and/or we might be able to take advantage of a campus shuttle system. The ISB will hire its own shuttle/bus transportation if needed, as a last resort. We usually have between 3 and 6 vendor trucks that will require parking near the convention activities.

MISCELLANEOUS

We would like to be able to offer our attendees rental instruments either from the host university or from a nearby music dealer.

AND FINALLY...

The ISB is grateful to its host facilities for the opportunity to mount a convention. We know we are essentially the university's guests, and manage our conventions in a mutually beneficial manner. The host university is prominently featured in our magazine, e-newsletters, convention program and on its website.

SITE EVALUATION CHECKLIST FOR ISB CONVENTIONS

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Location moves to different geographical regions from year to year.
- Reasonable access by air (nearby airport?)
- Any costs involved (hall and/or classroom rental, piano rental, piano tuning.)
- Any extracurricular bonuses in area for recreation or sightseeing?
- Any possibility of institution sponsoring/co-hosting appearance by a special guest artist?
- Access to some office/business resources (receiving exhibitor freight.)

SPACE CONSIDERATIONS

- Classroom/dorms and meals/rehearsal space/performance space within a reasonable distance of each other?
- Adequate number of pianos, audio/visual equipment, chairs, stools, stands, etc. available.
- Adequate performance/rehearsal space for competitions.
- Adequate classroom/rehearsal space/recreation for Young Bassists Program, ages 8 to 17.
- Adequate classroom/rehearsal space for regular program during day.
- Adequate performance facilities.
- Adequate, well-located exhibit space.
- Storage space for basses and cases.
- Security issues.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Free wi-fi for attendees
- Possible assistance from technical staff to livestream selected events (for a fee, if needed)

PARTICIPANT CONSIDERATIONS

_____ Adequate number of dorm/hotel rooms available at reasonable rates?

_____ Meals at a reasonable cost available on campus or very nearby?

_____ Shuttle services/transportation for hire of participants and their instruments to and from airport?

_____ Place(s) to gather for end-of-the-day receptions or get-togethers.