



IOWA EUROPEAN CULTURAL CONNECTION (IECC) (501c3)

We connect Iowans with European traditions, language learning and cultural experiences.

## Yuletide Hall Stage Performer Guide 2026 Christkindlmarket Des Moines (CDM)

Thank you for your interest in performing at CDM!

This document will give you an overview of the performer application process and requirements. As soon as you fill out the needs assessment on the website, it will be reviewed internally. You will receive feedback by March 15.

### What is the timeline for the decision-making process?

- Fill out the online needs assessment (<http://www.christkindlmarketdsm.com/entertainment/performer-needs-assessment/>) by March 1
- REQUIRED: Send photographs and links to audio files/videos representing you or your group to [christkindlmarketdsm@gmail.com](mailto:christkindlmarketdsm@gmail.com)
- Receive feedback from CDM by March 15

**Who owns and manages CDM?** CDM is owned and operated by the Iowa European Cultural Connection (IECC), a 501(c)3 tax-exempt non-profit organization.

**Where will CDM 2026 take place?** Principal Park, 1 Line Drive, Des Moines, Iowa, 50309

**When is CDM 2026?** Dec 3 – 6 & 10 – 13: Thu: 5-9pm, Fri: 11am-9pm, Sat: 11am-9pm, Sun: 11am-5pm

**How do I become a Performer?** Performers are required to submit a needs assessment. Performers are reviewed and considered annually. CDM has an online assessment process: [www.christkindlmarketdsm.com](http://www.christkindlmarketdsm.com)

**What types of Performers is CDM seeking?** Performances typically seen at Christkindlmarkets throughout the world include (but are not limited to): European folk music players, European folk music singers, yodeling, guitarist, accordionist, clogging, folk dancers, Scottish pipes & drums, high school choirs, children's choirs, violinists, bell choirs, church choirs, storytellers, brass bands, alpine horn blowers, marionette/puppeteers, Schuhplattler Vereine, vocal performances in European languages, harpists, etc.

**How Are Performers Selected?** IECC reserves the right to approve, refuse, and limit performances at CDM. A limited number of Performers will be approved to perform on stage. Performers are reviewed based on the performance they would like to present at CDM. Performers are not allowed to add or change their performance after the review process is complete or at all during the event.

**Insurance** Accepted Performers are required to sign a waiver of liability (in lieu of providing a Certificate of Insurance).

All Performers are required to submit a needs assessment. Performers are not selected on a first-come, first-served basis, but based on what CDM needs to produce a community event keeping in line with its mission. Each performance group will be reviewed based on several criteria, including quality, uniqueness, European cultural connection, added value, and other pertinent criteria. CDM is committed to choosing a performance mix that is attractive to our community while keeping the balance of the event intact.

**Performance Space** CDM will provide a four-sided, forced-air heated tent at a location to be determined by the CDM event planning committee at Principal Park. A lighted stage within the tent will be provided. The size of the stage is 16' x 32' x 32" tall.

**Payment for Performance** IECC is a non-profit with a limited budget. Please indicate your minimum fee in your application.

**WEATHER POLICY:** Become familiar with CDM's Weather Policy. CDM will communicate any changes to Normal Operations <https://christkindlmarketdsm.com/cdm-weather-policy/>

**How are Corporations & Businesses able to participate?** If a Corporation/Business is interested in being involved with CDM as a Corporate Sponsor, please contact the CDM Sponsorship Chair, Suzanne Hull at 515-250-6366 or [christkindlmarketdsm@gmail.com](mailto:christkindlmarketdsm@gmail.com).