



# News Release

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## **EDWARD JONES DOME HOSTS BANDS OF AMERICA MARCHING BAND CHAMPIONSHIP FRIDAY AND SATURDAY OCT. 14-15**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Outstanding high school marching bands from throughout Illinois, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri and Ohio, as well as Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee and Texas, will compete in one of the nation’s most prominent marching band championships, Music for All’s Bands of America (BOA) Super Regional Championship, presented by Yamaha, at the Edward Jones Dome on Friday and Saturday, October 14-15. The dome is located at 701 Convention Plaza, St. Louis, Missouri. The Owasso High School band program and boosters are hosting the event.

The 52 high school marching bands will perform in preliminary competition, evaluated by a panel of nationally recognized music educators and marching band experts. The top scoring bands will advance to the evening finals competition, where the Super Regional Champion will be named. The Western Illinois University Marching Leathernecks will perform in exhibition at the conclusion of preliminary competition on Saturday at 3:45 p.m. The WIU Marching Leathernecks are under the direction of Matt Thomas.

“What a fan will experience may be very different than what they expect if they have not been following national caliber bands recently,” says Debbie Laferty Asbill, Music for All’s Director of Marketing and Communications. “These outstanding bands perform complex, entertaining and sophisticated shows, with exciting presentations and choreography, many with colorful staging and visual elements.”

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Asbill says, “While the Bands of America Championship is a competitive event, it emphasizes the pursuit of performance excellence and the educational experience of participation. Music and arts education is a core and vital part of the American educational system. Music for All’s programs, including the BOA Championships, model, showcase and recognize excellence in music education.”

Gates open on Friday for prelims at 12:30 p.m., with competition beginning at 1:00 p.m. Gates open on Saturday for prelims at 7:15 a.m., with competition beginning at 7:45 a.m. and the presentation of awards at 4:00 p.m. Gates open for finals at 6:15 p.m. with the first finalist band performing at 7:15 p.m. Awards will be presented at 11:00 p.m. Sommer Music Center is the event’s official music store and instrument repair provider.

Tickets are available in advance at [musicforall.org](http://musicforall.org) or by calling 800.848.2263, and at the gate on the day of the event. Ticket prices range as follows: \$17 Friday Prelims, \$19 Saturday Prelims, \$23 Finals General Admission, \$28 Finals Reserved, and \$48 Super Ticket for Friday and Saturday Prelims and Finals. All children ages 10 and under are free for general admission seats. These ticket discounts are available at the gate on the date of the event: spectators 11-18 years old and college students can attend the prelim or finals for \$7 off any general admission ticket type and \$3 off any reserved ticket type. Seniors 62 and over get \$3 off the applicable adult ticket price, as do active duty military members and their spouses (military ID required).

Bands of America is a program of Music for All (MFA), one of the nation’s largest and most influential organizations in support of active music making. For more than 35 years, MFA, through its Bands of America and Orchestra America programs, has been a destination and set the standard for scholastic music ensemble performance and music education advocacy. A 501(c)3 not-for-profit educational organization, MFA uses its national profile programming to recognize, model, showcase and provide individual, teacher and organizational examples of music performance excellence and achievement. MFA’s programs include 20 annual events, including the Bands of America Grand National Championships and Regional Championships for marching

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band, the Music for All Summer Symposium camp for students and teachers and the Music for All National Festival for concert bands and percussion ensembles. Music for All's programmatic model is designed to mirror and supplement the classroom and performance model adopted in most American scholastic settings.

Music for All's efforts are supported through sponsorships, including current partnerships with National Presenting Sponsor, the Yamaha Corporation of America; Official Uniform Sponsor, Fred J. Miller, Inc.; Official Equipment Sponsor, Wenger Corporation; Official Student Travel Partner, Music Travel Consultants; Corporate Sponsors, NAMM and Remo, Inc.; Associate Sponsors, Vic Firth, Inc., Vandoren and SmartMusic®; and Program Sponsor, Center X Productions. Music for All is also supported by the Arts Council of Indianapolis and the City of Indianapolis, by the Indianapolis Cultural Development Commission and by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

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