



News Release

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JOHN CLAYTON ANNOUNCED TO LEAD 2012 JAZZ BAND OF AMERICA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Grammy-winning bassist, composer and conductor John Clayton will conduct the 2012 Jazz Band of America, part of the Music for All National Festival, presented by Yamaha, March 15-17 in Indianapolis. In addition to the Jazz Band of America, the Music for All National Festival comprises the National Concert Band Festival, Sandy Feldstein National Percussion Festival, Middle School National Music Festival and two additional national honor ensembles: the Honor Band of America and the Honor Orchestra of America.

The Jazz Band of America, presented in cooperation with the Jazz Education Network, will perform Friday evening, March 16, at Clowes Memorial Hall. The members, high school musicians, are selected by recorded audition. The application deadline for the 2012 Jazz Band of America is September 15, 2011, with audition recordings due by October 3.

John Clayton

The movers and shakers in the jazz industry, including Quincy Jones and Tommy Lipuma, consistently request Clayton's talents, and he has served as Artistic Director and musical director for many leading jazz festivals.

As a testament to his immense talent and broad-ranging appeal, Clayton served as the Artistic Director of Jazz for the Los Angeles Philharmonic from 1999 through 2001. In addition, he is Artistic Director for the Centrum Jazz Workshop in Port

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Townsend, Washington and was also appointed Artistic Director for the Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival in 2006. Clayton has written and arranged music for top artists and has been commissioned by many jazz ensembles and orchestras.

Clayton has served as the musical director of several jazz festivals, including the Sarasota Jazz Festival and the Santa Fe Jazz Party. As Artistic Director of the Vail Jazz Workshop, he participates in choosing talented students from across the nation for an intensive week of learning jazz.

“Music for All is thrilled to have Mr. Clayton leading the Jazz Band of America in 2012,” says Eric Martin, President and CEO of Music for All. “I know the student musicians will have an unforgettable experience working with Mr. Clayton and each other as they prepare for their Festival concert.”

The Jazz Band of America has a prestigious legacy and reputation for the highest level of excellence. Past conductors and guest artists include: Patti Austin, Shelly Berg, Wayne Bergeron, Ndugu Chanler, Dr. Lou Fischer, Luke Gillespie, Wycliffe Gordon, Ryan Hamilton, Wynton Marsalis, Ron McCurdy, Rex Richardson, Jeff Rupert, Stan Smith and Phil Woods.

Seven members of the 2011 GRAMMY® Jazz Combo and GRAMMY® Jazz Band were alumni of the MFA Jazz Band of America. The 2011 Jazz Band of America concert, which includes footage of these students, is currently available for viewing for a limited time on Music for All’s YouTube channel: [youtube.com/musicforalltv](https://www.youtube.com/musicforalltv). For more on John Clayton, visit: <http://www.johnclaytonjazz.com/>

Festival Ensembles

In addition to the Jazz Band of America, Music for All selected 26 concert bands and

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percussion ensembles that have been invited to perform at the 2012 Music for All National Festival. The ensembles represent high schools and middle schools from Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia and Washington.

Honor Ensembles

The Honor Band of America, Jazz Band of America and Honor Orchestra of America will feature nearly 200 of the top student musicians in the country in concert – all selected after individual, recorded auditions. Honor ensemble members have the opportunity to perform under the direction of world-class conductors, with outstanding fellow student musicians. **The Jazz Band of America**, conducted by John Clayton, will perform Friday, March 16 at Clowes Memorial Hall. **The Honor Band of America**, conducted by Col. Lowell Graham, Chairman of the Music Department and Director of Orchestra Activities at the University of Texas at El Paso and former Commander and Conductor of the United States Air Force Band, will perform Saturday, March 17 at Clowes Memorial Hall. **The Honor Orchestra of America**, conducted by Larry J. Livingston, Music Director, Thornton Orchestras and Professor of Conducting at University of Southern California, will perform in two evenings of shared concerts with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra at Hilbert Circle Theatre Friday and Saturday, March 16 and 17.

About the Music for All National Festival

In addition to performing, the nearly 2,000 student musicians, teachers and supporters will participate in clinics and master classes, special sessions and social events and enjoy performances by their peers.

For more information on Festival and honor ensemble concert times, visit www.musicforall.org, or call 800-848-2263.

Tickets will be available for purchase from cloweshall.org or ticketmaster.com in

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January. Additional festival and ticket information, including information about the honor ensembles, is available at www.musicforall.org or by calling 800.848.2263.

Music for All (MFA) is 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 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 Sponsor, SmartMusic®; Official Student Travel Partner, Music Travel Consultants; Corporate Sponsors, NAMM and Remo, Inc.; Associate Sponsors, Vic Firth, Inc. and Vandoren; and Program Sponsors, Center X Productions and McCormick's Enterprises. 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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