



# News Release

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## **BANDS OF AMERICA GRAND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS BRINGS NATION'S BEST MARCHING BANDS TO LUCAS OIL STADIUM**

*Thirteen Indiana bands are among the 87 high school ensembles competing for America's national champion title in over three days of performances; The Indianapolis Marching Band Tournament will kick off the event Nov. 7*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 87 of the best marching bands in the country will perform in the nation's pre-eminent marching band event, the Bands of America Grand National Championships, presented by Yamaha, at Lucas Oil Stadium, Wednesday, November 7 through Saturday, November 10. Bands from Indiana, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin will converge on Indianapolis for the championship. Eight Indianapolis Schools will kick off the event Nov. 7 with the Indianapolis Marching Band Tournament.

Thirteen Indiana bands, including, Avon High School, Ben Davis High School, Carmel High School, Center Grove High School, Forest Park Jr./Sr. High School, Goshen High School, Greenwood Community High School, Lake Central High School, Lawrence Central High School, Monrovia High School, Shortridge Magnet High School, Springs Valley High School and Western High School will compete for the national championship. Avon, the 2010, 2009 and 2008 BOA Grand National Champions will return to reclaim their title, won by Broken Arrow High School from Oklahoma in 2011.

International singer-songwriter Shaun Canon (formerly known as Shaun Barrowes on Season 7 of American Idol) will be at the 2012 Band of America Championships this year. Shaun will perform live as part of the championships' Grand Finale on Saturday evening, November 10. Surrounded by the 2,000 student members of the Grand National Finalist bands on the field, Shaun plans to perform his hit song, "Live for Music," which gained international attention earlier this year. Shaun's "Live for Music" videos (featuring marching arts performances, including of bands performing in Bands of America Championships,) have been viewed more than 700,000 times on YouTube.

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## **Indianapolis Marching Band Tournament Nov. 7**

The four-day event begins as eight Indianapolis marching bands perform in the Indianapolis Marching Band Tournament, presented by Yamaha, from 7 – 9 p.m. at Lucas Oil Stadium. This represents the highest number of schools participating in the increasingly competitive Indianapolis Marching Band Tournament.

The marching bands from Arsenal Technical High School, Broad Ripple Magnet High School, Crispus Attucks High School, Emmerich Manual High School, John Marshall Community High School, Northwest High School, Shortridge Magnet High School and Washington Community High School will compete in the Indianapolis Marching Band Tournament. D.J. Mic P will return as emcee. Spirit judges will award the most spirited, enthusiastic school with the Spirit Award and a \$1,000 scholarship for the school's band program. Tickets are available FREE in advance of the event from any of the IPS Bands participating in the IPS Marching Band Tournament or at the event for \$5, available at the door.

Music for All's Bands of America is hosting the Indianapolis Marching Band Tournament as part of Grand Nationals, giving the Indianapolis school marching band members the opportunity to perform in a professional stadium at no cost to IPS. The tournament is one of the many ways Music for supports music education in Indianapolis Public Schools.

A panel of nationally known music educators and marching band experts will evaluate each competing band in the Indianapolis Marching Band Tournament Wednesday and the Grand National Championships Thursday through Saturday. Thirty bands from Thursday and Friday's preliminary competition will advance to Saturday's Semi-Finals, with the top 12 scoring bands on Saturday advancing to the evening finals competition, where the Grand National Champion will be named. Four college bands will perform in exhibition: Marian University and Tennessee State University Aristocrat of Bands on Wednesday evening at the IPS Tournament, Tennessee State University Aristocrat of Bands again on Thursday, the Western Carolina University Marching Band Friday afternoon, the Murray State University Marching Band Friday evening, and the Western Carolina University Marching Band again on Saturday afternoon.

Friday evening's festivities will include the presentation of the Patrick John Hughes Parent/Booster Award, a national award honoring an outstanding band parent and supporter and named in honor of Louisville resident Patrick John Hughes, co-author with his son Patrick Henry of "I Am Potential." The Hughes family has been featured on ESPN, ABC World News Tonight and NPR's All Things Considered for their inspirational family story, and they were also on ABC's Extreme Home Makeover.

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Tickets are still available for the Grand National Championships at Ticketmaster.com, Ticketmaster by phone and at the Lucas Oil Stadium ticket office. Tickets for the four days of events range from \$5 to \$115. See all ticket prices at [www.musicforall.org](http://www.musicforall.org).

All Grand National performances on Thursday, Friday and Saturday will be broadcast online as live webcasts by subscription and pay-per-view. Visit [www.musicforall.org](http://www.musicforall.org) for complete event and performance schedules, and visit [musicforall.org/video/subscriptions](http://musicforall.org/video/subscriptions) to order the live Webcast.

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. Music for All's mission is to create, provide and expand positively life-changing experiences through music for all. Music for All's vision is to be a catalyst to ensure that every child across America has access and opportunity to participate in active music making in his or her scholastic environment. Music for All provides national and regional music education programs that recognize and support students' performance and success, offer music educator training and professional development, and deliver tools and resources to participants that assist in supporting music education by promoting awareness of music's impact on student growth and achievement. Headquartered in Indianapolis, Music for All is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit educational organization. MFA's programs include more than 20 annual events, including the Music for All National Festival, Music for All Summer Symposium, and Bands of America Grand National and Regional Championships for marching band. Learn more at [www.musicforall.org](http://www.musicforall.org).

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 Performance Equipment Sponsor, Wenger Corporation; Official Student Travel Partner Music Travel Consultants; Strategic Advocacy Partner, NAMM; Associate Sponsors, DANSR, Delivra, Remo, Inc., SmartMusic, Vic Firth, Inc. and The Woodwind & Brasswind. Music for All is also supported by the Arts Council of Indianapolis and the City of Indianapolis, by the Indianapolis Cultural Development Commission, the Ball Brothers Foundation, LDI 100th Anniversary Celebration Cultural Partnerships Gift Program and by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

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