



News Release

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

Fourteen Indiana bands are among more than 90 high school ensembles competing for America's national champion title in over three days of performances; Indianapolis Public Schools will kick off event Nov. 9

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 92 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 9 through Saturday, November 12. Bands from Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Wisconsin, Missouri, Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania will converge on Indianapolis for the championship. Eight Indianapolis Public Schools will kick off the event Nov. 9 with the IPS Marching Band Tournament.

Fourteen Indiana bands, including Arsenal Technical High School, Avon High School, Ben Davis High School, Carmel High School, Center Grove High School, Columbus North High School, Danville High School, East Central High School, Lake Central High School, Lawrence Central High School, Monrovia High School, Norwell High School, Shortridge Magnet High School and Western High School will compete for the national championship. Avon, the 2010, 2009 and 2008 BOA Grand National Champion, returns to defend its title.

IPS Marching Band Tournament Nov. 9

The four-day event begins as eight IPS marching bands perform in the IPS 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 IPS Marching Band Tournament.

The marching bands from Arlington Community High School, Arsenal Technical High School, Broad Ripple Magnet High School, Emmerich Manual High School, Northwest High School, T.C. Howe Community High School, George Washington Community High

School and Shortridge Magnet High School will compete in the IPS 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.

Additionally, this year Arsenal Technical High School and Shortridge Magnet High School will also be competing Thursday in the Grand National Championships competition. This is only the second time IPS bands have competed in the Grand National Championships preliminary competition.

Music for All's Bands of America is hosting the IPS Marching Band Tournament as part of Grand Nationals, giving the IPS 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 IPS 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 on Wednesday evening at the IPS Tournament, the Indiana University Marching Hundred on Friday evening, the University of Massachusetts Minuteman Marching Band on Saturday afternoon, and the Indiana State University Marching Sycamores on Saturday evening.

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.

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.

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 for complete event and performance schedules, and visit mfa.thefannetwork.org 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. 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 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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