FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2026 Bands of America Grand National Championships are in Indianapolis, Indiana, on Nov. 12-14

98 high school marching bands will compete for the Grand National Championship title

INDIANAPOLIS, IND. – Ninety-eight high school marching bands from across the country, including Hawaii, will perform at Lucas Oil Stadium on Thursday through Saturday, November 12-14, as part of the Bands of America Grand National Championships, presented by Yamaha and Sweetwater.

Bands of America Championships are the nation's premier marching band events, showcasing outstanding student musicians and visual performances, with this championship as the electrifying conclusion of the season. Bands of America is a program of Music for All, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that is one of America's largest and most influential music education organizations.

Music in our schools is an important part of a complete education. More than 27.3 million students in grades 1-12 are involved in music in their schools in the United States, according to the 2022 National Arts Education Status Report. About 181,000 students performed at the Bands of America Championships this fall.

Schedule
Gates will open for preliminary competition on Thursday at 8:30 AM and Friday at 6:45 AM, for semi-finals competition on Saturday as early as 6:45 AM (official gate time will be posted online, following preliminary awards), and for finals Saturday night at 6:30 PM. The full schedule of performing bands can be found at marching.musicforall.org/grand-national-championships.

Performances will be evaluated by a panel of nationally recognized music educators and marching band experts. The 12 highest-scoring bands will advance to the evening finals with the top-scoring band named the 2026 Grand National Champion at the end of the night.

There will be an exhibition performance by the Western Carolina University Pride of the Mountains Marching Band following the conclusion of preliminary competition on Friday and by the West Chester University Incomparable Golden Rams Marching Band following semi-finals competition on Saturday.

Tickets
All tickets are digital, and the event is cashless. Spectators can skip the line and buy tickets, including full day passes, tickets for finals, and student group tickets, online at marching.musicforall.org. Children 10 years or younger are admitted for free for general admission seating.

The Performances
Each participating band performs a unique show that is up to 11 minutes long. Then, they are evaluated and scored based on musical and visual performances, as well as general effect. The bands performed their shows throughout the fall, with the goal of receiving a score as close to 100 as possible at each of the championships in which they chose to participate.

The 2026 Bands of America Championships season included 28 events across America, culminating with the Bands of America Grand National Championships.

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About Music for All
Music for All's mission is to create, provide, and expand positively life-changing experiences through music. Our vision is to be a catalyst to ensure that every child in America has access and opportunity for active music-making in their scholastic environment. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization, Music for All's events and programs serve more than 600,000 attendees annually — and more than 1.7 million program participants since 1975. Programs include the Bands of America Regional and the Grand National Championships for marching bands; the Music for All Summer Camp for students and teachers; the Music for All National Festival for concert bands, orchestras, and percussion ensembles; national honor ensembles including the Honor Band of America, Jazz Band of America, and the Honor Band in the Rose Parade®, Advocacy in Action Awards, the Music for All Podcast Network, and affiliate concert and marching events across America. Visit musicforall.org for more information.

Follow Us!
You can keep up with the latest information for Music for All online at musicforall.org, Facebook (@musicforallnetwork and @bandsofamerica), Instagram (@officialmusicforall and @officialbandsofamerica), and TikTok (@officialmusicforall.)

Sponsor Information
Music for All efforts are supported through sponsorships, including current partnerships with National Presenting Sponsors: Yamaha Corporation of America and Sweetwater; Official Uniform Sponsor: Fred J. Miller, Inc.; Official Student Travel Partner: Music Travel Consultants; Official Spirit Wear Sponsor: PepWear; Corporate Sponsors: Ball State University and Visit Indy. Music for All is also supported by Indy Arts Council and the City of Indianapolis; Ball Brothers Foundation; Lilly Endowment Inc.; George and Frances Ball Foundation; Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation, Inc., Nicholas H. Noyes, Jr., Memorial Foundation, Inc., the NAMM Foundation, and the National Bank of Indianapolis.

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