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Music for All Advocacy in Action Award Winners Announced

The winners of the 2020 Advocacy in Action Awards were announced January 15.

Over forty school music programs across America have been recognized for their outstanding music advocacy initiatives as recipients of Music for All's 2020 Advocacy in Action Awards.

The Music for All Advocacy in Action Awards recognize music programs, schools, and communities across the United States that demonstrate outstanding achievement in local efforts to provide access to music education for all students. From community arts fairs to stellar recruitment videos to all-female jazz festivals, this year's winning programs not only represent innovative and effective approaches to music advocacy nationwide, but also highlight the power of music education to address some of the most pressing issues in today's headlines.

"For too long music advocacy has leaned mainly on research-based justifications," says Eric Martin, President and CEO, Music for All. "Music for All's Advocacy in Action Awards collect and share ideas so music programs and their supporters can get practical and inspire each other."

One of the winning projects brings music education into a juvenile detention center in San Diego, using music to teach math, as well as encouraging pro-social behavior and healing. While participating in Project Confined Redefined, these young men are able to better regulate themselves and express their feelings through music. "No matter what the future holds for these students, they will always remember the magic of music making and will forever remember how music provided an outlet for their own frustrations, anger, remorse, and acknowledgement," says James Stephens, Director of Advocacy and Educational Resources for Music for All.

Another winning project serves as a bridge between marginalized first generation and immigrant communities and the local community. INTEMPO provides a year-round music school, after-school programming, and a summer camp, all providing choral and string education in Stamford, Connecticut. The programming is culturally conscious, using folkloric instruments and featuring composers and a repertoire that reflects students' own diversity. They partner with local schools and community institutions, all while keeping the experiences affordable, accessible, and inclusive.

Thirty-nine other projects nationwide are also being hailed for the powerful impact on their own communities through Advocacy in Action. To qualify for the Advocacy in Action Award designation, each of these applicants submitted a detailed description of its music program and project entry in one of six categories: Community Engagement, Decision-Maker Interaction, Fundraising and Sponsorship, Marketing and Promotion, Parent and Booster Involvement, or Recruitment and Retention. Submissions were reviewed by a national panel of educators, administrators, and community and business leaders.

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It is Music for All's vision to be a catalyst to ensure every child across America has access and opportunity to participate in active music-making in his or her scholastic environment. In efforts to fulfill this vision, the Advocacy in Action Awards were designed to celebrate active music-making both inside and outside the traditional music classroom.

This year's award winners are recognized online at advocacy.musicforall.org. The website curates the winning entries from each year as a resource for arts educators. By collecting, recognizing, and sharing outstanding examples of local advocacy efforts, Music for All ultimately hopes to inspire others across the nation to take action in their own communities.

About Music for All

Since 1975, Music for All has set the standard for scholastic music ensemble performance and music education advocacy. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization, Music for All's mission is to create, provide, and expand positively life-changing experiences through music for all, working to ensure that every child in America has access to active music making in his or her scholastic environment. Music for All's advocacy efforts inspire and develop models and strategies for successful music programs, including the Advocacy in Action Awards and programs for underserved communities. Music for All draws more than 500,00 attendees each year – including more than 125,000 students – with 45+ annual events, including the prestigious Bands of America Grand National Championships and Regional Championships for marching bands, the Music for All Summer Symposium camp for students and teachers, and the Music for All National Festival for bands, orchestras, choirs, percussion and chamber ensembles. Music for All also presents affiliate regional music festivals and national student honor ensembles including the Bands of America Honor Band that will march for the fifth time in the Rose Parade® in 2021. For more information and to support the efforts of Music for All, visit www.musicforall.org.

Sponsor Information

Music for All efforts are supported through sponsorships, including current partnerships with National Presenting Sponsor: Yamaha Corporation of America; Official Uniform Sponsor: Fred J. Miller, Inc.; Official Student Travel Partner: Music Travel Consultants; Official Spirit Wear Sponsor: PepWear; Official Performance Equipment Sponsor: Wenger Corporation; Corporate Sponsors: Ball State University, BAND the mobile app, Visit Indy, and the City of Indianapolis, and Strategic Advocacy Partner: NAMM; Associate Sponsors: DANSR, Director's Showcase International, FloMarching, REMO, ScholarshipAuditions.com, and Woodwind & Brasswind. Music for All is also supported by the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency; the Arts Council of Indianapolis and the City of Indianapolis; Ball Brothers Foundation; Lilly Endowment Inc.; George and Frances Ball Foundation; Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation, Inc.; CMA Foundation; Central Indiana Community Foundation; Glick Fund, a fund of Central Indiana Community Foundation; Nicholas H. Noyes, Jr., Memorial Foundation, Inc.; The Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County, Inc.; and Arthur Jordan Foundation.

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