



## **Lucas Oil Stadium hosts Bands of America Grand National Championships November 13-16**

*Nine Indiana bands are among the 91 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. 13.*

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA – Outstanding high school marching bands from 19 states, including Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Wisconsin will compete in one of the nation's most prominent marching band championships, Music for All's Bands of America Grand National Championships, presented by Yamaha, at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN, November 13-16.

The championship event will feature 91 high school marching bands in the preliminary competition. Nine Center Township schools will kick off the event Nov. 13 with the Indianapolis Marching Band Tournament. A panel of nationally recognized music educators and marching arts 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. The top 12 scoring bands on Saturday will move on to the evening Finals competition, where the Grand National Champion will be named.

"Bands of America Championships are a program of Music for All, which has a mission to create, provide and expand positively life-changing experiences through music for all," according to Eric L. Martin, President and CEO of Music for All. "Active participation in music and arts is a vital part of a meaningful educational experience. The thousands of students who will perform at this championship showcase the dedication, teamwork and mastery required and fostered through music and arts education."

### **Schedule**

The Indianapolis Marching Band Tournament begins on Wednesday Nov. 13 at 6:30 p.m. with the National Anthem performed by the Indianapolis Children's Choir and will conclude at 9:15 p.m. with the awards ceremony. The Grand National Championships preliminary competition begins on Thursday Nov. 14 at 11:30 a.m. and will conclude at 11:30 p.m. The preliminary competition resumes on Friday Nov. 15 at 8:00 a.m. and concludes at 9:00 p.m. Gates will open for the Semi-Finals competition on Saturday,

Nov. 16 at 7:00 a.m. with performances beginning at approximately 8:00 a.m. and will conclude at 5:00 p.m. Gates open for the Finals competition on Saturday Nov. 16 at 6:30 p.m. with performances beginning at 8:00 p.m. All times are tentative pending the final schedule of performing bands. Current times will be listed at [musicforall.org](http://musicforall.org).

### **Indianapolis Marching Band Tournament Nov. 13**

The four-day event begins as nine Center Township marching bands perform in the Indianapolis Marching Band Tournament, presented by Yamaha, from 6:45 p.m.-9:00 p.m. at Lucas Oil Stadium. 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, Key Learning Community, 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 bands participating in the Indianapolis Marching Band Tournament or at the Ticket Office during the Wednesday evening event for \$5.

Music for All 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 the schools. The tournament is one of the many ways Music for All supports music education in Indianapolis Public Schools.

### **Nine Indiana bands compete in this national competition**

Nine Indiana bands, including Avon High School, Ben Davis High School, Carmel High School, Castle High School, Center Grove High School, Lake Central High School, Lawrence Central High School, Monrovia High School and Western High School will compete in the Grand National Championships. Carmel High School, the 2012 BOA Grand National Champions will return to defend their title.

### **Special Events**

Three college bands will perform in exhibition: Marian University on Wednesday evening at the Indianapolis Marching Band Tournament, Marian University again Friday afternoon, the Missouri State University Marching Band on Friday evening, and the Purdue University Marching Band 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.

### **Ticket information**

Tickets are still available for the Grand National Championships at [Ticketmaster.com](http://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). Children ages 10 and under are free for general admission seats.

## **Sponsorship Information**

Music for All's efforts are supported through sponsorships, including current partnerships with National Presenting Sponsor Yamaha Corporation of America; Title Sponsor of Texas Championships, Texas Dairy Queen®; Official Uniform Sponsor Fred J. Miller, Inc.; Official Music Store of BOA's Grand National Championships Paige's Music and Chops Percussion; Official Performance Equipment Sponsor Wenger Corporation; Official Student Travel Partner Music Travel Consultants; Corporate Sponsors Visit Indy and the City of Indianapolis, Vic Firth Company and Zildjian; Strategic Advocacy Partner, NAMM; Associate Sponsors DANSR, Delivra, Remo, Inc., SmartMusic, The Woodwind & Brasswind and Director's Showcase International; and fall Supporting Sponsors Purdue University and Marian University, Marching Show Concepts and Center X Productions. Music for All is also supported by the Indiana Arts Commission, Arts Council of Indianapolis, the Ball Brothers Foundation, George and Frances Ball Foundation, Lilly Endowment Inc., Arthur Jordan Foundation, The D'Addario Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

## **About Music for All**

Music for All (MFA) is one of the nation's largest and most influential organizations in support of active music-making. Since 1975, 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. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization, MFA's mission is to create, provide and expand positively life-changing experiences through music for all. MFA's 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. 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, the Music for All National Festival for concert bands, orchestra, jazz and percussion ensembles and national honor bands and orchestras.

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**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

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