



Lucas Oil Stadium Hosts Bands of America Grand National Championships November 8-10

Twelve Indiana bands are among the 108 high school ensembles competing for America's national champion title in more than three days of performances.

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA – Outstanding high school marching bands from 23 states will compete in the nation's most prominent marching band championship, Music for All's Bands of America Grand National Championships, presented by Yamaha, at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana, November 8-11. Bands will compete from Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin, and West Virginia

Bands of America Grand National Championships, presented by Yamaha, is America's most prestigious marching band event and the culmination of the 22-event Bands of America season. It is first and foremost an educational performance opportunity open to all high school bands.

The championship event will feature 108 high school marching bands in two days of preliminary competition. 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. A panel of nationally recognized music educators and marching arts experts will evaluate the Grand National Championships Thursday through Saturday.

With over 1.5 million music students impacted by Music for All's programs over more than 40 years, Bands of America Championships are a celebration of music education at its finest, showcasing excellence, teamwork, and leadership. In addition to the performances, the event includes an Expo in the stadium, a student leadership workshop, and special events for music educators, students, and parents. Paige's Music/Chops Percussion of Indianapolis is the Official Music Store of the event. More than 93,000 participants and spectators are expected to attend, with thousands more watching the event's live stream on FloMarching.com.

In addition to Grand Nationals, the Bands of America Indianapolis Super Regional will also be in Lucas Oil Stadium, on October 19-20. The Grand National Championships was expanded for 2018, making it the largest Bands of America Grand National Championships in the organization's 43 year history.

"Bands of America Championships are programs, supporting our 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 experiences in music and the arts are integral to providing students with a well-rounded education, and the Grand National Championships are a pinnacle experience for the bands. The performances of students at the Bands of America Grand Nationals showcase the results that come from the dedication and teamwork necessary for the achievement of excellence, on the performance field and in life beyond. Bands of America events advocate for maintaining and growing our national commitment to music and arts education, with the student performers making the case in the most visible, artistic, and entertaining way possible, something each and every American should witness and experience."

Schedule

The Grand National Championships preliminary competition begins on Thursday, November 8 at 7:45 a.m. and will conclude at 11:15 p.m. The preliminary competition resumes on Friday November 9 at 7:00 a.m. and concludes at 8:15 p.m. with an exhibition performance by the Spartan Marching Band of Michigan State University, followed by the awards ceremony. Gates will open for the Semi-Finals competition on Saturday, November 10 at 6:45 a.m. with performances beginning at approximately 7:15 a.m., and will conclude at 5:00 p.m. Gates open for the Finals competition on Saturday, November 10 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.

Twelve Indiana bands compete in this national competition

Twelve Indiana bands, including Avon High School, Carmel High School, Castle High School, Center Grove High School, Columbus North High School, Fishers High School, Goshen High School, Greenfield Central High School, Homestead High School, Lawrence Township, Lewis Cass High School, and Monrovia High School will compete in the Grand National Championships.

Special Events

A joint IPS student leadership session and rehearsal with Tennessee State University "The Aristocrat of Bands" will take place on Wednesday, November 7 at 7:30 p.m. at Lucas Oil Stadium

Four college bands will perform in exhibition: Tennessee State University "The Aristocrat of Bands" on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. and Friday at 10:00 a.m.; Marian University Marching Knights on Friday at 4:45 p.m.; the Spartan Marching Band of Michigan State University on Friday at the conclusion of the preliminary performance at 8:15 p.m.; The Rocket Marching Band of the University of Toledo at 1:45 p.m. on Saturday, and the Incomparable Golden Rams Marching Band of West Chester University at 4:45 p.m. on Saturday.

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." There is also a Student Leadership Workshop with Dr. Tim Lauzenheiser, where student leaders will learn hard-hitting life skills that will positively contribute to the welfare of their band programs.

Special events include programs for future music educators, student leaders, music education advocates and a three-day Expo in Lucas Oil Stadium.

Ticket Information

Tickets are 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 \$16 to \$120. See all ticket prices at www.musicforall.org. Children ages 10 and under are free for general admission seats. A \$5 off any general admission ticket (individual Preliminaries and Semi-Finals) discount will be available at the gate for college students with an ID, spectators 11-18 years of age, military members and spouses (military ID required), and spectators age 62 and over.

About Music for All

Since 1975, Music for All, through its Music for All, Bands of America, Orchestra America, and choir 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, 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 in America has access and opportunity for active music making in his or her scholastic environment. Music for All serves more than 500,000 participants annually with programs that include 30+ annual events, including the Bands of America Grand National Championships and Regional Championships for marching bands, the Music for All Summer Symposium camp for students and teachers, the Music for All National Festival and Affiliate Regional Music Festivals for concert bands, orchestras, choirs, chamber ensembles, percussion ensembles, and the national honor concert band, jazz band, orchestra, and the Bands of America Honor Band that will march for the fifth time in the Rose Parade® in 2021.

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 Performance Equipment Sponsor: Wenger Corporation; Corporate Sponsors: Ball State University, United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps, Zildjian and Vic Firth Company, Visit Indy and the City of Indianapolis, and Strategic Advocacy Partner: NAMM; Associate Sponsors: Delivra, DANSR, Director's Showcase International, REMO, and Woodwind & Brasswind. Music for All is also supported by the Indiana Arts Commission, Arts Council of Indianapolis, the Ball Brothers Foundation, Lilly Endowment Inc, George and Frances Ball Foundation, Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation, CMA Foundation, Nicholas H. Noyes, Jr. Memorial Foundation, Inc., and Arthur Jordan Foundation.

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