



# News Release

CONTACT: Debbie Laferty Asbill, Director of Marketing and Communications  
Direct phone: 317-524-6216 • Fax 317-524-6200  
deb@musicforall.org • [www.musicforall.org](http://www.musicforall.org)

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

*Fourteen Indiana bands are among more than 85 high school ensembles competing for America's national champion title in over three days of performances; Indianapolis Public Schools will kick off event Nov. 10*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 94 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 10 through Saturday, November 13. Bands from Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Wisconsin, Missouri, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Colorado, Oklahoma, California, Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey will converge on Indianapolis for the championship. A record number of eight Indianapolis Public Schools will kick off the event Nov. 10 with the IPS Marching Band Tournament.

Fourteen Indiana bands, including Arsenal Technical High School, Avon High School, Ben Davis High School, Broad Ripple Magnet High School, Carmel High School, Center Grove High School, Columbus North High School, Edgewood High School, Lake Central High School, Lawrence Central High School, Monrovia High School, Morristown Jr./Sr. High School, Shortridge Magnet High School and Western High School will compete for the national championship. Avon, the 2009 BOA Grand National Champion, returns to defend its title.

### **IPS Marching Band Tournament Nov. 10**

The four-day event begins as eight IPS marching bands perform in the Sharp Business Systems 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. Mike 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, Broad Ripple Magnet High School and Shortridge Magnet High School will also be competing Friday in the Grand National Championships competition. This is the first 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: Indiana State University and Marian University on Wednesday evening at the IPS Tournament, the Riverside City College Marching Tigers on Friday afternoon and Saturday afternoon and the Michigan State University Spartan Marching Band on Friday evening and 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 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. Mr. Hughes will attend the Friday evening presentation.

Music for All will present a special tribute in memory of George N. Parks, Friday, Nov. 12 as part of the Grand National Championships in Indianapolis. Tens of thousands of young leaders had positively life-changing experiences through George's Drum Major Academy and in the BOA Honor Band in the Rose Parade under his direction in 2009 and 2005. The tribute will take place at the opening of the Preliminary Awards Ceremony, at approximately 8:45 p.m. in Lucas Oil Stadium.

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](http://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](http://www.musicforall.org) for complete event and performance schedules, and visit [mfa.thefannetwork.org](http://mfa.thefannetwork.org) to order the live Webcast.

Bands of America is a program of Music for All, one of the largest and most influential national music education organizations in support of active music-making. Headquartered in Indianapolis, Music for All (MFA) uniquely combines regional and national music-event programming with awareness campaigns and advocacy aimed at expanding access to music in schools and communities. A 501(c)(3) not-for-profit educational organization, MFA's programs include 25-plus annual events, including the Bands of America Grand National marching band championships, Regional marching band championships across the country, the Music for All National Festival and the Music for All Summer Symposium. Learn more at [www.musicforall.org](http://www.musicforall.org).

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; Corporate Sponsors, SmartMusic®; NAMM; and Remo, Inc.; Associate Sponsors, Vic Firth, Inc. and Denis Wick; Preferred Travel Partners, Music Travel Consultants and New Horizons Tour and Travel; and Program Sponsors McCormick's Enterprises and 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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