



News Release

CONTACT: Erin Fortune, Marketing Coordinator
Direct phone: 317-524-6218 • Fax 317-524-6200
Cell phone: 810-247-1235
Erin.f@musicforall.org • www.musicforall.org

MUSIC STUDENTS, FANS BAND TOGETHER TO RAISE OVER \$11,000 FOR SANDY RELIEF EFFORTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Participants and spectators at Music for All’s Bands of America Grand National Championships donated more than \$11,000 during the November 8-10 event at Lucas Oil Stadium. Music for All asked attendees to support all of the victims of Hurricane Sandy by making donations in the name of all of the bands in America to the American Red Cross. All of the funds were presented to the Indianapolis office of the American Red Cross in honor of Music for All and ALL of the band and music students and boosters in America during a presentation at Avon High School on November 20, 2012.

The Hurricane Relief initiative started with a \$100 donation from Music for All’s President and CEO, Eric Martin. Additional funds were accepted at the Music for All Information & Awareness Booth on the concourse of Lucas Oil Stadium. On Saturday during Semi-Finals and Finals of the Championships, volunteers from Avon High School Orchestra from Indiana came through the stands with buckets to accept donations.

Music for All hopes that this Grand National’s initiative becomes a catalyst to inspire a student participant lead and driven commitment to create, determine and support a special Bands of America project benefiting others at each Grand Nationals, beginning November 2013. “At Music for All we want to teach students about more than just music. We are committed to helping to prepare students to be great citizens and professionals. One of Music for All’s core values is Leadership,” said Eric Martin, President and CEO of Music for All. “We lead through positive action and are committed to serving others for the greater good of society. While the devastation of Hurricane Sandy is terrible, it is an opportunity for our students and communities to practice real leadership and engage in doing so.”

Music for All also received support for the Hurricane Relief initiative from its partners as well as the Indianapolis area community. Pepwear provided t-shirts that were the uniforms of the volunteers, Sharp Business Systems donated printing services and the Home Depot donated the collection buckets.

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Avon High School Orchestra was instrumental in gathering volunteers to help with collecting donations and being a visible presence in bright colored hurricane relief t-shirts in the stands during Grand National Semi Finals and Finals. In addition to helping with collecting funds, the Avon High School music community hosted the Bridgewater-Raritan H.S. band from New Jersey that was in an area affected by the hurricane. Avon High School provided the band with rehearsal space so they could rehearse for the competition, their first rehearsal since the hurricane hit.

Bands of America is a program of Music for All (MFA), one of the nation's largest and most influential organizations in support of active music making. 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 across America has access and opportunity to participate in active music making in his or her scholastic environment. Music for All provides national and regional music education programs that recognize and support students' performance and success, offer music educator training and professional development, and deliver tools and resources to participants that assist in supporting music education by promoting awareness of music's impact on student growth and achievement. Headquartered in Indianapolis, Music for All is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit educational organization. MFA's programs include more than 20 annual events, including the Music for All National Festival, Music for All Summer Symposium, and Bands of America Grand National and Regional Championships for marching band. Learn more at 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 Performance Equipment Sponsor, Wenger Corporation; Official Student Travel Partner Music Travel Consultants; Strategic Advocacy Partner, NAMM; Associate Sponsors, DANSR, Delivra, Remo, Inc., SmartMusic, Vic Firth, Inc. and The Woodwind & Brasswind. Music for All is also supported by the Arts Council of Indianapolis and the City of Indianapolis, by the Indianapolis Cultural Development Commission, the Ball Brothers Foundation, LDI 100th Anniversary Celebration Cultural Partnerships Gift Program and by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

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