

Dear Director,

We are thrilled that you will be with us at the **Bands of America South Texas Regional Championship, presented by Yamaha on September 21, 2019**. It is a privilege for us at Music for All to be able to provide this experience for you, your students, and boosters – to deliver on our mission to create, provide, and expand positively life-changing experiences through music for all. Bands of America programs are dedicated to providing the highest quality educational experiences possible for students and teachers across the nation. These programs emphasize the value of creativity, teamwork, and discipline in scholastic music settings, principles that our participants carry with them as they pursue their personal and professional goals.

### **TENTATIVE PRELIM SCHEDULE & DAILY SCHEDULE**

Please follow the Final Packet link, below, to view the current show schedule. We will communicate any significant changes, and a Final version of this schedule will be released the week of the event.

### **EVENT COMMUNICATIONS AND IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS**

For your convenience, we have posted important documents on our website that are critical as you prepare for your experience in McAllen. It is crucial to read through all documents provided.

Please carefully review the following event specific documents at:

<https://marching.musicforall.org/fallfinalpackets/>

- **Important Event Procedures**
- **Prelim Schedule**
- **Daily Schedule**
- **Site Overview Map and Stadium Map**
- **Driving Directions/Area Map**
- **Judge Bios**

Additionally, the **Important Reminders** webpage provides important information common to all BOA Championships this fall. Please familiarize yourself with this information:

<https://marching.musicforall.org/directorinfo/>

Additionally, please read and review the additional information found on these pages:

- Fall Championship Parking Information
- Fall Championship Picnic Information
- Fall Championship General Event Procedures

### **ADULT CREDENTIALS**

Upon checking in on-site, all bands will receive 6 director name badges valid for both prelims and finals, as well as 25 field passes (plus any additionally purchased field passes), valid for prelims only. Bands performing in finals will receive a new set of 25 finals field passes (plus any additionally purchased field passes) at the Finalist Directors' Meeting

**Additional Field Passes:** All additional credentials must be purchased by Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> with a credit card. The combination of additional name badges and field passes may not exceed 10. Of those 10, a maximum of 4 may be name badges. (BOA Adjudication Handbook Sections 6, 9, 14, 17).

Cost of additional South Texas Regional Name Badges or Field Passes: \$18

## PROCEDURES AND ADJUDICATION HANDBOOK

Please download the 2019 Bands of America Official Procedures and Adjudication Handbook (“rulebook”) from <https://marching.musicforall.org/adjudication-handbook/> and review it carefully; **specifically the significant updates for 2019, listed at the front of the handbook.**

## PERFORMANCE SAFETY REMINDER

Per our rulebook, staging/props shall be limited to a maximum height of **12 feet tall**, including safety or other railings or equipment. Additionally, no participant may be on, or be placed on, any portion of any prop where the participant’s feet are more than six feet above the playing surface of the stadium, unless appropriate safety railing and/or other safety equipment are in place and in use. Soft props that use air as an effect and are made of soft materials (streamers, fabric, inflatables, etc.) shall be limited to a maximum of **25 feet tall**.

## ADJUDICATION PROCEDURES

Music for All uses the CompetitionSuite adjudication system. In mid-September, you will receive an email from CompetitionSuite to create or update your profile. You can add members of your staff, cell phone numbers for text alerts, and other information to assist in receiving judge commentary from your performance. The following process remains in place:

- Approximately 90 minutes after your prelims performance, you will receive a text message to your primary director phone number letting you know that your commentary files are beginning to upload for you to review. You can then open up the CompetitionSuite phone/tablet application, visit the CompetitionSuite website, or call the number from which you received the text message to listen to your commentary.
- **All scores (both prelims and finals) and recaps will be held until the end of the Finals Awards Ceremony.** All scores and recaps will be available online via CompetitionSuite. No scores or recaps will be released prior to the conclusion of the Finals Awards Ceremony.

## BUS/EQUIPMENT TRUCK PARKING PASSES

At the South Texas Regional Championship, bus/truck parking passes are complimentary. Once you complete your online parking pass order, you will receive an email containing your passes. You may only print the number of parking passes you requested in the form. The number of vehicles admitted into the lots will be verified by the BOA Parking Staff. If you need additional passes, please fill out the form again. You will also receive a complimentary staff parking pass for ONE personal vehicle (sedan, SUV, minivan) to park in, or near, the bus/truck parking lot.

## SPECTATOR PARKING

There is no charge for spectator parking at the South Texas Regional. **Please advise your parents and boosters to arrive early and allow extra time to get to the stadium, especially during peak times.** Refer to the Important Event Procedures document for further details.

## COOPERATIVE TICKETS

Your cooperative tickets (15 day passes) will be mailed to you at least two weeks prior to the event. These tickets allow general admission to both prelims and finals. As there are no reserved seats at this venue, your cooperative tickets **cannot** be upgraded. Please communicate with your Booster President as to who from your band will receive credentials and tickets. The only way an “adult/chaperone” can be at field level with performing students is with a name badge or field pass. Otherwise, all other “adults/chaperones” must purchase a ticket. Ticketed patrons are not allowed at field level.

## COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

Your Copyright Report and approvals are due on September 1, and must be received by Music for All prior to your performance. **If you have not submitted your Copyright Report and/or permissions to arrange, please do so immediately. You will not be allowed to take the field until ALL of your copyright paperwork has been received.**

## **EVENT DAY COMMUNICATIONS - BAND App**

NEW this year: Music for All will be using the BAND app (instead of Remind) as our event day communications tool. We highly suggest that you download the app, a direct link for the private BAND group for the BOA Championship that you are participating in will be emailed to you prior to the event. Feel free to share the link with any relevant staff that you would like to have access to information such as schedule changes, weather updates, etc.

***NOTE whoever you share the link with to join the BAND group will receive updates at the same time as you do, as well as have the ability to communicate directly with MFA event staff through the app.***

## **LIVE STREAM ON FLOMARCHING**

All Bands of America Championships will be live streamed on FloMarching. FloMarching is dedicated to the world of competitive marching bands and the marching arts. If you have band parents, alumni, administrators, and supporters who cannot come to the event, the live stream offers subscribers a way to watch all performances at every Bands of America Championship. Visit [FloMarching.com](http://FloMarching.com) to see the monthly and annual subscription options. Please share this opportunity and link with your band family. An annual FloMarching subscription provides access to year round coverage of Marching Arts including Bands of America, Drum Corps International, and Winter Guard International events, all for a single subscription.

## **MAKE JOLESCH ENTERPRISES PART OF YOUR BOA EXPERIENCE**

As you plan your performance day at the 2019 Bands of America Championships, we ask and encourage you to include a stop at the group and section photo areas established for Jolesch Enterprises, our Official Photographer. Full band group and section photos are included in the performance flow immediately following your preliminary performance. Commemorative group photos are not only an important part of the experience for your students now, but are often sought after years later and a photo not taken cannot be replicated. Jolesch Enterprises will provide three complimentary group photos for each band that takes the group photo. Group photo sales also support Bands of America and Music for All programs.

## **OFFICIAL BOA SOUVENIRS POWERED BY PEPWEAR**

New apparel, including the Commemorative 2019 Bands of America Championship T-shirts and event souvenirs are available for purchase onsite at the BOA souvenir stand and online at <https://shop.musicforall.org/>. Please tell your students and their families so they can bring home a Bands of America souvenir, powered by Pepwear, Music for All's Official Spirit Wear Sponsor!

## **2019 CHAMPIONSHIP PATCHES**

2019 Bands of America Regional Championship Patches are available for purchase this fall online and at every Regional at the BOA souvenir stand. To pre-order 50 or more patches at a discounted price, see order form by [Clicking Here](#). In addition, BOA recognizes each and every student in the Regional Championship as a participant with a specially designed participant segment intended to complement the Championship patch.

## **CONNECT WITH BANDS OF AMERICA AND MUSIC FOR ALL ONLINE**

Music for All will be posting behind-the-scenes photos, videos, and updates from each show this fall and we would love for you, your students, and your band's fans to join the conversation.

Encourage your band to follow Music for All and Bands of America on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat so they don't miss any of the action. Use #boa2019 all season long and help promote music education in your community.

Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/musicforallnetwork](http://www.facebook.com/musicforallnetwork)  
[www.facebook.com/bandssofarica](http://www.facebook.com/bandssofarica)

Twitter:  
[@musicforall](https://twitter.com/musicforall)  
[@BandsOfAmerica](https://twitter.com/BandsOfAmerica)

Instagram: [@officialmusicforall](https://www.instagram.com/officialmusicforall)

Snapchat: [officialmfa](https://www.snapchat.com/add/officialmfa)

## **CONSIDER SPiN FOR YOUR SCHOOL'S PERFORMANCE VIDEOS ONLINE**

SPiN – at [thespinnetwork.com](http://thespinnetwork.com) – provides subscribers with access to on-demand videos of your school's music performances at a reasonable cost (please note that 2016-2019 Bands of America performances cannot currently be uploaded to any SPiN channel). A SPiN channel provides a path to copyright compliance for your school and ensembles. We invite you to consider the opportunity for your music program and school. Music for All is grateful to SPiN for a donation to help fund the restoration and digitization of Music for All video archives (including Bands of America performances) to allow them to be enjoyed by students and parents, and used by instructors for educational purposes.

## **ADVOCACY IN ACTION**

Advocacy in Action is a signature program of Music for All designed to collect, recognize, and share effective practices and initiatives that support music education in our schools. The awards recognize and celebrate the commitment of school administrators, community leaders, teachers, and parents who believe in music education and are advocating to ensure that it is part of a comprehensive education for all children.

The Awards highlight the benefits of a strong music program and show what your school or community is doing to provide access and opportunity for active music-making. The Awards also allow educators to showcase their own music programs that are sometimes overlooked or not fully understood by members of the public beyond the school community. We hope that by celebrating these programs, we can inspire others to lead by example and take action in their own programs and communities. You can read and be inspired by the detail of all of our award-winners online at [advocacy.musicforall.org](http://advocacy.musicforall.org).

## **MUSIC FOR ALL**

At Music for All, we believe that every student in America should have access to high-quality educational experiences, but we know that barriers exist in many of our nation's communities. By investing in new initiatives to increase accessibility for urban schools, small and rural schools, and students with special needs, we are dedicating ourselves to the creation of a world where music truly is *for all*.

## **SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

The Music for All Marching Band Scholarships honor graduating seniors who intend to major in music education in college. All applicants must be nominated by the directors of bands performing at a 2019 Bands of America Fall Championship event. Please go to <https://marching.musicforall.org/scholarships/> to see more information, and to apply before the October 27<sup>th</sup> deadline.

## **VOLUNTEER**

Music for All has a number of opportunities to get involved, stay involved, and give back to your community and your music programs. Show your support for Music for All in person by volunteering at our Grand National Championships held November 14-16 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN. Information about this opportunity will be available in October. For more information on this opportunity and other ways to get involved, visit [musicforall.org/volunteer](http://musicforall.org/volunteer) or email [volunteer@musicforall.org](mailto:volunteer@musicforall.org).

## **MUSIC FOR ALL NATIONAL FESTIVAL**

Opportunities to be part of the 2020 Music for All National Festival honor ensembles are still available. For more information please contact [festival@musicforall.org](mailto:festival@musicforall.org). Applications are due October 1, 2019. Please encourage and support your strongest players to audition.

Colonel Timothy J. Holtan (conductor of The U.S. Army's "Pershing's Own") will conduct the 2020 Honor Band of America. The Honor Orchestra of America will be conducted by Larry Livingston (Thorton School of Music at the University of Southern California). The Jazz Band of America will be conducted by Ron McCurdy (Thorton School of Music at the University of Southern California).

There is still an opportunity to apply for the Music for All National Chamber Festival. Applications are due September 13<sup>th</sup>. For more information please contact [festival@musicforall.org](mailto:festival@musicforall.org).

We hope to make your band's experience in McAllen an enjoyable and memorable one. If you have any additional questions after reading through this packet, please do not hesitate to contact us during regular business hours, Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. EST at **800-848-2263**. Beginning at 5 p.m. EST on Friday, September 20, 2019, through the show on Saturday, please call the EVENT HOTLINE at **877-643-6043** to reach Music for All personnel on-site. We look forward to seeing you in just a few weeks. You will see our passion and mission come to life from the moment your buses arrive at Veterans Memorial Stadium.

Have a safe trip to McAllen!

The Music for All Staff