



Bands of America Grand National Championships Return to Lucas Oil Stadium

INDIANAPOLIS, IN [DATE] – Young musicians from throughout the region will return to Lucas Oil Stadium on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, Nov. 11-13, as 98 high school marching bands from 19 states from across the country will compete in the 2021 Bands of America (BOA) Grand National Championships, presented by Yamaha. Bands of America Championships are the premier marching band events in the nation and are entertaining, family-friendly events featuring live music, choreography, and competition. Competing bands will travel to Indianapolis from throughout Indiana and from Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin.

The Bands of America Grand National Championships will feature two days of preliminary competition. Performances are evaluated by a panel of nationally recognized music educators and marching band experts. Up to 38 bands may advance to Saturday's Semi-Finals competition; the top 12 scoring bands will advance to Saturday evening's Finals competition. The event will also feature exhibition performances by the college marching bands from Murray State University, Miami University, and Rutgers University.

The Grand National Championships culminate the 2021 season of 22 Bands of America marching band championships across the country. Bands of America Championships returned in 2021 after the 2020 season was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Before the start of the 2021 season in September, the last full in-person event Music for All held was the Grand National Championships in November 2019. "The enthusiastic return of the bands performing at this championship is a testament to the resilience, dedication, and hard work of these young student musicians, their teachers, school administrators, parents, and families," says Dr. Jeremy Earnhart, President and CEO of Music for All.

Music for All, a non-profit 501(c)3 educational organization, has been creating, providing, and expanding positively life-changing experiences through music for all for school music ensembles, students, and teachers since 1975.

"Music for All is about building leaders and celebrating teachers. The Bands of America Grand National Championships is a celebration of music education at its finest, showcasing the excellence, teamwork, and student leadership of the region's outstanding marching bands," says Earnhart. "These young performers and their achievements advocate for the importance of music education in schools locally and nationwide."

"Music and arts involvement teaches youth many skills necessary to succeed in life, including problem-solving and decision-making, building self-confidence and self-discipline, personal responsibility, teamwork, and more," says Earnhart. "Research shows attendance and graduation rates are higher for students who participate in their school music programs. The College

Entrance Examination Board found that students involved in public school music programs scored, on average, 107 points higher on the SATs than students with no participation."

Indianapolis band, orchestra, and choir students from Arsenal Tech High School, Crispus Attucks High School, George Washington High School, and Shortridge High School will perform together in special exhibition as the Indianapolis Public Schools Music Showcase on Thursday, November 11, during the Grand Nationals Prelims.

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. Mr. Hughes is co-author with his son Patrick Henry of "I Am Potential."

Paige's Music and Chops Percussion is the Official Music Retailer of the Grand National Championships.

Music for All will present the Bands of America Grand National Championships at Lucas Oil Stadium (500 South Capitol Avenue) on Nov. 11-13, 2021. Thursday's preliminary competition begins at 8:45 a.m., gates open at 8:00 a.m. Friday's Preliminary competition begins at 7:00 a.m., gates open at 6:15 a.m. Saturday's Semi-Finals begins at 7:00 a.m., gates open at 6:15 a.m. Finalists will be announced during the Semi-Finals Awards Ceremony at approximately 5:00 p.m. Gates re-open for Finals at 6:30 p.m. Saturday. All times are tentative, pending the final schedule of performing bands. Please check for the latest start times at marching.musicforall.org/grandnationals21.

Individual tickets for Prelims are \$29 for each day. Tickets for Semifinals are \$45 for general admission and \$65 for reserved seats. Saturday Finals tickets are still available; check the website for available tickets and pricing. Children 10 years old or younger are admitted free for general admission seating. All tickets are digital this year, available through Ticketmaster.com. Visit marching.musicforall.org/grandnationals21 to order tickets which are available through Ticketmaster.com. All attendees will be required to have a ticket for entry, including children.

About Music for All

Music for All's mission is to create, provide, and expand positively life-changing experiences through music for all. Its vision is to be a catalyst to ensure that every child across America has access and opportunity to participate in active music-making in their scholastic environment. Founded in 1975, Music for All is a destination that sets the standard for school music ensemble performance and music education advocacy. Music for All provides ensemble experiences, hands-on opportunities for individual student performance training and growth, and teacher professional development. Music for All is committed to informing and empowering students, parents, and teachers to be engaged advocates for the arts and music education in their communities and across the nation.

A 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization, Music for All's programs include 30+ annual events, serving more than 500,000 attendees each year – more than 1.3 million students served in our 46-year history. Our programs include the Bands of America Regional Championships, Super Regional Championships and Grand National Championships for marching bands, the Music for All Summer Symposium at Ball State University, the Music for All National Festival in Indianapolis, and Affiliate Regional Music Festivals for concert ensembles, and national honor ensembles for students, including the Bands of America Honor Band that will march for the fifth time in the Rose Parade® in 2022.

Sponsor Information

Music for All efforts are supported through sponsorships, including current partnerships with National Presenting Sponsor: Yamaha Corporation of America; Official Armed Forces Sponsor: U.S. Marines; Official Uniform Sponsor: Fred J. Miller, Inc.; Official Student Travel Partner: Music Travel Consultants; Official Spirit Wear Sponsor: PepWear; Official Performance Equipment Sponsor: Wenger Corporation; Corporate Sponsors: Ball State University, BAND the mobile app, Visit Indy, and the City of Indianapolis; Associate Sponsors: REMO and Accoladi. Music for All is also supported by the Indiana Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency; the Arts Council of Indianapolis and the City of Indianapolis; Ball Brothers Foundation; Lilly Endowment Inc.; George and Frances Ball Foundation; Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation, Inc.; Nicholas H. Noyes, Jr., Memorial Foundation, Inc.; and Arthur Jordan Foundation.

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