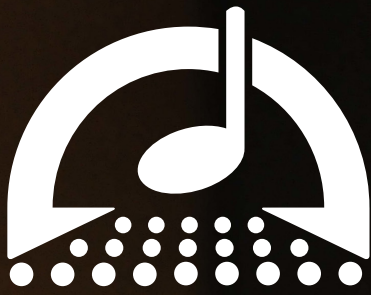


Spring 2015



Music for All

Middle School News



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Make connections, get new ideas, and learn new strategies.



"Not only does the Summer Symposium energize and renew my passion for music education, but learning from the best minds in the business has allowed us to take our band program to a new level."

Maranda Beck, Director

The Music for All Summer Symposium, presented by Yamaha, brings you the absolute best to provide a comprehensive experience. It's a total experience, with something for every band director, from the most experienced to the newer teacher at the start of his or her career. Music for All offers tools that will allow you to achieve peak performance personally and for your ensembles. This is the place to get a head start on next year's thinking.

The Summer Symposium Middle School/Young Teacher Academy is designed to deliver a curriculum that will arm middle school teachers and young music educators with the tools they need to provide their students with a positively life-changing experience. The typical model for middle schools in America is a three-year program (6th, 7th and 8th grade). Unfortunately, three years is also the typical career-span for young music educators. Most recent studies show that America is on the verge of a major shortage of qualified music educators. Through a progressive curriculum, the Middle School/Young Teacher Academy at the Summer Symposium will provide a "hands-on" education that will prepare young teachers to thrive, not just survive!

Music for All offers an experience that will be realistic and taught by experienced and successful practitioners from a range of programs and settings, including small school, low budget, urban and rural situations. In addition to the Middle School/Young Teacher curriculum, your experience includes the Summer Symposium general curriculum, world-class concerts and musical experiences, networking with the finest music educators in the country, professional development certification from MFA, opportunity to register for Graduate Credit through Ball State University, and more.

Who Should Attend? Experienced middle school teachers looking for a fresh approach and new ideas; recent graduates and young teachers;

high school teachers looking to create a unified philosophy with their feeder program.

The "Nuts and Bolts" aspect of the curriculum will deal with fundamentals of teaching 6th graders in a middle school setting. In a nutshell, we will fill the gap to teach you what you didn't learn in college! The "Ensemble" sessions will focus on the challenges that accompany the ensemble experience. Other sessions include "Maximizing the Middle School Experience," focusing on both maximizing your students' middle school experience, as well as helping you to prepare them for the journey to high school.

Band Director Master Classes: Our new series of daily Band Director Master Classes will provide time with master teachers on a wide range of issues from both inside the classroom and beyond. In addition to classroom issues, we'll discuss areas beyond those moments on the podium, like working with boosters and administration, and work/life balance.

"It is a great experience, with quality educators that give you practical and hands-on knowledge you can use in your classroom."

Jarrod O'Donnell, Director



Photos courtesy of Jolesch Enterprises

Deep Discount

For teachers in their first three years of teaching and college students

Attend the full week for just \$365! Includes tuition; housing and meals; concerts; and notebook of resources. That's more than 30% off the regular price! Qualified participants can get that price by registering before May 20.

Peer-to-Peer Networking: Network with other directors and experts who share your passion for teaching music, both in and out of the classroom. Meals and director social events are valuable times for relaxing, catching up, and getting new ideas for your own program.

Professional Development: MFA knows that continuing education and ongoing professional development is important. Music for All can certify your participation in the Summer Symposium to satisfy professional development requirements. Graduate Credit is also available for directors wishing to register for it through Ball State University.

Dream Team Faculty: The faculty includes dozens of the most respected and successful music educators teaching today, at the high school, middle school, and collegiate level; plus connection time with performing artists.

Directors' Concert and Jazz Bands: Bring your instrument and participate in either the Directors' Concert Band, conducted by Richard Saucedo, or the Directors' Jazz Band. It's a fun chance to play with your peers and explore new literature.

One-on-One Directors' Lounge: Our one-on-one Directors' Lounge brings you a team of educators offering personal consultation on your program, show design, conducting, concert programming, drill writing, and more. It's like a director's private lesson with leading experts in the Master Teacher Lounge, Marching Design Lounge, and Technology Lounge.

Universal Pedagogy for Schools Small and Large:

Suburban, Rural and Urban: Whether you're a teacher who has years of experience or a teacher at the start of your career; in a rural, urban or suburban setting; at a small school or large one, the pedagogy offered is relevant to band directors from a wide range of teaching environments. Music for All presenters represent a range of school sizes and settings, providing insight and expertise from directors dealing real-world situations.

Parent/Booster Institute

Music for All's Parent/Booster Institute provides the necessary tools to encourage parent/booster participation and to strengthen engagement in their child's program and community's success. We'll deliver the tools to development and operate a strategic and practical plan. Learn more online at www.musicforall.org/camp.

2015 Sessions Include

Middle School/Young Teacher Pedagogy

Current Trends and Issues

Robert W. Smith, Dr. Ed Arnold, Cyndee Hawkins, Dr. Charles Jackson & Dr. Joseph Pisano

Establishing the Proper Set Up for Flute and Oboe Immediately

Dr. Charles Jackson & Cyndee Hawkins

Establishing the Proper Set-up for Clarinet/Saxophone and Bassoon Immediately

Dr. Charles Jackson & Cyndee Hawkins

Establishing the Proper Set Up for Trumpet and Horn Immediately

Dr. Charles Jackson & Cyndee Hawkins

Establishing the Proper Set Up for Trombone and Tuba/Euphonium Immediately

Dr. Charles Jackson & Cyndee Hawkins

Establishing the Proper Set Up for Percussion Immediately

Dr. Charles Jackson & Cyndee Hawkins

Exploring Texting Apps and Advanced Facebook Functionality

Dr. Joseph Pisano

The Latest Mobile Applications for Educators: Focus on Music and Classroom Apps

Dr. Joseph Pisano

Two Track Recording and Editing Made Easy PLUS Copyright Considerations

Dr. Joseph Pisano

From Sight To Sound: The Journey To Sight Reading Mastery

Cyndee Hawkins

Classroom Management in the MS Band Room

Dr. Charles Jackson

The Making of A Teacher/Conductor: A View from the Classroom, Podium and Beyond

Dr. Ed Arnold

Amazing Web Presence: Exploring Advanced Functions of YouTube and Spotify

Dr. Joseph Pisano

Teaching Creativity: The Trump Card for Music Education!

Robert W. Smith

Music Reading Sessions for Middle School Bands

Robert W. Smith, Matt Conaway, Dr. Ed Arnold

General Pedagogy

KEYNOTE: "Getting To the Art of the Matter" - Richard Floyd

What Additional Skills are of Value? - Christian Howes

Colorguard Techniques - CAROLINA CROWN Color Guard

Michael Townsend, Rosie Queen

Integrating Technology in the Front Ensemble - CAROLINA CROWN

Andrew Markworth

Using Technology to Improve Intonation: The iPad and Harmony Director in Tandem

Patrick Erwin

Get Organized! Using Technology to Make Administration Easier

Patrick Erwin

Booster Institute Sessions with David Vandewalker

Instrumental Music for Students with Special Needs – Julie Duty

Concepts and Applications – Steve Houghton, Luke Gillespie & Jeremy Allen

Athletes in the Arts Session

Developing Your Adult Staff: Instructional Strategies and Methods

Richard Saucedo, Neil Larivee & John Howell

Developing Your Adult Staff: Legal Implications – Barry Morgan

Fees and Registration

Register online at www.musicforall.org/camp, or call 800.848.2263

RESIDENTIAL PRICING

- **Fee:** Register and pay by May 20* – \$625
- **Add Leadership Weekend** for as low as \$250 (see application for all pricing).
- **Deposit option:** Pay \$250 at time of registration, balance due by May 20*.
- **College and New Teacher Discount:** Register and pay by May 20* – \$365 (college students or teachers in first three years of teaching).

COMMUTER PRICING

- **Fee Rate:** Register and pay by May 20* – \$505.
- **Deposit option:** Pay \$250 at time of registration, balance due by May 20*.
- **College and New Teacher Discount:** Register and pay by May 20* – \$190 (college students or teachers in first three years of teaching).

Teaching to a “T”

By Robert W. Smith | Troy University John M. Long School of Music, Troy, Alabama

As middle school band directors, we are challenged with an enormous task and responsibility as we work with students beginning their instrumental music journey. From their decision to join the band to the crucial step of selecting an instrument, each stage is important to our goal of creating lifelong musicians and independent music-makers.



In the countless teaching objectives addressed during the middle school years, what are the basic skills and concepts our students must take from our classroom as they continue their music education? I would offer a short, yet critical list of musical objectives for your consideration. Using alliteration as a tool, I suggest we “teach to a T” in the following content areas:



Time



Tone



Tune



Technique



**Transition To
The Next Tier**

Time

We have long recognized the importance of developing/refining/reinforcing a sense of steady beat at this critical stage of student development. From walking to talking, a steady beat is at the very core of our lives. The study of music and performance in an ensemble setting allows students to find not only a sense of pulse, but “fit in” to a larger group. With the average human heart between 60 and 100 beats per minute, is it any wonder why our young beginning band students are most comfortable performing together at approximately 80 beats per minute?! As teachers, we must develop and reinforce a sense of steady beat, then explore various tempi at increasing distances from the human heart rate.

Tone

Developing and producing a characteristic tone on the instrument has long been a goal of musicians at all stages of musical study. At this stage however, I believe it is most important to begin with the student’s perception of characteristic tone. Simply stated, if they can hear it, they will be able to play it...eventually! The use of recordings in lieu of live performance models is a viable teaching strategy. In addition to instrumental models, it is equally important for students to hear ensembles to develop a sense of band sonority. Give them viable models combined with the proper technique and a beautiful tone is in their future!

Tune

Matching pitch is one of the most challenging skills at any level, much less at middle school! I believe it is important to teach students to effectively hear/identify intonation issues before applying those skills to their personal playing. In today’s world of technology, I fear that many of our students look at intonation as a visual skill as they use portable tuners. We must be sure they are actually hearing the pitch as they strive to visually center the needle or change the color of the tuner light. Ear training recordings as well as tuning trainer apps on personal devices makes this easier

now than ever before. I also believe that we must include the tuning of octaves in this initial stage of instruction. The young tubist is challenged as they try to tune to a reference pitch that is most likely two octaves above their tuning pitch. Simply stated: Let’s teach students to hear, then apply.

Technique

Developing strong fundamental technique is at the very heart of our daily teaching responsibilities. From proper embouchure to correct hand position/posture, the fundamental skills we teach today affect the musician’s success long into the future. As a composer of band literature at all levels, I am sensitive to the technical development of our student musicians throughout their journey. I am also aware that certain aspects of young band literature can be performed without great attention to detail. However, it is our responsibility to teach for the future. For example, if we do not insure proper hand position, these students will hit a proverbial wall some time in the near future as they encounter passages that require impeccable hand position to perform. To quote a respected teacher from a past generation, we must “teach for the long haul!”

Transition To The Next Tier

We must prepare our students for the transition to the next tier of musical performance. Have we provided them with a vision for their musical future? As a young Little League baseball player, I, along with countless millions, had dreams hitting a home run in college or the major leagues. I could see myself far into the future in the sport. Can our students project themselves into their musical future and see themselves performing in various high school, college and professional ensembles? Do they realize the wide world of music ahead of them in ensembles/genres outside of our school programs? We must give them a vision of the future and help them in their transition to the next level.

Thank you for your shared passion for music and music education. In the words of a famous golfer, we are now “teed up” and ready to swing. Best wishes in all of your musical endeavors!



Robert W. Smith is a Professor of Music and Coordinator of the Music Industry Program in Troy University’s John M. Long School of Music. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, he is one of the most popular composers in the world today with over 700 published works. The majority of his work was published through his long association with Warner Bros. Publications and the Belwin Catalog. He is currently published

through RWS Music Company and C.L. Barnhouse Company. Mr. Smith’s works for band and orchestra have been programmed by countless professional, university, and school ensembles throughout the North America, Europe, Australia, South America and Asia. His music has received extensive airplay on network television as well as inclusion in multiple motion pictures and television productions. His “Into The Storm” was featured on the 2009 CBS Emmy Awards telecast for the HBO’s mini-series documenting the life of Winston Churchill. Mr. Smith’s teaching responsibilities at Troy University are focused in composition, media writing, audio and live event production, publishing and entrepreneurship.



CONCERT BAND CAMP

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SUMMER SYMPOSIUM

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We've been "America's Camp" for high school band and orchestra students since 1976. Now, we're proud to announce the launch of a Concert Band Division for Middle School students in 2016.

Watch for enrollment information at www.musicforall.org/camp.

Friendship and Collaboration

How two music educators turned their shared experience into MFA's new Middle School Concert Band camp

By DJ Corchin | Author and Music Education Advocate

Next year Music for All will implement one of its biggest changes to the Summer Symposium since the addition of Orchestra. A new middle school concert track will be added to the life-changing music camp that has served tens of thousands of high school musicians over four decades. Thanks to a life-long friendship rooted in Music for All events, the idea was driven by two middle school band directors who share a passion for innovative, meaningful experiences.

Two Paths Connected

Keith Ozsvath and Greg Scapillato have known each other nearly 30 years. From attending high school and college together to being Best Man at each other's weddings, their friendship is an important part of their lives.

It has also helped shape similar educational philosophies. "I would like my students to get to the point where they no longer need me," says Scapillato. "If they know how to teach themselves, a world of possibilities is open to them." The same humility is present in how Keith looks at his role. "I try to give my students the necessary tools to be a successful musician. Success breeds success!"

Together they've participated in many Music for All events throughout the years, including being students at the Summer Symposium in its early days at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Their time spent with faculty role models like Tim Lautzenheiser and the late L.J. Hancock remain with them today. "They left a lasting impression on me that influenced my personal and professional life," says Ozsvath.

Volunteering as a Summer Symposium SWAG – the team of counselors and teaching assistants that are the heart and soul of the camp – was a pivotal point in each of their lives, and when they fell in love with being music educators. Ozsvath and Scapillato were both chosen to be part of the SWAG Team in the early 90's (Greg later helping to lead the team from 1996-1998). It ignited a spark that inspired them to continue looking for meaningful experiences. Keith felt connected to the larger vision of the team. "I had an enormous sense of pride being part of something bigger than me, but also felt a huge responsibility."

It was their connection to the SWAG team that ultimately was responsible for the creation of the new middle school track at the Summer Symposium.

Revisiting Innovation

In 2012, Scapillato was approached by friend, former SWAG, and now MFA Board Member Anmol Mehra about helping with the first SWAG Alumni weekend. During this weekend, Music for All CEO Eric Martin expressed his desire to hear from alumni and constituents on ways the organization could better serve them. Greg, with the



Greg Scapillato (left) and Keith Ozsvath, serving on the SWAG Team together in 1992.

culmination of his experiences with MFA and as a middle school teacher, spoke up. "What about middle school students attending the Summer Symposium?"

A short time later, with additional interest from Martin and Richard Saucedo, a Music for All Educational Consultant, Martin charged Scapillato with putting together a team of passionate individuals to create a plan for the middle school track. The natural pick for a partner in such an endeavor was Ozsvath, Scapillato's friend and colleague of three decades.

"Greg and I are the best of friends. Because we have both participated as students and SWAGs at BOA camps and are now veteran middle school music educators, these experiences have contributed to creating a solid vision for this camp," Ozsvath says.

Technology allowed Ozsvath and Scapillato to connect over many hours in addition to their teaching jobs. Ozsvath, a director at Rotolo Middle School in Batavia, IL, and Scapillato in Northbrook District 28 in Northbrook, IL, found it difficult to meet on a regular basis. However, their love of technology allowed them to communicate multiple times a week, and often into the night. The fact that they saw this endeavor as a natural extension of their daily lives (teaching middle school band students) made it easy to remain focused on the larger picture: to create the best middle school camp in the country.

With some of the best minds in music education needing to sign off on the proposal, Ozsvath and Scapillato were able to show how Music for All can provide a positively life-changing experience to middle school students at the Summer Symposium. Ultimately the panel of top music educators, board members, and staff, all with the needs of the students in mind, agreed that Music for All is uniquely positioned to foster the middle school students' desire to perform in high school and continue their music education – and the Middle School Summer Symposium Track was born.

Full Circle

Throughout their 30 year journey, they kept focused on their simple and thoughtful educational rules. Scapillato says, "Put your students first and everything else will follow." Ozsvath shares, "The knowledge and skills your students can or cannot demonstrate is a direct reflection on your teaching. Work hard and reflect often." Growing up together, it's appropriate their rules compliment each other: finding a balance between taking responsibility for yourself, and putting those you care for before your own needs.

As Ozsvath and Scapillato prepare for the inaugural year of the Middle School Track at the 2016 Summer Symposium, they continue to leverage their friendship and shared life experiences to foster a fun, engaging collaboration. Since their days in high school together, they have held music education and their time spent attending MFA events close to their hearts. Those events have connected Ozsvath and Scapillato in powerful and deeply meaningful ways through their combined 33 years of teaching. It's only fitting that connection be responsible for creating an experience that will help young adults find a similar passion for experiencing with the world through Music for All.



Keith Ozsvath (right), with fellow SWAG Team members, including his now-wife Susan (front, left). Yes, they met at band camp.



Keith Ozsvath is passionate about teaching music, professional development, and integrating technology. He joined the music faculty at Rotolo Middle School in Batavia, Illinois, in 2000 and teaches the 8th Grade Band, Jazz Ensemble, and the Symphonic Band. Mr. Ozsvath is an active adjudicator and clinician in the Chicago area. He is a member of the American School Band Directors Association, National Association for Music Education, been recognized twice by "Who's Who

Among America's Teachers" and is an Eagle Scout. He has been an Illinois Summer Youth Music conductor at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana. Additionally, he has presented sessions at the National Middle School Association Conference, Illinois Music Educators All-State Conference, and at VanderCook College of Music. Keith currently teaches two VanderCook MECA classes: Tech Tools for the Music Educator and an online class, You Made This! Website Design & Creation for Music Educators. Mr. Ozsvath also authors a blog, www.teachingbandandmore.com, which provides practical teaching ideas for music educators.



Greg Scapillato teaches band in Northbrook District 28 (IL), conducting the Wind Ensemble and teaching lessons grades 4-8. Mr. Scapillato strives to create meaningful musical experiences for students in his care. While teaching the Beginning Band, he introduced a demonstration concert designed to improve parent investment and engagement. The NBHJ Wind Ensemble, under Mr. Scapillato's direction, has benefitted from special performance opportunities, including joint concerts with professional

ensembles and service-based performances such as the local Veterans' Day Ceremony. Mr. Scapillato also initiated a biennial alumni concert to connect students to those with a life-long love of music performance. In addition to music-related pursuits, Mr. Scapillato enjoys developing his expertise with technology and its integration to accelerate student learning.

Success is not a solo adventure: Mr. Scapillato is grateful for supportive colleagues, friends, and family. He calls Arlington Heights, Illinois, home with his wife, son, and an incorrigible Golden Retriever.



DJ Corchin is an author and music education advocate. A former band director in the Chicago area, he continues to promote music through his popular column on marching.com and "The 13th Chair" blog. His largely successful, humorously inspiring "*Band Nerds* book series" has been celebrated by some of the largest names in music education today. DJ has published over 14 children's books, including his *I Feel...* Children's Series helping kids explore the complexity of emotions. You can follow more of his work on his website at www.djcorchin.com.

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Announcing Be Part of the Music



Music for All is proud to be a charter sponsor of the new Be Part of the Music, which will provide high quality recruitment materials to support every teacher in America at all levels in band, orchestra, choir, and

professional development.

Music for All believes Be Part of the Music, materials for which are now in development, will provide useful recruitment and retention materials for all orchestra directors. The program is an expansion of the successful Be Part of the Band program. To date, more than 7,000 Be Part of the Band discs have been distributed, 4,500 online users registered and 3,500 apps downloaded.

“Our goal 12 months ago was to add 350,000 new students by providing high quality recruitment materials to every school in America for free,” says Scott Lang, creator of Be Part of the Music and Be Part of the Band. “With the Be Part of the Band program, we not only met that goal of five additional students per school, but more than doubled it.”

“We look forward to providing that support for orchestra and choir directors through Be Part of the Music,” says James Stephen, Director of Educational Resources and Advocacy for Music for All.

To learn more, contact Music for All at 800.848.2263 or email james.s@musicforall.org.

Music for All partners with United Sound



Music for All has partnered to support United Sound with a brand new initiative aimed at helping children with special needs to become involved in their high school band and orchestra programs.

United Sound is a school-based instrumental music club for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities and their typical peers. Dedicated to promoting social involvement through shared ensemble performance experience, United Sound joins students with and without disabilities to learn and perform in the band or orchestra together.

United Sound is currently running seven pilot programs around the country. “Music for All’s mission to create, provide, and expand positively life-changing experiences through Music for All is enhanced when we reach out to include this ever-increasing population of children and truly make Music for All,” says Eric Martin, President and CEO of Music for All.

Learn more at unitedsound.org.

Cheryl Floyd

Director of Bands, Hill Country Middle School, Austin, Texas



Cheryl Floyd is in her thirty-second year of teaching and her twenty-third year as Director of Bands at Hill Country Middle School in Austin, Texas. Prior to her tenure at Hill Country, she served as Director of Bands at Murchison Middle School, also in Austin, for eight years. Musical organizations under her leadership have consistently been cited for musical excellence

at both local contests and national invitational festivals. In 1990 her Murchison program was the recipient of the coveted Sudler Cup Award presented to exemplary middle school band programs by the John Philip Sousa Foundation. The Hill Country Middle School Band has performed at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in 1998 and 2006, and Music for All's National Concert Band Festival in 2012, and in November 2014 presented a concert at the prestigious Western International Band Clinic in Seattle, Washington. Mrs. Floyd enjoys an active schedule as an adjudicator, clinician, author, and guest conductor throughout the United States, notably serving as one of the first women guest conductors of the United States Navy Band in Washington, D.C. In 2003, the American Bandmasters' Association elected her to membership, making her only the fifth female and the first middle school band director to be so honored. She has maintained a keen interest in commissioning new works for concert band and has collaborated with internationally recognized composers in eleven such projects. Mrs. Floyd is a graduate of Baylor University and has done graduate work at the University of Texas in Austin. She is married to kindred spirit and fellow music educator Richard Floyd, and their son Weston is a junior trombone performance major at the University of Texas in Austin.



What is a guiding principle in your music education philosophy?

CF Kodaly said "Teach the young with the very best!" I interpret this quote 2 different ways; not only should I select the best music available for my students to learn and perform, but I should teach to the best of my ability everyday!

What is one (or more) thing you hope that your students gain from their time with you?

CF I hope my students see the passion and excitement that I bring to the classroom. We have an active commissioning program here on our campus. We have been involved with seven published commissions as well as two consortium projects. Our students have had the opportunity to meet the composers and participate in the commissioning process and of course the premiere of each piece. I hope they take away that music is alive and well! I hope it inspires them to support music for their lifetimes.

At what moment did you fall in love with being or becoming a music educator?

CF I think I always wanted to be a teacher...except for that brief moment I wanted to be an astronaut! I enjoyed working with the special education classes at my church when I was in junior high and high school. I do remember taking my youngest sister to band practice the summer

before I returned to Baylor for my sophomore year. I couldn't believe how lucky I was to get to study to be a band director!

What advice do you have for a new band director who asks you "What is the one thing you wish someone had told you just starting out?"

CF Never lose sight of the reasons that you entered this profession! Your love of making music and sharing it with others should remain at the heart of your teaching! Keep playing your instrument...there are lots of community groups who need someone just like you! Keep a journal of the new things you learn and the positive notes and emails you receive from parents and administrators.

What are some of the highlights and memorable moments from your MFA/BOA experiences?

CF We brought our Hill Country Middle School Symphonic Band to perform at the National Concert Band Festival in March 2012. Our kids loved every minute of that trip! From master classes to audience participation to our concert and the Grand Gala Banquet, they thoroughly enjoyed it all!

Plus they loved the daily breakfast, lunch, and dinner...especially the little pies! The video of our concert performance is the most beautiful record of a performance we have! Our Westlake High School Band performed in the San Antonio BOA in 2009 and 2011. Both Dick and I were proud to attend as parents and support our son's love of music!

The first time I was invited to serve as an evaluator in 2009 was an incredible experience for me...I could not believe that I was going to get to listen to bands

and orchestras at the National Concert Band Festival and hang out with the slate of evaluators including; Shelley Berg, Larry Livingston, Gary Green, etc.

As parents, both Dick and I are so proud of our son, Weston Floyd, who performed in the Honor Band of America in 2010 under conductor H. Robert Reynolds, and in the Honors Orchestra of America in 2011 and 2012 as principal trombonist for Larry Livingston. These performances remain lasting memories for our entire family! And Weston remains friends with many of the students he met at those events!

What would you like to see MFA focus on or accomplish in the next 40 years?

I am very excited about the new regional concert band events that have started all over the country. My husband judged at the festival in Chicago in 2014 and then at the Lafayette Festival in 2015. These festivals are encouraging not only more groups to apply for the National Concert Band Festival, but also encourage individual students to apply for the Honors groups. I hope that MFA will continue to provide these experiences for these students and ensembles. In addition, I hope that MFA might look at the possibility of adding middle school bands and orchestras to the regional festivals.



YEARS

1975 - 2015

In celebration of Music for All's 40th Anniversary in 2015, we will be featuring profiles of music educators who have made a difference in Music for All and in band and orchestra education. Watch for more throughout this year in upcoming newsletters and online at musicforall.org/40years.

Photo courtesy of Jolesch Enterprises



Middle School National Music Festival

Part of the Music for All National Festival, presented by  YAMAHA

Music for All hosted five middle school concert bands in Indianapolis, March 12-14, for the 2015 Middle School National Music Festival, part of the Music for All National Festival, presented by Yamaha.

Ensembles were invited to perform, selected by a recorded audition process. The 2015 Middle School concert bands were:

Clay M.S. Wind Ensemble, Carmel, IN, Gretta Pote, director

Deerpark M.S. Honors Band, Austin, TX, Rasheed Akande, director

Harpool M.S. Symphonic Band, Argyle, TX, Bryan Stone, director

Lamar M.S. and Fine Arts Academy Symphonic Winds, Austin, TX, James Hairston, director

North M.S. Symphonic Band, Radcliff, KY, Brittany Ford, director

The bands performed in concert in the Howard L. Schrott Center for Arts at Butler University for a knowledgeable audience of Festival participants and the evaluation panel. Each band received a post-concert clinic. Students participated in master classes with professional and university artists, and had the opportunity to meet and socialize with other middle school students from across the nation.

“The Music for All National Festival exceeded my expectations,” said **James Hairston**, Director of Bands at **Lamar Middle School & Fine Arts Academy**. “From the time we received our invitation to attend the MFA staff was professional and helpful throughout the process. At the festival, I had the opportunity to meet other music educators from throughout the nation. I am proud to say that I have become great friends with the other middle school directors that were at the festival.”

“A highlight of our Festival experience was our clinic with composer Robert W. Smith after our concert,” said Hairston. “Mr. Smith worked with the ensemble for 30 minutes. The students learned about shaping and balancing our music, which was a huge benefit for the ensemble as we prepare for our state contest. Beyond the music education experience, my ensemble was able to attend the Pacers vs. Celtics NBA game Saturday night. This was a memorable experience for my students.”

“The Music for All Middle School Festival was an absolutely wonderful experience for my students,” said **Brittany Ford**, Band Director at **North Middle School**. “The chaperones and students loved the master classes and watching other programs from around the nation perform. The best part was watching them interact with those students and make friends with other young musicians from great programs.”

Photos courtesy of Jolesch Enterprises



Yamaha Performing Artist Larry Williams led a horn master class for middle school students.

“Going to Indiana was an amazing experience. Going to such a prestigious event and performing the program we worked so hard on in front of hundreds of people was something that I’ll never forget.”

– Chance Green, 8th Grade Trumpet, Lamar Middle School & Fine Arts Academy, TX

“This festival is a life-changing experience for students,” said Ford. “They gain such a deep appreciation for music, and they gain validation from being surrounded by great musicians from the numerous programs that are selected to participate in the festival!”

Bryan Stone, Director of Bands at **Harpool Middle School**, says the Festival exceeded their expectations. “This was an incredible experience for our students. The master classes turned out, for many of the students, to be their most memorable experience. The audience time was also inspirational. Their eyes were opened to the possibility of what they can achieve in the future.”

The chaperones and parents who attended also had a positively life-changing experience. “Our parents were blown away,” said Stone. “They all felt this was the trip of a lifetime, and they went from being band supporters to becoming active advocates for the activity.”

Why should a middle school band director consider applying?

“The festival served as a great honor for our students, but most importantly provided the inspiration our students need to get to the next level,” said Stone. “We will feel the benefits of the festival for years to come!”

"It was such a pleasure to be with the kids on the Music for All trip. I am happy that my son had the opportunity to participate. I was very proud of the way the kids handled their nerves and excitement, and performed on the national stage. How cool it was for them to meet kids from other schools, to see outstanding high schoolers perform, and to be at a place where young musicians are honored for their hard work and dedication."

*– Anne Tibbetts, Parent/Chaperone,
Lamar Middle School & Fine Arts Academy, TX*

A non-competitive, supportive experience

The non-competitive atmosphere of the Middle School National Music Festival provides a place for growth, cooperative encouragement, and mutual respect among music programs, students, parents, boosters, and administrators.

Directors select their own programs; there is no required repertoire. There are no ratings or rankings, so directors and their ensembles are free to stretch themselves, reach for new heights and strive for innovation, growth, and excellence, instead of focusing on a rating or placing.

Participating students experience an atmosphere of mutual respect while enjoying concerts from other outstanding ensembles.

The Music for All National Festival includes the:

- **Orchestra America National Festival**
- **Chamber Music National Festival**
- **National Concert Band Festival**
- **Sandy Feldstein National Percussion Festival**
- **Middle School National Music Festival**

And three national high school honors ensembles:

- **Honor Orchestra of America**
- **Honor Band of America**
- **Jazz Band of America**

Highlights for Invited Ensembles

Concert Performances and Clinics

Each ensemble performs a concert before a knowledgeable audience and receives recorded and written comments from the evaluators. Band directors also receive recorded and written input on their conducting. Following the performance, each orchestra has a private clinic with one of the Festival Evaluators/Clinicians.

Master Classes

All students participate in instrumental master classes, led by top applied faculty and professional musicians.

Social Events for Students and Directors

Music for All presents a special social just for middle school students, giving them the chance to relax, have fun, and get to know students from other programs across the country. The director and evaluator reception and hospitality opportunities offer networking and informal interaction with colleagues, guest artists, and icons of music education.



Music for All
NATIONAL FESTIVAL

How to Apply for 2016

2016 Ensemble Application Deadline: June 5, 2015

Completed application, audition recording and all application materials must be received in the Music for All office by June 5, 2015. Mail/ship all application materials to Attn: Participant Relations, Music for All, 39 W. Jackson Place, Suite 150, Indianapolis, IN 46225-1010.

March 10-12, 2016

Indianapolis, Indiana

The Application Process

All auditioning ensembles receive recorded and written evaluation from the audition listening panel. The audition process is a tool you can use to take your program to the next level. The listening is "blind;" ensembles are not identified to evaluators in the listening process. Evaluators recommend the ensembles that demonstrate an exemplary level of excellence to receive an invitation to perform at the Festival.

Requirements for Application

Application consists of the completed Festival application form submitted with the audition recording and application fee. Specific requirements for application and audition recordings are included in the Requirements for Application and Participation section of the application packet, available at musicforall.org/festival or by emailing info@musicforall.org or calling 800.848.2263.

Gala Awards Banquet

The "black-tie-optional" banquet for over 2,000 students, directors, parents, staff, and evaluators culminates the Festival with first-class standards that distinguish the Music for All National Festival. Guests enjoy a plated dinner, recognition of each ensemble, and presentation of awards to each ensemble.

World-Class Venues and Facilities

The concerts of the Music for All National Festival are held in the finest concert halls across Indianapolis. The Festival will be hosted at the Marriott Place Indianapolis, featuring the beautiful JW Marriott and three additional Marriott properties. Marriott Place Indianapolis is located in downtown Indianapolis and is surrounded by numerous cultural and recreational attractions.

Other highlights include:

- Opportunities for Additional Ensembles
- DVD, CD, and Group Photo package
- Festival Invitation Visit at Your School and Director "Fam" Trip to Host City



Inspire, Motivate Your Students!

Student Group Ticket Discount

We invite you to join us for the Bands of America Championships this fall and bring your students for a memorable, exciting, and fun field trip.

Research suggests that students are more motivated to do a task when it taps into at least one of four key factors, two of which are "when they're interested in the task or see its value and when doing the task makes them feel more related to a peer group or someone they admire." (From *The Power to Motivate*, article by Jack Jennings, Founder, Center on Education Policy.)

Bringing your band students to experience a Bands of America Championship this fall taps into both of these key factors. Your students will enjoy performances by outstanding marching bands from across the region and country, providing motivation and fun!

How to order

Find the link to order group tickets at www.musicforall.org/tickets for all 2015 Bands of America Regional, Super Regional and Grand National Championships and to place your order. You can also order by phone at 800.848.2263.

2015 BANDS OF AMERICA CHAMPIONSHIPS

presented by  **YAMAHA**

September 19
Clarksville, TN
Austin Peay State University

September 19
Monroeville, PA
Gateway H.S.

September 26
Austin, TX*
Kelly Reeves Athletic Complex

September 26
Bowling Green, OH
Bowling Green State University

September 26
McAllen, TX*
McAllen Veterans Memorial Stadium

October 3
Conroe, TX*
Woodforest Bank Stadium

October 3
Dayton, OH
Welcome Stadium

October 3
Powder Springs, GA
McEachern H.S.

October 10
Arlington, TX*
University of Texas-Arlington

October 10
Winston-Salem, NC
Wake Forest University

October 10
Jacksonville, AL
Jacksonville State University

October 16-17
SUPER REGIONAL
St. Louis, MO
Edward Jones Dome

October 17
Newark, DE
The University of Delaware

October 23-24
SUPER REGIONAL
Indianapolis, IN
Lucas Oil Stadium

October 24
Long Beach, CA
Veterans Memorial Stadium

October 30-31
SUPER REGIONAL
Atlanta, GA
Georgia Dome

October 30-31
SUPER REGIONAL
San Antonio, TX*
Alamodome

October 31
St. George, UT
Dixie State University

November 7
Tacoma, WA
Tacoma Dome

November 11-14
BANDS OF AMERICA
GRAND NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIPS
Indianapolis, IN
Lucas Oil Stadium

*Texas Dairy Queen is Title Sponsor of the Texas BOA Regionals & Super Regionals



Photo courtesy of Jolesch Enterprises