National Concert Band Festival

Music for All National Festival, presented by Yamaha March 14-16, 2019

A non-competitive experience

Being invited is the achievement! The Festival's non-competitive atmosphere at the 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 Festival's dress code and standards of conduct enhance the world-class atmosphere of the Festival. Ensembles that perform at the Festival are recognized as being among the finest in the nation. Participation is a "credential" worth having. The preparation process itself can have a positive effect on your music program.

New opportunities, quality educational experience

Starting in 2014, Music for All provided world-class educational opportunities for additional bands to perform. The National Concert Band Festival will now include two stages (opportunities) for high school bands -"Featured Bands" on the Honors Stage at Clowes Memorial Hall and "Invited Bands" on the Festival Stage at the new Howard L. Schrott Center for the Performing Arts, both at Butler University.

The new"Invited Band"stage is designed for up to 12 bands interested in experiencing a great, educational, "life-changing experience." This opportunity will provide the same world-class offerings as the "Featured Band" such as master classes, leadership sessions, social gatherings, one-on-one conductor feedback and a gala awards banquet, but with more "hands-on" treatment such as multiple clinicians simultaneously working with bands, interactive audience participation and other aspects that will enhance the student's experience. Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser will be the Master of Ceremonies in 2014 for the Invited Band Festival Stage.

Applying high school bands select on their application form which of the two stage experiences they are applying for.

Featured Stage

The Featured Stage is the Festival experience that Music for All has presented since the Festival's debut in 1992. Bands perform in beautiful Clowes Memorial Hall at Butler University. Up to 18 bands who apply for the Featured Bands experience will be selected to perform.

One-on-one mentoring for conductors. Each "Featured Band" will receive a one-on-one mentoring session for the ensemble's conductors with one of the Festival evaluators or clinicians. This mentoring session affords the conductor the opportunity to engage one-on-one with the evaluator about the program and topics of interest to both the conductor and the mentor.