

Are you one of the 1.25 million BOA Alumni...

Bands of America had a lasting impact on more than 1.25 million alumni, their families, friends, schools and fans. Music for All is for the musician and listener alike. Here are what some of our donors have to say ...

"I was asked in an interview once what my proudest moment was. I told them my proudest moment was the BOA Indianapolis Fall 2002 my senior year of high school when we marched in the Finals in Nationals. It still brings a tear to my eye thinking of the months of hard work that led to that final moment. I can't imagine other children in the future not being able to experience this, and not being able to feel the sense of accomplishment and community that I felt at the BOA Nationals and that I felt at every other BOA event my high school attended during my 4 years in marching band. I don't remember much of the details of high school, but I do remember that performance-the goose bumps, the tears, and the pure joy when we finished in the top five. Proudest moment of my 24 years, and I will remember it always. "

Amanda Bloom, BOA Alumna

"I could write for days on how dear to my heart the experiences I had with the Bands of America organization are to me still, even 10 years removed from the "music world." I feel truly blessed for having been given the opportunities to be a Summer Symposium Participant, Regional & Grand National finalist, National Concert Band Festival Participant, three-year Honor Band of America member and - eventually - Summer Symposium faculty member. BOA, or Music For All as it is now known - and organizations like it - are truly some of our country's most precious assets whereas they truly serve the greater good. I believe that it is absolutely critical that we all continue to support them. Without Scott McCormick and his exceptional staff and team of volunteers, it's doubtful that I ever would have had the chance to perform in a centuries old French cathedral, or at the World Association of Symphonic Bands & Ensembles Festival in Austria on the first Honor Band of America European Tour; to this day, one of the most influential events in my life. I just wish I could do more to help.

My wife and I recently had our first child, a daughter. At just five months old, she's already displaying an affinity for music! ... And just about everything else that might be going on around her too! I can only hope though, that if she does become a musician one day, that Music For All is still enriching the lives of young adults across the country. And if that is the case, then I know that she will have the opportunity to have her life enriched in the same way as mine has been. As I parent, I can take great comfort in that thought.

I wish the best of luck to you all, and truly hope that Music For All can sustain and reach its financial goals. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything I can do to help. Thank you all again for everything you have done for me and the 1.25 million grateful alumni."

Andrew L. Schweiger, BOA Alumnus

"BOA provided me with experiences and performance opportunities to last a lifetime, experiences that not many high school students have the privilege of witnessing. Thank you BOA. I hope that these positively life-changing experiences can continue for generations to come."

Seth Williams, BOA Alumnus

“Thank you Bands of America for the investment of excellence in our children's lives. Our large band has been regular participants in BOA activities for all the years of both of my children's high school experience. Best wishes during these times! May BOA thrive and come out on top.”

Brian and Kelly Gowan, Parents

“Band has been an integral part of our lives for many decades. When I was in band, I learned that discipline, dedication, and perseverance is required to succeed and that you can also have fun while learning these lessons. I wanted my children to learn the universal language of music and participate in band also. When my children were small, I used to play my trumpet. They became interested in music and wanted to join the band (which was my ultimate plan). Even though my wife was never in band, she very quickly saw the value of the program and wanted both of our daughters to learn the same values. Both of our daughters went through the band program from 6th-12th grade and thoroughly enjoyed the experience; especially the BOA experience. Many times during the performances my wife and I fought back tears due to the immense pride we had for our children and all the bands performing at BOA. BOA is a program that brings out the best in the next generation. And even though our last daughter is graduating this year, we want to see this program continue. How could we not donate to such a worthy program?”

Donald Hensley, Boa Alumnus and Parent

“Bands of America, in part, made me who I am today. This is just the beginning of showing my appreciation for a lifetime of memories!”

Ryan Bybee, BOA Alumnus & 1999 Revelli Scholarship Recipient

“This organization has truly blessed me as a performer and I could not imagine a world without it. It is one of the most generous and giving organizations in the world and I believe every student of the arts should have the chance to experience it. Bands of America has helped me become the person that I am today from participating in several of its programs. My most cherished memory has to be when I marched in the 2009 TOR BOA Honor Band. That experience meant the world to me and gave me the chance of a lifetime. I know that Bands of America will reach its goal because you are the hardest working people in the world. Thank You for such an amazing and educational journey of music over the past several years! I look forward to one day having my kids involved in such a wonderful program. Thank You and God Bless.”

Stephen Prather, BOA Alumnus & Educator

“I cannot adequately express my feelings for MBA/BOA/MFA. Twenty-six years ago in Johnson City, TN, my life was forever changed. As a 14 year old cymbal player in a band from Dayton, Ohio, I experienced my first Grand National Finals. We "did it in the dome", which was really more of a hangar! :)

Fast forward to the mid 1990's, and I had the privilege of bringing my own band from Dayton, Ohio to BOA shows. While they never marched in a Grand National Finals, their experience was just as amazing.

I came full-circle when I worked as a staff member for BOA from late 1997 through mid 1999. The events were still life-changing, and I felt honored to be a part of the experience, this time from the "back of house".

Although it's been 10 years since I worked for BOA, I left to take a job as an event coordinator, using skills that I learned...you guessed it...from BOA. The staff and volunteers really have a passion for positively impacting the lives of all who are touched by the organization.

I hope that this campaign will help ensure that my children and grandchildren will have the opportunity to be positively impacted by the work done at BOA/MFA.”

Lisa Beringer Salazar, BOA Alumna

“Bands of America has been a large part of my history with the Northmont High School Marching Band. We have been a part of Bands of America since 1984. I will always remember the 2000 Grand National Championships with my career dream and the dream of all Northmont Band Alumni of being a finalist at Grand Nationals came true. A Memory of A Lifetime!!!!”

Reginald Richwine, Educator

“BOA is an incredibly important part of both of my daughter's musical lives. The band programs they have both been involved with (in different high schools) both participated heavily in BOA and the program level and student commitment and payoff was elevated because of this participation. Everyone strives to reach a higher level of musicality when they are involved in the BOA events. Where will our band programs be without the high bar that BOA represents?”

Nancee McCraw, Parent

“BOA has done so much for our band program, it has given me some great experiences, and taught me some lessons in life, and our director is so passionate about this program and helping it out, that I just couldn't help but give back to something that has given so much to me.”

Elizabeth Milward, BOA Alumna

“Marching Band was such a positive experience for my family and I. If it wasn't for them I am not sure we could have made it though my Dad's sickness and dying. The joy, friendship and love that we got from our band family were what made the toughest time in our life a little easier. Music is more than an art, it is who we are, it's what makes our feet tap, our souls sing, and it bring such joy to our lives, when all else fails. Today would have been my dad's 64th birthday so I donate in his memory. I feel it is with great importance to keep this program running, for all kids in the world to be able to experience the love, joy, friendship and support that we did as a family. Happy Birthday Dad, you are greatly missed!!!”

Dawn Holappa, BOA Alumna

“Marching band is a wonderful activity. It teaches the participants the value of teamwork, discipline, focus and dedication as well as providing fellowship and an appreciation for music. Keep up the good work. The competition provides a goal to work for and adds to the excitement of the experience.”

Martin & Suzanne Wohl, Fans

“It is hard to express in words the impact that the band experience had on my life. The friendships, the work ethic, the PRIDE, the satisfaction of "leaving it all on the field" after a performance, the "high" when you knew the crowd was into it, the memories. You just had to be a part of it to understand the feelings. It's hard to put a monetary price on that...”

Michelle Gannon, BOA Alumna

“BOA has been a part of my life in so many ways - from participating in regionals with my band to Summer Symposiums and even being part of the Honor Band at the Rose Parade in 2005! I have made some of my greatest memories and met some of my best friends because of BOA. Not only did it shape me and prepare me to take my performance to the next level with the Bluecoats in Drum Corps

International, but my participation in BOA events and activities helped me grow up into the responsible, passionate and positive person I am today. Thank you for everything!"

Christina Lear, BOA Alumna & Educator

"I was a member of Team SWAG in 2008. The experience was absolutely life-changing for me, and I want to help preserve the experience for the generations to come. It was the best camp I have ever been to, and I will miss not being there this coming summer."

Samantha McLeod, BOA Alumna, Educator & Fan

"This is a wonderful program! I was a "first generation" member of Marian Catholic band. My youngest sister was a "second generation" member, graduating in 2005. Watching all of the wonderful performances by the schools nationwide in the past 25 years has been mesmerizing. It's amazing how far schools have come since I was in the band. Thanks for the memories. They will stay with me forever!"

Teri Heywood, BOA Alumna

"To this day, I have yet to experience the same emotions that I felt standing on the field in Huntsville in 2002 and knowing that SFA was the last name whose place was not announced. The feeling that I felt as I knew I was marching for the last time on the field in Indy was too intense for words. I owe these memories to Dean Westman and the Class of 2003. We started together, and became more than just a band. We became a family. A legacy. Be Remembered."

Leslie Stovall, BOA Alumna

"For all the wonderful experiences BOA has given me throughout my music career--there is no amount of money that can be donated to ever give proper thanks. Best of luck in your alumni campaign!"

Trevor Ousey, BOA Alumnus, Educator & Fan

"Keep up the great work!!!!!!!!!! You guys are wonderful people, keeping music alive in our schools is a wonderful thing to be involved in and I enjoy it a great deal. My daughter, Mary Beth Reynolds had the great privilege of performing in the Rose Bowl Parade this year and had the time of her life. Thanks to you all for making this possible for her and the other wonderful kids who traveled with her to California. My many thanks go out to you all."

Frankie Reynolds, Parent and Volunteer

" I was in the 2009 Honor Band in the Rose Parade...it was a great, "life-changing" experience. Coming from a band program that only goes to Grand Nationals every other year, having the opportunity to work with a staff of that caliber and such amazing band members was extraordinary. Thank you so much!"

Jonathon Gold, BOA Alumnus

"I don't think I could say enough about my experiences with BOA/MFA. I know my life has changed in a very positive ways as of a result of my experiences with BOA/MFA and if I could I would go back in time and do it all over again. Thanks for everything."

David Levine, BOA Alumnus

"After 25 years I'm still touched by BOA and feel all music students should be able to have such a wonderful life changing experience. Special Thanks to the Norwin Band-LJ Hancock 'Set it up again'"

Anonymous, BOA Alumnus

“BOA has provided me with memories that will last a lifetime, and I don't want the younger generations to miss out on that. I would gladly make a larger donation, but unfortunately I'm a little tight on money myself! Thanks for the memories BOA, and I hope there are many, many more years in your future.”

Tyler Johns, BOA Alumnus

“I was blessed to play Euphonium in the Marian Band and get to perform at BOA on a number of occasions. I was also blessed to be a part of the first BOA Honor Band of America that toured Europe with Ray Cramer as our director. I treasure all my BOA memories. Thank you for all that you gave me and so many others like me.”

Jennifer Haselhorst, BOA Alumna

“I would hate to see this organization shut its doors. I will never forget my fantastic years in marching band. It is truly one of my greatest memories of high school and the reason I continue to play today.”

Laura Foote, BOA Alumna

“I just wanted to give something back to a wonderful orgization. This experience I had with BOA and the Tarpon Springs High School Music Conservatory was the best years of my high school years. I will never forget the wonderful time I had competing and meeting all the wonderful people. I go back every year and help out Tarpon Springs High School. Thanks so much to Tarpon Springs High School and BOA.”

Toshia Maffey, BOA Alumna

“I returned to Grand Nationals this year after missing the previous eight years. It is always a special time to see the bands compete. I've been out of HS for 20 years (!!!!), but being a member of the Marian Catholic HS marching and concert bands was (& still is) one of the most wonderful times of my life.”

Leslie Ramusack, BOA Alumna

“Tyler had such a wonderful experience with the BOA Honor Band at TOR this year. Our school is so small that the TOR band was twice the size of his entire high school. We have been blessed with wonderful music teachers, and our little group of 7-12 graders are going to start marching competitively next year. What a wonderful way for Tyler to finish his high school career. He will be attending the George Parks Drum Major Academy at Summer Symposium this year, and his ultimate goal is to be drum major at New Mexico State University. If he had not had the opportunity to participate in the BOA Honor Band in the Rose Parade, he would still be thinking in the realm of small school, can't do much. Now his sights are set to be a real leader!”

Eva Lynne Budzinski-Hale, Parent

“We have thoroughly enjoyed our involvement with BOA and want it to continue for others.”

Stu and Sharon Holzer, Parents & Volunteers

“Everyone at BOA: We live in tough economic times. Nowhere is it as bad as Michigan in the Metro Detroit area due to the auto industry. My wife and I feel blessed to have two outstanding students involved in the PCEP Marching Band. Our son David, a senior, plays bass trombone. Our daughter

Cassie, a junior, lives and breathes color guard and winter guard. My wife and I met in band – 30 years ago – as students at Trenton High School in Trenton, Michigan.

I am making this donation because I truly believe that BOA is a huge positive influence in the lives of all who are involved. I know it has enriched ours for the past four years. I have been unemployed for over a year and hope that we will be able to participate next year, but even though things are tighter than tight, I want to contribute. Thank you for all you do for our kids – all the many thousands of them!”

Tony and Sharon Hardin, Parents

“Bands of America is important to our family. We're happy to support this fine organization.”

Peggy Fenwick, Parent

“We had no knowledge of BOA until 2007 when our daughter entered HS band. We've attended several regional events and Grand Nationals for the last two years. Music for All is an outstanding group and it absolutely must continue for all future band members.”

Michelle and Robert Weber, Parents

“Band was such a big part of our high school lives. We hope that others will continue to receive the character building benefits we enjoyed from our days with Marian Catholic Band.”

Ann Marie and Bob Hughes, BOA Alumni

“Some of my best memories are from my experiences in BOA!”

Emily Weigant, BOA Alumna

“Some of the best memories of my life are from BOA!”

Kathryn Lockwood, BOA Alumna

“Thank you Bands of America for some of the greatest memories of my life!”

Michelle Shaw, BOA Alumna

“Thank you for your many years of giving to so many students, parents and families!”

Tammy Ahmed, Educator

“Thank you, BOA and Music For All, for four years of fantastic experiences. It would be a major blow to music advocacy to lose you as an organization.”

Joel Auringer, BOA Alumnus

“Thank you, BOA, for everything you've done for myself and my friends in the past few years. As an alumnus, I wish to thank you personally for making me who I am today.”

Eric Earley, BOA Alumnus

“BOA has had a profound impact on our son's life and career choice. Largely as a result of his participation in the BOA National Concert Band Festival and Marching Band Grand National Championships, he decided to become an Instrumental Music Educator. He learned the value of discipline, teamwork and a passionate pursuit of goals as a band participant, and has chosen to pass his passion for music performance and education on to others as a future music educator. He continues to be a proud supporter of BOA as a member of the Eastern Michigan University bands and volunteer at the BOA Ypsilanti Regionals. His hero is William Revelli - another BOA connection!”

Gregory Gonthier, Parent

"I was thrilled to finally be able to come to the BOA in Indianapolis in 2008. This was singularly the most exciting event I had attended in a long time. My daughter fell ill a few days before the band was to leave by bus, so after the doctors ok I booked her on a flight to Indianapolis. She was unable to perform in the prelims but was feeling much better for the semis and finals. She was fantastic. 2nd place finish! It was awesome! All the events throughout the year are full of challenges and excitement. It is truly a life-changing experience. Thank you for all you do. And good luck in your future events!"

Stacy Chenault, Parent

"The absolute best memories I have of high school are performing in BOA competitions. I still have all the videos and medals and the experience has given me an appreciation for hard work, discipline, teamwork and music. I hope that many more students get the opportunities we had because of BOA."

Amy Fornek-Charny, BOA Alumna

"My husband has spent many hours working with the band and BOA. It has been a true impact in his life and the life of his children that have already been through the band program. Greg has been a presenter at the summer symposium several years- He is the "prime" booster parent. Greg and I wish we could donate more. This program is very important. We have one more child in the 5th grade. She is looking to the future in the band program too. Thank you for all that BOA has done for every person in the program."

Deeann Hooper, BOA Alumna, Parent and Educator

"The memories as a student going to the '81 grand nationals and making finals has been a life long memory. The energy and excitement of playing on the national stage was a new experience. The mini dome in Johnson City at the '81 grand nationals looked so huge back then only to be eclipsed by how big the new stadium the grand nationals are now in. I come to the event every year to remember my experience and honor the kids who play their hearts out and will have life long memories into the generations to come."

Keith Mcmonigle, BOA Alumnus

"We have seen firsthand the tremendous impact this organization has on individual students and cannot think of any other activity matches the degree of positive value of BOA competitions. We would like to see BOA survive during the trying times that are going to test our country in the next few years, and continue to touch the hearts and lives of all who participate."

Betsy & Sergei Khamdiev, Parents

"The memories I have of competing at BOA will be with me for the rest of my life! Marching out onto the field at Grand Nationals for the first time in 1998 with The Woodlands High School Highlander Band is something I will treasure forever. Those were some of my best moments in high school, and I hope that those that come after me have and will continue to have those same opportunities. Thank you!"

Heather Thomas, BOA Alumna

The SFA Angels have an opportunity to perform with an incredibly talented group of musicians every fall. We want to continue the tradition of excellence and will continue to collect change until it happens. Music truly is for "ALL".

Elizabeth Heathcock

"We are so proud of our grandson, Thomas Heathcock's commitment and dedication to the Fine Art of Music. He excels because of the Band Directors at SFA & the TOR Honor Band Directors 2009."

Harold & Ramona Conway

"I still have my patches in my flute case (I play in community band). Good friends, good memories."

Colleen Syverson, BOA Alumna

"Good luck and may BOA/Music for All live on forever."

Scott Marshall, Educator

"This is a first class organization and provides a superior product for today's youth."

John Heckman, Fan

"We have been so honored to be involved in Music for All on just about every imaginable level! We are happy to be a part of this campaign."

Don & Stephanie Click, Educator

"What a wonderful impact BOA has had on our family. It is truly a life changing experience! Thank You."

Cindy George, Parent

"When I was a high school band director I brought a van load of students every year to the summer symposium...first at Whitewater, then at Illinois. My son started as a student when he was a freshman, attended all through high school and even attended as a young band director. These are some of the best memories we ever had."

Rebecca Ferrebee, Educator

"Wish I could send more."

Bruce Dinkins, Educator

"Marching band was something that brought my family together. Even when my dad was sick he made it to BOA Nationals to see us perform and when he died our marching band acted as part of our family and looked out for us. BOA is about families and like a family should, we should take care of BOA."

John Lundy, BOA Alumnus

"My best memory was being awarded the title of Grand National Champion (Plymouth Canton Marching Band, 1999). I can still remember every single feeling, thought and emotion that I had that weekend, almost ten years ago. There is nothing like having the Voice of BOA say your school's name and all of a sudden realize that all of your hard work (4 years worth) has come to this final moment. There are not many words to say about this. This was also the best memory because my father, who was very ill, was able to be on the field for the encore performance. BOA is responsible for this memory. Without BOA, I would not have had the experience of being the best in the nation in

anything. Being in a marching band that competed in the BOA circuit, has shaped me into the person that I am today. I have my work ethic, professionalism and best friends because of this! We need to save BOA!"

Karen Duthie, BOA Alumna

"My daughter learned some of life's most precious lessons through her years with the LD Bell Band. The directors modeled these lessons for them using the BOA has a vital back drop. BOA gave her so many experiences she will always treasure. One of my favorites took place at Grand Nationals, 2007. As the Band waited in the air lock to take their position on the field in finals, they quietly hummed their music. She states it gave them all goose bumps and many had tears in their eyes; they also took home the Eagle that year. The bonding that took place at that moment for these kids and their directors is beyond measure. Thank you BOA for the memories. I pray they will continue on for the countless other band families in the years to come."

Marla O'Connor, Parent

"Bands of America meant a lot to me and everyone I was in band with at the time. We shared so many memories in it and it would be sad to see it go. BOA has given me many opportunities, I would of never of had the chance to march in the rose bowl parade if it wasn't for BOA. So this is to everyone who knows how important BOA is to us."

Caitlin Bearicks, BOA Alumna

"I was a parent chaperone at the Las Vegas Regional in Las Vegas, Nevada in 2008 for Clovis West High School from Fresno, California. Our band director, Mr. John Lack, is a huge supporter of your organization, and after participating I can see why. The Bands of America experience was fantastic! I wish that every band student had the opportunity to participate in this fantastic program. The positive atmosphere, and the feeling of comraderie between all the groups was so wonderful. Good luck to your program! You will be in my prayers!"

Donna Weidenbach, Parent

"Bands of America is fantastic! In the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band I was able to be in Grand National's Finals in 1997 (trumpet), 1998 (mellophone), and 1999 (trumpet) and was able to experience becoming a Grand National Champion in 1999. But then I moved to American Fork H.S. for my final year of H.S. I flew back a few times to watch finals in the RCA dome and did 2 years of marching band at Brigham Young University. Wish I could donate more money right now."

Wesley Owen, BOA Alumnus

"This is in honor of my husband John B. Lundy who died 6 years ago but spent many a day being at a BOA event to watch and enjoy our kids and all the other bands too. Today would have been his birthday so please give and help other families feel and enjoy all that we did."

Denise Lundy, Parent

"This is such a good program - I wish I could give more. My daughter lives for marching band every fall and always enjoys the BOA competitions she is in."

Jane Kuipers, Parent

"We greatly enjoyed the BOA experience with PCEP during our children's high school marching seasons of 1998 – 2006."

Thomas Snyder, Parent

“BOA field shows are consistently head and shoulders above all others. They make the kids feel special and the focus is always on what can be done to make this a life changing experience. If BOA was not around it would be yet another significant blow to the ARTS.”

David Munoz, Parent

“Our son participated in the marching band program all 4 years of high school, 3 summer camps, and Honor Band of America for 3 years. Excellent programs and yes - positively life changing experiences!”

John and Fran Donahue, Parents

“Both of my children were fortunate to enough to participate in two National Honor Band/Honor Orchestra Festivals. My son is still working with Ben Zander in the NEC Youth Orchestra! My husband and I were fortunate enough to chaperone this wonderful event a couple of years. BOA/Music for All, you are a wonderful organization and I hope you will be around for many, many years to come. I hope one day we will be able to visit this festival again! Best of luck to you, and thank you for all that you do for our young musicians!”

Suzanne Daniels, Parent

“I have made some of the best memories on trips/experiences to BOA events, whether it was performing or watching as an alumna. This organization has given me opportunities of a lifetime, and I can't thank you enough! My donation is definitely in hopes of passing on the opportunity to future students of America! Music is food to the soul and there's no exaggeration when I say BOA has always kept everyone involved in the organization well fed! I can only hope they experience what I did in the past! Best of Luck BOA!”

Victoria Marez, BOA Alumna & 2004 Revelli Scholarship Recipient

“All three of our children have participated in BOA events, they are life changing opportunities that have enriched our children's lives. Thank you.”

Judith and William Stuber, Parents

“BOA brings pride to the students who have been fortunate enough to be a part of it. May it continue for years to come.”

Anonymous, BOA Alumnus

“The memories I made while competing are priceless, and I want to do what I can to help build those memories for students to come!”

Elizabeth Hjulstrom, BOA Alumna

“Marching in the Rose Parade was one of the best experiences of my life!”

Shaelin McCormick, BOA Alumna

“BOA has done great things for me... I'm delighted to give back!”

Caitlin Williams, BOA Alumna

“Happy to help. Marching Band provided incredible experiences in HS and tools for me to use later in my life.”

Michelle Blakely, BOA Alumna

“These were the best years of my life and I'm happy I can donate something.”

Janice DeAmicis, BOA Alumna

“The 2009 Bands of America Honor Band TOR experience will live with Matt and Doug (and their parents) forever. Thank you for all that you do!”

John Wirtz, Parent of Matthew (Snare) & Douglas (Trumpet) Wirtz

“Attending BOA events with our son will always remain a fond memory of this high school year!”

Joanne Wiernusz, Parent

“I am so impressed with Bands of America. My husband and I have attended all of the events in the past 2 years and are looking forward to the next 3 when our son has the privilege of being a member of the LD Bell Marching Band.”

Anonymous, Parent

“It is an honor to help keep such a great organization going. My family has many fond memories because of BOA. We look forward to the events every year.”

Kathy & David Jennings, Parents

Thanks to BOA for the band programs and its support for the arts. My son Matthew is an alumnus of the 2005 Honor Band in the Tournament of Roses, as well as a Regional Top 10 Finalist with the West Allegheny High School Marching Pride. Matthew is currently a member of the Penn State Marching Blue Band, and music continues to be an important part of his life.”

Gail Lutz, Parent

“I am a graduate of Blue Springs High School and the Golden Regiment Marching Band. I am so proud that both of my children are participating in this wonderful program. BOA has been an amazing experience for my children, making them work harder with their team and setting goals to achieve great things. Keep up the good work Music For All - I have nephews coming up that I want to see participate in this great program also!”

Rebecca Kimmell, Parent

“The Centerville Jazz Band Program was a fantastic experience for our family. It taught our boys responsibility, team-work, discipline, time management and so much more. The program has allowed us to make and retain life-long friends who share in the many great BOA memories. We thank Bands of America for hosting such a wonderful series of events that allows the best of America's youth to show off their many talents.”

Doug and Nancy Galusha, Parents

“There's no question that the BOA competitions were an important and memorable part of my marching band experience and I would hate for people in future generations to not be able to have that same kind of experience.”

Jennifer Stahl, BOA Alumna

“Music For All changed my life. In these hard times, there is nothing I wish for more than to be able to donate more money to keep MFA alive.”

Rania El-Kareh, BOA Alumna

“Life without musical opportunities extended to any and all interested would be a most dismal and boring place. I benefited greatly both as a person and as a creative thinker at BOA's doing, and it would be selfish not to give back to the musical community that has done me so much good.”

Bradley Wilbur, BOA Alumnus

“As someone who did not participate in either during high school but has now had the privilege of watching his three children participate in BOA programs, I appreciate what marching and concert band programs can do for high school kids, both socially and scholastically. Go Band!”

Randall Commissaris, Parent

“Keep the grand tradition going! Some of my best memories came from marching with my friends in Plymouth. I especially enjoyed the Battle of the Bands events at the University of Michigan football stadium - those were extremely stirring and proud moments for me! "Griff" gave so much to our success and was an inspiration to me for his love of the band. Jack Johnstone was one of my best friends, sitting next to me in the back and challenging me to be my best always with intensity and good humor.”

Robert Goodhand, BOA Alumnus

“This was a wonderful time in my life and hope many others can experience the same throughout the years to come....”

Mindy Arndt, BOA Alumna

“I have enjoyed the Bands of America Competitions for the past several years while my son has been in The Woodlands High School Marching Band. He is graduating this year but we still hope to be able to come to watch our band and others compete in the Fall of 2009.”

Tracey Brodeur, Parent

“Band has given my daughter 200 brothers and sisters.”

Frank Smith, Parent

“One of the best experiences my daughter Linda had in high school was participating in Grand Nationals when she was a freshman in 2003. I flew out from Colorado to watch all of the band performances and the experience turned me into a die-hard band mom. I'm now in year 6 of an 8-year plan with my son Kevin playing percussion at Pomona High School. My daughter Linda is now a sophomore at the University of Northern Colorado. Her wonderful experiences in marching band at Pomona and with BOA inspired her to major in music education.”

Suzanne Strasser, Parent

“I always loved going to BOA - when we didn't go to regionals my senior year because of Homecoming, I skipped the dance to watch finals. We actually made regional finals for the second time ever my junior year, and it is still one of my most precious memories from high school marching band.”

Kaitlyn Hinman, BOA Alumna

“I don't know what I would have done without MBA/BOA. I still have my silk SWAG jacket from 83-87. I met my best friend at camp in our junior year of high school. We are still fantastic friends. We have been in each other's weddings and been there for each other through thick and thin. I hope the campaign reaches far beyond your expectations.”

Cheryl Reynolds, BOA Alumna and Parent

"Thank you for everything! ...from Regionals to Nationals to Honor Band and Europe!!! B.O.A. has been responsible for some wonderful memories for all of our family!"

Dianne and David Schweiger, Parents

"BOA and PCMB..."Winners in life!"

Jenna, Mack, Lee and Mark Stamper

"BOA has not only contributed to my motivation to march in DCI, but, also it provided me with an outlet that was not only positive but fun."

Anonymous, BOA Alumnus

"Some of the best memories of my life are from BOA!"

Kathryn Lockwood, BOA Alumna

"Scott & Staff,

Thanks for all you do for young musicians across the country...."

Wayne Downey, Educator

"Thank you for providing us all the opportunity to compete with so many talented band students over the years. The competitions I participated in are now wonderful memories that will last me my lifetime."

Jill Gunjevic, BOA Alumna

"BOA is an absolutely fantastic organization that deserves every fundraising effort. (I am a Drum Major Academy graduate, and I love watching--though I never participated in-- Grand Nationals Finals in Indianapolis.)"

Fiona McGowan, BOA Alumna

"We appreciate all the many extraordinary experiences BOA has provided for our three Centerville High School band students over the years."

Leslie Stricker, Parent

"BOA meant alot to me. It was a chance to perform at a level that I have yet to perform at again!"

Ben Rice, BOA Alumnus and Educator

"We would hate to lose this wonderful showcase for our kids and all the hard work they put in."

Todd Vetter, Parent

"BOA meant the world to me. It opened up incredible opportunities and is responsible for much of who I am today. Thank you."

Blair Trygstad, BOA Alumna

"Thank you to (Marching) Bands of America, and especially Greg Bimm. Without both of you, I wouldn't be the person I am today....."

Brian Sullivan, BOA Alumnus

"I can't tell you how much joy I received in the years that Carter marched for Harrison High School. The highlight was watching the bands in Indianapolis and Harrison's making finals. So much fun to see all of the bands!"

Genie Brown, Grandparent

"BOA has been an incredible experience for our sons. Thank you!"

Ray & Deb Claus, Parents

"BOA/MFA has given me so much; this is the very least I could do."

Iden Baghdadchi, BOA Alumna

"BOA is what keeps high school bands alive!"

Derek DeGuire, BOA Alumnus

"You can do it!"

Jane Kaiser, Parent

"WOW! What fun we've had. Marching band - The Football Show, World Guard - A-muse-ing! What great friends we've made and kept and will never forget - Michael. Memories to last a lifetime. Thank you to all who helped along the way, your kids have made us proud."

Kathy Harcourt, Parent

"BOA has been a fantastic experience for my children. Our family appreciates all the effort that goes in to making our Trinity High School Band an annual success."

Blane Black, Parent

"I competed in a few BOA competitions during my high school career, and it was definitely one of the best experiences I've had. To see that many bands come together in friendly, I repeat FRIENDLY competition, was so nice. While competing, the bands also became teammates, all working together. Thank you for everything, BOA."

Miranda Barr, BOA Alumna

"Great organization.....great campaign for the future of our kids!"

Paul Labbe, Parent

"BOA offered me some of the best experiences of my high school career."

Julie Hill, BOA Alumna

"I'm a former head director of the Ben Davis Band that had the wonderful experience of winning the Open Division back in the Marching Bands of America (MFA) days at Grand National held in Johnson City, TN. Many BD members prior to and since then have been through this experience. I forwarded all this information to the BD band alumni administrators and asked them to see they all receive notice of what you have requested. I hope their great memories will encourage them to participate."

Darrel Horton, Educator

"My son is graduating this year from Clear Brook High School. I have truly enjoyed all the BOA's and want to help out and give a little something back. BOA provided an opportunity for our family to share my son's high school years in a very positive way!"

Linda Bertram, Parent

“Best of luck on your campaign! The 4 years we were involved with BOA were magical for our daughter. Though we are no longer involved, we truly were blessed that she had the opportunities she did.”

Colette Cocokios, Parent

“Bands of America was a wonderful experience for all past and present band members of Victor J. Andrew H.S. in Tinley park, IL. Thank You.”

Michael Ripoli, Parent

“Good luck BOA!! You've changed my life and I wish I were able to donate more. I'm keeping you all in my thoughts!”

Michelle Kochan, BOA Alumna and Educator

“Good luck, and I look forward to many more happy years with BOA!”

Jonathan Cao, BOA Alumnus and Educator

“I've marched in 3 BOA events and the Tournament of Roses Honor Band, and I just want to do my part.”

Jordan Coker, BOA Alumnus

“My son and I went to BOA Grand Nationals in Indy a few years ago. The event was terrific, we had a wonderful time. Anyone who loves marching bands should go at least once!”

Richard Zolkower, Fan

“Thank you for 4 years of a fabulous experience for our daughter”

Ken and Sue Prins, Parents

“THANK YOU FOR THE MEMORIES!!!!”

Dave and Marina Tiberi, Parents

“Thank you Mr. Romano for being a positive role model for my daughter and for inspiring her to succeed!!!”

Tabitha Spedale, Parent

“My mother Carol Davis was such a generous band parent to ALL. She very much believed in the power of music and the talents of all young people. "Momma Davis" supported Broken Arrow and BOA at every event until her untimely passing in December. She embodied and fostered many "life changing experiences!"”

Darrin and Karin Davis, Educator

“Our son participated in BOA events, marched with a DCI corps, and is now student teaching, about to become an Illinois music educator. His younger sister and brother are also in music programs. Music has meant a lot to our family!”

Eric Hoadley, Parent

“Our son had the wonderful opportunity to be a part of B.O.A. with Stephen F. Austin and we traveled twice to Indianapolis, IN for 04 and 07 competitions. I will never forget them.”

Guy and Sandra Lowe, Parents

“Our boys have benefited greatly from marching band and BOA.”

Greg and Kathy Thoreson, Parents

“I hope BOA continues to give gifted musicians the opportunity to showcase their talents in different venues for other fellow high school musicians, teachers, friends and family.”

Ryan Simmons, BOA Alumnus

“If BOA folds, where will I go in November? I've attended Nationals since 1991 and I'll be forced to attend parent conferences if I can't tell my principal I need to attend the competition to watch my children's bands perform. I wouldn't be a very happy fan.”

Carol Armbruter, Parent

“Keep up the great work! You've inspired so many kids in band to be the best they can be! I will enjoy the last two years of my youngest kid in high school competitions but after that, I will remain an avid fan!”

Cherry Nellessen, Parent and Fan

“Marching band is a wonderful activity. It teaches the participants the value of teamwork, discipline, focus and dedication as well as providing fellowship and an appreciation for music. Keep up the good work. The competition provides a goal to work for and adds to the excitement of the experience.”

Martin & Suzanne Wohl, Fans

“I cannot imagine not having this venue for encouraging excellence in musical performance.”

Randal Burris, Parent

“Keep up the great work / service.”

Kenneth West, Parent

“May BOA meet its goal! Keep up the fantastic work!”

Matt Tanquary, Parent

“I'm happy to support such a great cause!”

Courtney Brandt, Fan

“Here's hoping you reach the goal tonight!”

Crystal Hendricks-Kretzer, Fan

““The players tried to take the field, the marching band refused to yield...” Thank you for a great band experience!”

Patricia Kuipers, BOA Alumna

“I had a 2006 graduate of Stephen F. Austin H.S. and a 2009 graduate of William B. Travis H.S. We have such great memories of their BOA performances. Good luck to you.”

Anonymous, Parent

“BOA was a wonderful experience for my daughter and me.”

Karen Koch Lear, Parent

“Go BOA.....for life.”

Katherine Bellis, Parent

“Best of luck!!”

Jill Weiss, BOA Alumna

“Good Luck!”

Angela Keshavan, Parent

“Good Luck.”

Dale Enders, Parent

“I love BOA! Good luck on reaching your goal!”

Justine Lepore-Long, BOA Alumna

“Keep up the great work, BOA!”

Nick Walker, Parent

“THANK YOU for the Music, the Experience and the PRIDE of Broken Arrow!”

Anonymous

“Thanks for all your dedication & hard work!!”

Greg & Liz Brzeszkiewicz, Parents

“Thanks for an AMAZING experience BOA!”

Nathan Faber, BOA Alumnus

“Thanks for helping our children become the people they are today!”

Tom and Debi Brocious, Parents

“I was rezoned from SFA after my first year, but being part of the band there was one of my fondest memories.”

Kristle Valderrama, BOA Alumna

“Thanks to our wonderful band directors, who opened up a whole new world to our kids.”

Dan and Jeannette Lemieux, Parents

“Thanks, Mr. J. Being part of The Woodlands High School band program was one of the most meaningful things I have ever done, and I thank you for the years you gave to make ours such a wonderful program.”

Catherine Strawbridge, Parent

“In memory of all alumni who have marched with a great organization. Also, in memory of L.J. Hancock...the best educator and role model.”

Marlana Stephan, BOA Alumna

“Long Live Bands of America”

Kathie Miranda, BOA Alumna

“Thanks for the BOA Marching Band and BOA Honor Orchestra experience”

Marguerite Ference, Parent

“This organization has meant so much to me, my friends and my family. Let's keep it going strong!”

Mhairi Doty, BOA Alumna

“Every HS Band student should experience these events. They inspire!”

Wendy Kuechle, Parent

“What a great way to give back to BOA!”

David Slack, BOA Alumnus

“Thanks for an AMAZING experience BOA!”

Nathan Faber, BOA Alumnus

“Thank you BOA for great memories and a great musical experience for so many!”

Anonymous, Parent

“We greatly enjoyed the BOA experience with PCEP during our children's high school marching seasons of 1998 – 2006.”

Thomas Snyder, Parent

“Congratulations to all past and present students.”

Barbara Doll, Parent

“From six years of volunteering (chaperone/eqpt crew), I've seldom been so tired and sore, yet never had more PRIDE in a group of young men and women than the Harrison Band students. Well done!”

Peter Westin, Parent

“Cheers to THE Centerville Jazz Band! A wonderful and proud tradition that I am certain will continue on for many, many years. Go flutes!!”

David Moore, Parent

“Thanks for the memories!”

Anonymous, BOA Alumnus