

# Indiana State School Music Association, Inc.

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## News Notes

August 2024



**PAULA SIMMONS  
ASSUMES  
ISSMA PRESIDENCY**

Paula Simmons has been the Director of Music at Elwood Community Schools for 48 years. She started teaching junior high school band, choir, and general music. At the junior-senior high school level, Paula has been responsible for the beginning band, music appreciation, musical theatre, the marching, concert, pep and jazz band, color guard, as well as the concert choirs and Crimson Suite Show Choir.

Her junior-senior choral and instrumental ensembles have participated in various ISSMA events every year she has taught. In addition, Paula has served as host director for the JME Organizational weekend for almost 35 years. Her marching band has been a consistent participant in the ISSMA Summer Showcase, Regional and Semi-State Marching events as well as the Indiana State Fair Band Day. Her choral students and ensembles have consistently participated in the ISSMA State Solo and Ensemble auditions for over 40 years.

Paula is a proud graduate of Ball State University where she was secretary to the Director of Bands and received both her Bachelor and Masters degree and served on the staff of the Mid-America Summer Music Clinics for 25 years. She was the recipient of the Richard L. Dunham Director's Award as a member of the Pride of Mid-America Bands. She has been a quarterfinalist for the Grammy Music Educator Award and was selected as a recipient of the Max Beigh Enriching Education Award in April this year.

Paula has served the ISSMA organization as a member of the ISSMA State Board for multiple terms, has been a member of the marching band committee several times, has worked as a state finalist worker for over 25 years for instrumental and choral events. She was the first woman director elected as President of ISSMA and this is her second time to serve on the ISSMA State Executive Board.

Paula has performed locally on flute and voice and is the Bell Choir Director and sings in the Chancel Choir at the Pendleton First United Methodist Church. She is a member of IMEA, ISTA, IBA, Sigma Alpha Iota Music Honorary, and Tri Kappa Sorority.

Paula is extremely humbled and excited to share in the leadership of ISSMA and looks forward to working with all involved in this organization. Let's have an incredible year!

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### From the Podium

Welcome to the 2024 - 2025 school year! As you plan for this upcoming school year, we hope you will take advantage of the performance and assessment opportunities provided by ISSMA. External assessments are a very important element to the learning process for both students and teachers. While we may not agree with everything included in the feedback we are given, it is important to keep an open mind, and remember that receiving and analyzing another person's perspective is the most efficient road to personal growth and success. It is extremely important not to allow yourself, your students, or your parents to overemphasize the competitive aspects of some ISSMA events. As educators, our focus must be on the level of achievement gained from participation, not the placement or award received.

Enclosed with this mailing is a reminder card of the various deadlines for entering ISSMA events. Please post this card in a visible spot by your desk and take the time now to add to the calendar on your phone and/or desktop a specific day in advance of each deadline that you will submit your entry. Do not let a missed deadline prevent your students from having the opportunity to participate in an ISSMA event.

Indiana is recognized throughout the country for outstanding marching bands, show choirs, jazz ensembles, concert bands, concert choirs, and orchestras. Many directors have found that participation in ISSMA Solo & Ensemble events is a major contributor to a high level of achievement in their music ensembles. We would encourage you to discuss the personal growth that can come from preparing a solo or participating in an ensemble with your students as soon as possible at the start of the school year. We know you will find that high levels of individual student participation will result in even higher levels of full ensemble achievement.

Mark, Scott, and I look forward to seeing you and hearing your students perform as we visit sites throughout the school year. If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

*Mick Bridgewater, ISSMA Executive Director*

**Please visit the ISSMA Website regularly at**

[www.issma.net](http://www.issma.net)

## **DIRECTORS ONLY AREA**

To enter an ISSMA event, a director must have the ability to log into the “[Directors Only](#)” area of the ISSMA Website and each school must be a member in good standing by submitting a membership form and fee for the 2024-25 school year. Membership forms are available on the ISSMA Website under “Resources.”

Access to the “[Directors Only](#)” area of the website requires an individual director username and password. All directors of member schools must **RENEW** their individual login each year and must verify the list of schools is complete and current. If there has been a change in your school email or school assignments, you will be required to create a new Director Login. Current directors will be asked to use their school email to renew their individual login.

New directors will need to establish an individual director login by selecting the “[Directors Only](#)” area of the ISSMA Website and then clicking on the red **REGISTER FOR A DIRECTORS ONLY ACCOUNT**.

## **FEE INCREASES**

While ISSMA continues to see increases in host expenses, hotels, airfare, mileage, and awards, ISSMA will delay raising fees until the 2025-2026 school year. Please refer to page 93 of the ISSMA Music Festivals Manual for a complete listing of fees. To access the Music Festivals Manual, go to the “[Directors Only](#)” area and then select ISSMA Governing Documents.

## **ONLINE PAYMENTS OF FEES**

Membership fees, entry fees, orders for medals, patches, rockers, and choral sight-reading booklets may be paid with a credit card or electronic check through the **ISSMA Online Payment Center**. New this year: School Purchase Orders may now be uploaded when submitting an order for materials. Directors should log into the “[Directors Only](#)” area of the ISSMA Website and click the “[Material Order Forms](#)” link to place an order.

## **ISSMA ACADEMY**

The **ISSMA Academy**, available under the “[Resources](#)” tab of the ISSMA Website, continues to be a tremendous resource for directors, judges, and hosts. Courses are routinely updated, and new courses are frequently added.

ISSMA has also developed a partnership with the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) to provide links to **NFHS Learn** Courses. Included in these courses is the Cardiac Arrest course that all band directors are now required to take. Directors are encouraged to join NFHS and complete the series of courses required to earn an NFHS National Music Credential. Additional information can be found by clicking the Support Ribbon on the **ISSMA Academy** icon of the ISSMA Website.

## **ISSMA CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

The complete 2024-2025 Calendar of Events and Event Deadlines, the Calendar of Meeting Dates, as well as the potential calendar for the next five years can be found on the ISSMA website under the “[Resources](#)” tab.

## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

### **2024 ISSMA Distinguished Service Award**

*Melissa Buehl – Edgewood H.S.  
Amanda Coop – Whiteland Community H.S.  
Mitch & Roanna Hooton – New Prairie H.S.  
Heather Tannas – Pendleton Heights H.S.  
Laura Ulsh – Snider H.S.*

### **2024 National Federation of State High Schools Associations (NFHS) Award Recipients:**

**NFHS Outstanding Indiana Music Educator**  
*Dean Westman – Avon H.S.*

A complete list of past recipients can be found under the “[Information](#)” tab of the ISSMA website.

## **SOLO AND ENSEMBLE REVISIONS**

**PERCUSSION: The Percussion Group I Required List Manual has been revised.** It is **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** that you notify students and private teachers of the changes which include a **substantial number of deletions and additions**. All ISSMA Solo & Ensemble Required List Manuals are available under the “[Resources](#)” tab of the ISSMA Website.

## **REQUIRED/SUGGESTED LISTS**

Current Required/Suggested Lists are available under the “[Resources](#)” tab of the ISSMA Website. Please help us thank those who gave generously of their time and expertise to serve on the various committees this past year. We would especially like to thank the following Required Music Selection Committee Chairs and the ICDA Repertoire Chairs for their work and submissions:

**Dean Westman** – H.S. Orchestra  
**Courtney Raines** – J.M.E. Orchestra  
**Derek Ellinger** – H.S. Band  
**Doug Goodwin** – J.M.E. Band  
**Daniel Borns** – H.S. Mixed Choral  
**Theo Hicks** – H.S. & J.H.S. Univoiced Choral  
**Jared Yoder** – H.S. & J.H.S. Univoiced Choral  
**Erica Colter** – J.M.E. Mixed Choral  
**Adam Dostalík** – H.S. Jazz  
**Jeremy Basso** – J.M.E. Jazz  
**Mark Yount** – Vocal Jazz

Note: All new additions or list changes are indicated with an asterisk (\*) to expedite your initial search.