

Indiana State School Music Association, Inc.

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News Notes

August 2025

From the Podium

Welcome to the 2025 - 2026 school year! As you plan for this upcoming year, we hope you will take advantage of the educational performance and assessment opportunities provided by ISSMA. We will continue to improve and develop our assessment tools and systems to provide the very best educational feedback for your students. We hope that you will continue to frame success by the measured progress of “getting better every day,” and stressing this to your students, parents and communities rather than competitive placement. True learning and growth come from the journey, not the destination!

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. You owe it to your students to be on top of entry deadlines. We will be trialing a new text reminder format that you can sign up for to receive reminders on your cell phone. More to come on this!

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 all of us at the ISSMA office 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.

Randy Greenwell, ISSMA Executive Director

Randy Greenwell Appointed

ISSMA Executive Director

The ISSMA Executive Committee and State Board began the search process to replace Executive Director Mick Bridgewater when he announced his retirement this past fall. In March 2025 the State Board voted to approve the Executive Committee's recommendation to appoint Randy Greenwell as the new ISSMA Executive Director beginning July 1, 2025.

Randy is no stranger to ISSMA, having served on the State Board for many years and serving as Board President in 2001. He comes to ISSMA from the music industry, having served as an Educational Support Manager and clinician with Conn Selmer since 2017.

During his thirty-two-year teaching career, Greenwell's music ensembles were some of the finest in the country. The Lawrence Central Marching Band was a four-time Class A State Champion and a two-time Bands of America Grand National Champion, receiving the Sudler Shield in 2001. His Wind Ensembles were ISSMA State Concert Band Champions five times, making two appearances at the Music for All National Concert Festival, and several appearances at the IMEA Conference throughout his tenure. Randy holds an undergraduate degree in Music Education from Illinois State University (1985), a master's degree in Conducting from Ball State University (1994), and a master's degree in Educational Leadership from Butler University (2008.)

Randy's background in adjudication spans forty years, having judged for DCI, BOA, and WGI. He is excited to lead ISSMA Inc. and hopes to continue to improve the organization's ability to offer the best in music assessment opportunities for all music educators and their music programs throughout the state of Indiana.

Tim Johnston Your 2025-26 ISSMA President

Tim Johnston, originally from Richmond, Indiana, holds a Bachelor of Science in Music Education from Ball State University and a Master of Science in Secondary Education from Indiana University Southeast. He is currently the Assistant Band Director at Seymour High School. Prior to joining the team at Seymour, for 25 years he was the Director of Bands at Scottsburg High School including 21 years as Chairman of the Fine Arts Department. Under his leadership, the Scottsburg concert and jazz organizations regularly received gold ratings, and the marching band was an ISSMA state finalist 20 times. Tim is an adjudicator for the Indiana State School Music Association, Kentucky Music Educators Association, and Drum Corps International. He has been appointed to the Indiana State Marching Band Committee twelve times, earning an honorary lifetime membership to this committee. He has been elected to the ISSMA State Board eight times and served twice as President. Tim has also served as a Host and Site Manager for many ISSMA marching, jazz, and concert events. Tim currently lives in Sellersburg with his wife Lynn and their 2 Pembroke Welsh Corgis Sadie and Sandy. He is a proud member of the Gamma Chapter of Phi Beta Mu and The Indiana Bandmasters Association. In his “spare time” he enjoys firing up the BBQ smoker.

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 2025-26 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

ISSMA continues to see increases in host expenses, hotels, airfare, mileage, and awards. While we were able to delay any fee adjustments last school year, there are some fee adjustments for the 2025-2026 school year. Please refer to page 95 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 Music Festivals Rules Manual.”

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**. 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.

Advocacy is a Daily Habit!

More than ever, it is crucial that every music educator understands the importance of advocating for their program every single day. What does this mean? Here are some things that everyone can do to advocate for music education’s role in the total educational picture in Indiana daily:

1. Tell your program’s story. Whether it be individual student success stories, or ensemble success stories, find ways to share this with your community, and your school district.
2. At concerts, ask the audience to raise their hands if they participated in any arts activity during their school careers, including art, dance, music, theater arts etc. Doing so helps the community remember that arts classes make a difference in the total education of all Indiana students.
3. Be engaged and creative with your guidance department to help them understand how the arts fit into the new diploma seals.

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 2025-2026 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!

2025 ISSMA Distinguished Service Award

Jody Davis – Penn H.S.

Gayla Gunn - Greenwood H.S.

Duane Rogers – Elwood Jr.-Sr. H.S.

Dave Shinault - Westfield H.S.

Brent/Gwen Winderlich – Decatur Central H.S.

2025 National Federation of State High Schools Associations (NFHS) Award Recipients:

NFHS Outstanding Indiana Music Educator

Katy Briel – Clark-Pleasant M.S.

A complete list of past recipients can be found under the “Information” tab of the ISSMA website.

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE REVISIONS

PIANO: The Piano Group I Required List Manual has been revised. It is **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** that you notify students and private teachers of the changes which include several **deletions and additions**. All ISSMA Solo & Ensemble Required List Manuals are available under the “Resources” tab of the ISSMA Website.

Please visit the ISSMA Website regularly at

www.issma.net