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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE !

Indiana's 50th State Finals for High School Marching Bands will be held Saturday, October 28, 2023 in Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis. The Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) is proud to announce that this prestigious event is being sponsored by Music Travel Consultants, with Supporting Sponsorships by Band Shoppe, Paige's Music, and Vincennes University. In addition, American Dairy Association Indiana and Prairie Farms Dairy will award a \$1,000 "Winners Drink Milk" Scholarship to a music student at each of the four state champion schools.

The top ten (10) scoring bands in each of four Open Class Enrollment Categories from the Semi-state will compete for ranking order and the title of State Champion in their respective Open Class Category. Open Class B will begin at 10:00am, followed by Class C, D, and A. Performing in exhibition at 9:25am will be the Scholastic Class B Champion followed by the Scholastic Class A Champion. The sixty (60) bands that participated in the Scholastic Class were classified by both band size and school enrollment. The Scholastic Class Finals were held on October 14th at Franklin Central High School in Indianapolis.

Eighty-nine (89) Open Class bands classified into Class A, B, C, or D as determined by the previous year's school enrollment size, began performance on October 7th at one of four regional sites. Seventy-nine (79) bands continued to Semi-state performance on October 21st. Now the forty (40) bands, representing the best in the state, will meet at the State Finals to decide the four State Champions. Since 1973, Indiana High School Marching Bands have consistently ranked among the nation's finest, and this is widely known as one of the very best State High School Marching Band events in the country.

To celebrate the past 50 years, a special commissioned Fanfare will be conducted by four past multi-champion directors and played by the finalist bands and members of the Purdue All American Marching Band prior to each awards ceremony.

Admission is \$25.00 for adults and \$20.00 for students and pre-school. Only mobile tickets (no paper tickets) will be sold, and a smartphone will be needed to present tickets for entry. Visit <https://www.issma.net/downloads/2023mbstateticketinfo.pdf> for more ticket information. The time schedule of participating bands is located on our website www.issma.net. NFL's Clear Bag Policy will be in effect for this event.

If you desire Media Credentials, please call the ISSMA Office *not later than Noon, Thursday, October 26th*, for arrangements, and passes to be reserved in your name. To receive a media credential, you must have an official journalist's I.D. or a letter from the editor. To pick up your credential packet, enter at the Northwest corner of the stadium (Missouri & South Streets) at the entrance labeled "Media Will-Call." ISSMA representatives will be there to give you your packet. The Media Pass will admit you to the stands and field level via the aisle between Section 143 & 144. Photographers are to remain behind the yellow dotted lines on the field. **Due to security restrictions, your bag may be searched upon entering the gate.**

Entry into the warm-up area is restricted. To be admitted to warm-up, reporters and photographers must carry a "Personnel Pass" provided by the school's band director they are covering. If early approval was obtained/granted, the "Personnel Pass" for each band approved will be included with the general Field Level pass.

ISSMA's Media Policy is available for review at www.issma.net via the "Information / Media" link.