



**MAGNA CUM LAUDE AWARD**  
**An International Award Recognizing Band Programs**  
**of Outstanding Musical Excellence from Small Schools**

**Purpose:** To identify, recognize, and honor middle school concert band programs from schools with an enrollment of 500 or less, that have demonstrated particularly significant high standards of excellence in concert activities over a period of several years.

**Procedure:** The nominations will be received from any source and at any time by Women Band Directors International. The nominations will be evaluated by the selection committee established by WBDI. The selection committee will be composed of successful public school and university band directors who are experienced music educators. There is no specific number of schools honored each year. Bands that are approved to receive this award will be notified by the selection committee.

**Selection Criteria:**

- The band must have achieved and maintained a high standard in the concert band area over a period of five years
- The band must have been evaluated by qualified persons and should have received ratings of Superior at state or regional levels of festival or competitive performances.
- The director must have been incumbent in his or her position for at least five years, including the current year.
- A number of students should have participated in All-County/All-District/All-State honor bands and similar all-area groups, and solo/ensemble events.
- The total program must exemplify what is considered a sound, viable music educational program for the level of endeavor.

**The Award:** Bands receiving the Magna Cum Laude Award will receive the following.

1. The Magna Cum Laude plaque for the director.
2. A distinctive plaque or trophy for the school.
3. Certificates for student members of the performing group.

**Award Presentation:**

The award will be presented at the annual luncheon at the Midwest Clinic. If a member is near enough to the winning school, it may be arranged with the director of the school for a presentation to be made at a concert after the Midwest presentation.

**Deadline: June 1st**

### **How to Apply:**

The director nominating their band for the award will be asked to submit materials for evaluation purposes. These should include:

- **Folder 1 - Concert Programs** from a minimum of the past three years.
- **Folder 2 - Digital Recordings** of state-sanctioned concert band festival or contest performances or a professional recording of a concert from the previous two years. Recordings should include a standard march and two contrasting concert selections at Grade III or higher.
- **Folder 3 - Evidence of Student Participation in Solo and Ensemble** festivals.
- **Folder 4 - Evidence of Student Participation in All-District/All-State/other** such honor band events.
- **Folder 5 - Photographs** of the director and concert band.
- **Folder 6 - Press Clippings** or copies of press clippings.
- **Folder 7 - Written Recommendations** of three or more conductors of recognized reputation who have heard the band perform recently.
- **Folder 8** - Copies of **Adjudication Forms** from state-sanctioned concert band festivals/contests.

All materials above are to be placed into a shareable cloud storage platform like DropBox or Google Drive. One folder should contain eight folders and labeled as listed above. A link should be provided on the Google Form for each of the eight folders.