



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

50TH BAND-O-RAMA TO FEATURE OVER 1700 STUDENT-MUSICIANS

For further information:

Office of the Superintendent
of Schools

262/653-6320

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262/653-6266

Or contact:

The fiftieth annual Kenosha Unified School District Band-O-Rama will be presented on Saturday, February 10th at 7:30 P.M. and Sunday, February 11th at 2:00 P.M. It will showcase over 1700 band students from 34 KUSD schools. The guest conductor for this year's festival is composer Brian Balmages. Mr. Balmages was commissioned to compose a piece to be premiered at this year's Band-O-Rama. The composition is entitled "Winged Victory (Beacons of Light)" inspired by the 60-foot statue in Simmons Library Park and Kenosha's two lighthouses.

Both programs will be broadcast live on Kenosha Unified's Channel 20. Overflow audience members can view the program live in the Bradford cafeteria. Tickets are not necessary for viewing in the cafeteria.

General admission is \$5.00 and tickets may be purchased from any KUSD band student through Friday, February 2nd. Tickets will be sold, beginning Monday, February 5th, in the KUSD Department of Fine Arts at the Educational Support Center, 3600-52nd Street (653-6388). Tickets may be picked up between the hours of 7:45 A.M. and 4:15 P.M. Monday through Thursday. The two programs are identical, so the general public is asked to please purchase tickets for only one performance and be seated by 7:20 P.M. on Saturday or 1:50 P.M. on Sunday. If tickets are available, they will be sold at the door beginning at 6:30 P.M. on Saturday and 1:00 P.M. on Sunday.

Participating directors and their schools are Paul Taylor, Bradford High School; John Nepper, Bullen Middle School; Jeremy Kriedeman, Dimensions of Learning Academy; Keith Robinson, Indian Trail Academy; Kathryn Ripley, Lance Middle School; Leslie Cook, Lincoln Middle School; Kristie Weyrauch, Mahone Middle School; Karl Mueller, McKinley Middle School; Louis Covelli and Kenneth Wiele, Tremper High School; Michael Monk, Washington Middle School; and Elementary Directors, Kathryn Thorson and John Whyte. Dr. Timothy Yontz, Coordinator of Fine Arts for the Kenosha Unified School District, will serve as Master of Ceremonies.

The 50th Band-O-Rama will open with the combined middle and high school bands, under the direction of Brian Balmages, performing "Fanfare of Wakakusa Hill" by

Itaru Sakai. The opening selection will be followed by the massed bands performing “The Star Spangled Banner,” with presentation of the colors by the combined Color Guards from the Continental, Rambler, and BlackWatch Bands.

The program continues with selections by the combined elementary Beginners’ Band, Sixth Grade Cadet Band and combined Middle School Concert Bands, all under the direction of the District’s band staff. Mr. Balmages will then conduct the combined Middle School Symphonic Bands and combined High School Bands. The concert will conclude with John Philip Sousa’s “The Stars and Stripes Forever,” which will feature the full massed band of over 1700 elementary, middle school and high school students and will also include special flag pageantry provided by the color guards of the Continental, Rambler and BlackWatch Bands.

For additional information contact: Dr. Timothy Yontz, Coordinator of Fine Arts at Kenosha Unified School District No. 1, located at 3600-52nd Street, Kenosha, WI 53144, on the Web at tyontz@kUSD.edu, or by phone at 653-6388.

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