

August 23, 2011

Dear Band Director,

We are very pleased to announce that the 54th Annual Augustana College Band Festival will be held November 11-12, 2011, at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD. The Grand Finale Concert will be held in the Great Hall of the Washington Pavilion once again this year. The Festival will feature the Gold and Blue Bands, each comprised of approximately 100-110 select high school musicians from the five-state region. There is also a 75-member Honor Band to challenge the more advanced students. The Honor Band will be selected and conducted by Dr. Bruce Ammann. The Gold and Blue Bands will be under the direction of Mr. William Brent, Director of Bands at Northwestern State University of Louisiana, and Dr. Greg Handel, Professor of Music Education at Northwestern State University of Louisiana.

In addition to rehearsing with Mr. Brent, Dr. Handel, or Dr. Ammann, and performing in the Grand Finale Concert on Saturday evening, students will have the opportunity to work in smaller sectional groups and attend a recital hour featuring several of Augustana's best instrumental ensembles.

The nomination forms and director's information forms are being made available for download immediately beginning September 1st, 2011. If you have any questions regarding nominations, please do not hesitate to contact us. The forms may be photocopied and up to twelve nominations may be made per school. Please select your nominees, download and print from the web the nomination forms and director's information form, and return the completed forms as soon as possible. Prompt return of the forms is essential in order for us to give proper consideration to the students nominated. **ALL NOMINATION FORMS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN Friday, September 30th, 2011.**

When nominating students, please consider the following items:

1. Please nominate students only of high caliber. We receive many nominations each year and cannot accept them all. By nominating your best players, you increase their chances of being accepted.
2. It is important that ALL students nominated have NO CONFLICTS on Friday and Saturday, November 11th and 12th. Attendance at all rehearsals and at the Grand Finale Concert is mandatory. Please have students involved with work or other extra-curricular activities check their schedules before committing themselves to the Festival.
3. Rank each student in comparison to the other students who are nominated. This helps us to identify your very best players. Because of instrumentation limitations, we are not always able to take your top-ranked players. **PLEASE RANK YOUR STUDENTS CAREFULLY AND HONESTLY.**
4. We ask that you provide all of the information requested on the nomination form. It is very important that we have the students' home phone number and address in case of an emergency. In addition, please include all pertinent information about the instruments, such as:
 - Treble or bass clef baritone?
 - Alto, tenor, or baritone saxophone?

- Does the flutist also play piccolo?
- Does the oboist also play English horn?
- Key of contra-alto or contra-bass clarinet?

5. Percussionists will be assigned parts based on their nomination forms. The percussion section of the nomination form asks directors to rate the students' abilities on mallets, snare drum, timpani, and traps/utility.

6. Please rank your students' abilities in each aspect of instrumental performance. This ranking section is crucial to accurate band and chair placement. In addition, an optional comment section has been added to aid you in further discussion of your students' abilities and to assist in placement.

7. Please type your nomination forms or print them legibly to alleviate confusion and ensure the correct spellings of names, addresses, etc.

8. If you would like all students selected from your school to be in the same Festival Band (this would not be possible with the Honor Band), you must put your request in writing and include it with all nomination forms. However, please realize that proper instrumentation is of primary importance and this may limit the number of students that are selected from your school.

9. The Honor Band Nomination Supplement form is for you to specifically nominate those students you feel would benefit most from the added challenge of an honor band setting. Please fill out the form carefully so that Dr. Ammann can select qualified musicians.

NOMINATIONS CAN BE ACCEPTED FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 10-12 ONLY, AND WE ASK THAT NO MORE THAN 12 STUDENTS FROM ONE SCHOOL ARE NOMINATED. Although we may not be able to accept all of your nominations, we invite any students who wish to attend Festival activities such as the recital hour and the Grand Finale Concert to accompany those students selected to play in the bands. All schools returning nomination forms will be represented in the Festival.

After sending in the nomination forms, you will be notified by mail which students have been selected to participate in the Festival. If you would like to be informed of your students' selection for the Festival at an earlier date, the bands will be posted at www.augie.edu/arts, "Camps, Festivals and Competitions," and under "Augustana Band Festival" by Monday, October 10th. The music to be performed will be mailed to you in advance of the Festival and MUST be thoroughly prepared before the students arrive on campus. All students will also take part in a sectional to be held on Friday. There will not be chair auditions for the Festival Bands. Students will be placed in the section according to the rankings and comments given on the nomination form. The Honor Band will be comprised of 75 musicians, and the Festival Bands will consist of 100-110 musicians each.

Off-campus housing at local hotels/motels should be arranged. A list of hotel prices and locations will be mailed to you later in the fall. While we strongly recommend that students find lodging off-campus, on-campus housing for students will be provided free of charge for those students in emergency situations. Please contact us as soon as possible if you will require on-campus housing.

Fees for the 2011 Festival will be as follows:

Festival Band Members:	\$25.00 per member
Directors:	\$15.00 per director
Directors' Breakfast:	No Charge for registered directors

Grand Finale Concert Tickets:

Participants and Directors:	No Charge
Adults:	\$10.00 + \$2.00 Facility Charge
Students K-12:	\$8.00 + \$2.00 Facility Charge
Senior Citizens:	\$8.00 + \$2.00 Facility Charge

We will require that all registration fees be paid in advance of the Festival. You will be billed at the same time that you are notified which members have been selected. This is done in an effort to eliminate problems with late cancellations. If your students do cancel after they have been selected, there will be no refunds issued. This means you need to encourage students to clear their schedules before they are nominated for participation in the Festival. Tickets for the Grand Finale Concert may be purchased in advance through the Washington Pavilion Box Office, or on the day of the concert at the Pavilion Box Office beginning at 9:30 AM.

We ask that you fill out the Director's Information Form completely and send it in addition to the nomination forms. Please do not assume that we already have this information in our files. This will assure you get all information in a timely manner.

We sincerely hope that you will be able to attend the Augustana College Band Festival on November 11-12, 2011. We are very excited for this year's festival. Please send all nomination materials to:

Collin Block
Music Department
Augustana College 2001 S. Summit Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57197

If you have any questions regarding the Festival, please feel free to contact Collin via phone (605.759.6496), or email us at augiebandfest@gmail.com.

Thank you again for your interest in the 54th Band Festival! We look forward to seeing you in November.

Sincerely,

Collin Block, Student Chair
Augustana Band Festival

Dr. Bruce T. Ammann, Director
Augustana College Band