



# Music for All News Release

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## **LOCAL STUDENT TO REPRESENT Pennsylvania IN MUSIC FOR ALL'S 2010 HONOR BAND OF AMERICA**

Kirk Benack, a Junior at Quakertown Community High School, will join other outstanding musicians from across the nation March 4-6 as part of Music for All's 2010 Honor Band of America. Benack was selected from hundreds of applicants from across the country for membership in this prestigious honors ensemble. Kirk is the son of Dr. Seksan Dheandhanoo and Mrs. Lisa Benack. His band director is Mr. Frank Parker.

The Honor Band of America will perform in concert, Saturday, March 6, at 8 p.m. at Clowes Memorial Hall located on the campus of Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Honor Band of America is a national ensemble that will be conducted in 2010 by H. Robert Reynolds, principal conductor of the University of Southern California Thornton Wind Ensemble and retired long-time Director of Bands at University of Michigan. Members hail from all over the country and were selected by recorded audition, evaluated by leading music educators. Ticket information is available by calling 800-848-BAND (2263) or at [www.musicforall.org](http://www.musicforall.org). The Honor Band of America will perform *Weiner Philharmoniker Fanfare* by Richard Strauss, *Short Ride in a Fast Machine* by John Adams/Odom, *The Logic of All My Dreams* from "Alchemy in Silent Spaces" by Steven Bryant, *Slalom* by Carter Pann, *O Magnum Mysterium* by Morten Lauridsen/Reynolds, and *Suite from 'Mass'* by Leonard Bernstein.

"To be selected for membership in this elite national ensemble is a great achievement and honor," says Scott McCormick, Music for All President and CEO. "The 2010 Honor Band of America members are ambassadors of America's music programs, as well as their states, schools and communities."

The Honor Band of America is part of the Music for All National Festival, presented by Yamaha, March 4-6 in Indianapolis. The Music for All National Festival includes the National Concert Band Festival, the Sandy Feldstein National Percussion Festival and the Middle School National Music Festival, all taking place simultaneously in major venues throughout Indianapolis. In addition to the many performance and audience opportunities, students at the

Music for All National Festival participate in Master Classes taught by some of the leading music instructors in the country, as well as a motivational session and social events.

Kirk is a Distinguished Honor Roll student and is a member of the Quakertown Community High School Panther Marching Band, Symphonic Band, and Jazz Ensemble. He has participated in the 2009 PMEA District 11 Band and the 2009 Region IV Band as a Sophomore and also won a Jazz solo award from the Cavalcade of Bands circuit with the Quakertown Community High School Jazz Lab. Kirk also participated in both the 2006 and 2007 Bux-Mont Intermediate Honors Band. He is currently under the instruction of Mr. Charles Neidhardt and his previous teachers include Mr. Alan Shughart and Mr. Adam Gumble.

Music for All (MFA) is one of the nation's largest and most influential organizations in support of active music-making, with a mission of creating, providing and expanding positively life-changing experiences through music for all. Headquartered in Indianapolis, MFA uniquely combines regional and national music-event programming with awareness campaigns and advocacy aimed at expanding access to music in schools and communities. A 501(c)(3) not-for-profit educational organization, MFA's programs include 25-plus annual events, including the Music for All National Festival, the Music for All Summer Symposium, the Bands of America Grand National marching band championships and Regional marching band championships across the country. Learn more at [www.musicforall.org](http://www.musicforall.org)

Music for All's efforts have been supported through successful sponsorships including current partnerships with National Presenting Sponsor, the Yamaha Corporation of America; Official Uniform Sponsor, Fred J. Miller, Inc.; Official Corporate Sponsor, Wenger Corporation; Official Corporate Sponsor, SmartMusic®; Corporate Sponsor, NAMM; Corporate Sponsor, Remo, Inc.; Associate Sponsors Vic Firth, Inc., Vandoren and McCormick's Enterprises; and Preferred Travel Partners, Music Travel Consultants and New Horizons Tour and Travel. Music for All is also supported by the Arts Council of Indianapolis and the City of Indianapolis, by the Indianapolis Cultural Development Commission and by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.