

Friendswood bands win national awards



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Around
Friendswood

The music departments at Friendswood Junior High and Friendswood High School are celebrating the sound of music after both departments were honored by the Foundation for Music Education for programs they performed during the 2020-21 school year.

Under the Foundation for Music Education's Class AA division for middle school concert band, Friendswood Junior High's wind symphony was named a Mark of Excellence National Wind Band recipient. Conductor Thomas Landfried's musical geniuses were one of 10 schools, all in Texas, to receive the award.

In all, 236 high schools and middle schools nationwide entered the 2020-21 competition.

Rick Yancey, managing director of The Foundation for Music Education, thought it was remarkable that schools such as the two Friendswood campuses



load.

Friendswood, Clear Brook marching bands set for competition

But wait, there's more sweet sounds to come from young Friendswood musicians. Friendswood High School's band will participate in the "Bands of America Marching Band Championship" presented by Yamaha on Saturday, Oct. 2 at Katy's Legacy Stadium, 1830 Katyland Drive, Katy.

Tickets are \$36 for an adult day pass general admission that gets fans a seat to the prelims and the finals (day & evening sessions). Tickets can only be bought online at marching.musicforall.org/westhouston21. T-shirts for the event can also be purchased through that website.

The Mighty Mustang Band will be one of 31 high school bands that will be evaluated by a panel of nationally recognized music educators and marching band experts. The bands with the top 12 scores will advance to the evening finals competition.

Friendswood will take the field at roughly 12:30 p.m. Clear Creek High School's band will be on the field for its 15-minute show at 12:45. Clear Brook's band will perform at 10:30 a.m.

The preliminary competition ends at 4:45, before the first of the finalists return to the field at 8 p.m.

On Sunday, there will be a director's clinic and Friendswood will be participating in that one along with 15 other schools.

Canceled last year because of the pandemic, the event will be one of 22 Bands of America regional championships. It all boils down to a "Super Bowl" for bands, slated to be held Nov. 11-13 in Indianapolis, Ind.

ravery@hcnonline.com

Friendswood ISD band members at Friendswood Junior High and Friendswood High School were named to the Foundation for Music Education's Mark of Excellence for the 2020-21 school year.

Courtesy photo

were able to piece together beautiful music despite all the hurdles the pandemic presented.

Director: Awards testament to dedication

"Despite the many COVID restrictions, so many musical ensembles still made amazing musical performances. These directors and their communities should be very proud of their outstanding accomplishments," Yancey stated in an email.

"This achievement was won during what was arguably the most difficult school year in recent history," Landfried stated on the school district's website. "The Friendswood bands had to deal with ever-changing rehearsal environments, limited rehearsal time, frequent absences, and through it all, the Friendswood bands achieved something they never had. All FISD band directors are extremely proud of the work and dedication shown through these challenging times. They are a true testament that work and dedication will lead to success."

A wind ensemble, also called a concert band, is a performing ensemble consisting of members of the woodwind, brass and percussion groups of instruments.

The judges for the National Wind Band honors were: Timothy Rhea, director of bands at Texas A&M University; Kevin Sedatole, director of bands at Michigan State University; and Richard Floyd, state director of Music Emeritus for the University Interscholastic League (UIL).

Now Friendswood Junior High's wind symphony will be recognized in regional and/or national publications and at national conventions.

Along with the \$350 application fee, Landfried's entry had to have precise editing so that it eliminated audience applause and announcements. The volume had to be the same from track to track, and last but

not least, recordings had to be edited so that excess time was cut out between movements of multimovement works.

Kudos to those who edited their winning work for accomplishing all that and doing it so the judges loved what they heard.

Friendswood High School's winning wind ensemble entry in Class AAAAA was conducted by Brett Nelson.

Another Friendswood school, Clear Creek ISD's Brookside Intermediate School, was a Class AA commended winner recipient. Its conductor is Andie Troutman.

What's neat about this whole experience for our young musicians and their conductors is that all the teams receive a compilation recording of the national winners. This compilation is featured on the MarkCustom.com website and is available for down-