

News release for the Saluting America's Band Directors project



Contact: Sanford Meisel
Phone: 614-329-4792
Email: Sandy@BandDirectorSalute.org.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Band directors to be saluted in 2021 Rose Parade®

300 band directors from across the country will march in an unprecedented marching band in Pasadena

Columbus, OH, October 30, 2019—A custom-designed animated float will lead a “marching band of band directors” up to 300 strong from across the country in an unprecedented entry in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses® Rose Parade on January 1, 2021. The Michael D. Sewell Memorial Foundation, based in Pickerington, Ohio, is the sponsoring organization behind the project. The foundation was created to recognize and carry on the work of the late Mike Sewell, who dedicated his life to the school and community music programs in Pickerington and the Central Ohio area for more than 38 years.

The parade entry will convey the theme, “*We teach music. We teach life.*” The extraordinary dedication and accomplishments of band directors are well known to their students, to parents and to school teachers and administrators. No matter where they teach and work—public and private schools, colleges and universities, the military, community bands—dedicated music educators and leaders work long hours to not only teach and direct music, but to teach life itself. Student lives in particular are positively changed by a motivational leader who taught, inspired and mentored them.

The music for the New Year’s Day 5.5-mile Rose Parade route will be directed by nationally-known music educator and innovative band director Jon Waters, who will also direct rehearsals in Pasadena. The music arrangement is being done by Bob Thurston, a published composer, former high-school band director and retired Air Force staff arranger.

Selection of applicants for the band will be by a committee of the Michael D. Sewell Memorial Foundation.

Complete details on pricing and application information are available on the Saluting America’s Band Directors website, BandDirectorSalute.org.

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