

www.mamahof.com



NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

Mission Statement

Our mission is to recognize, remember and honor the people and places that have had an impact on the music in the Midwest.

Vision

MAMA Hall of Fame LLC was formed to preserve the history of music—as well as to ensure that music has continued support in the future.

Goals

- Raise public awareness and support of musical excellence through concerts, performances and special events.
- Provide school-age youth a format to showcase their talents and further their music careers.
- Provide financial support and resources to youth music programs in middle schools in the communities where **MAMA Hall of Fame LLC** events are held.
- Establish a program to provide refurbished musical instruments to music booster organizations.
- Recognize the achievements of the outstanding people and significant places impacting all genres of music throughout the Midwest. We honor the musicians, promoters, booking agents, deejays, conductors and radio personnel who represent the music scene. Ballrooms, venues and radio stations that provided a forum for the music to be expressed will be recognized as well. Any person or place that has contributed significantly to the Midwest music scene will be considered for induction to the **MAMA Hall of Fame**.

The **Midwest All-Music Association Hall of Fame LLC** is a professional organization whose intention is not to profit from our endeavors but to raise funds to meet our mission and goals. In 2025, the organization will partner with *The Craig Cronbaugh Drum Studies Scholarship*, providing a yearly donation to a middle school student studying the drums. The scholarship was created to honor **MAMA** Secretary Craig Cronbaugh.

www.mamahof.com

MAMA's 2015 Inaugural **Midwest All-Music Association Hall of Fame** Inductees:



Dr. Simon Estes
(FAMED OPERA SINGER)



Maestro Joseph Giunta
(DES MOINES SYMPHONY)

Al Huntzinger, President
Dave Schossow, Vice President
Craig Cronbaugh, Secretary

2025 Goals Update

In the past few years, as a nonprofit organization, **MAMA** has donated thousands of dollars to Iowa middle school music departments in the areas where **MAMA** events were held. **MAMA** donated \$5,000 to Iowa middle schools in 2025. Since the organization began in 2015, **MAMA** has inducted 89 names. The inductions include bands, radio stations, venues and ballrooms as a single entities—and individual artists and disc jockeys.

The Latest Celebrity *Midwest All-Music Association Hall of Fame* Inductees:



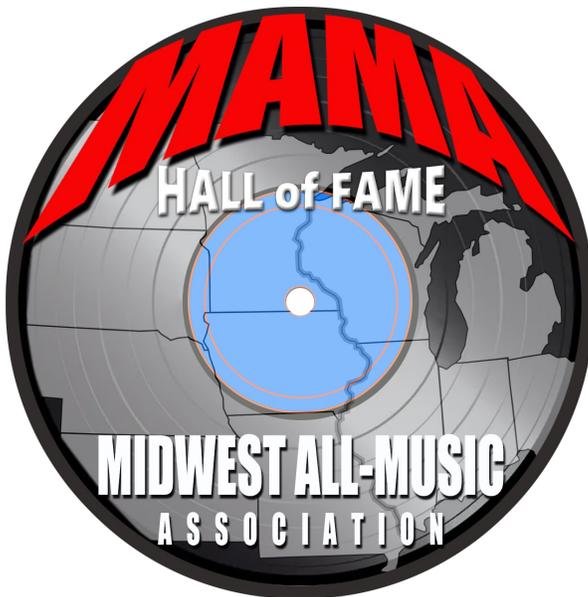
Dodie Stevens
(FAMED SINGER/SONGWRITER/RECORDING ARTIST)
CLASS OF 2023



Jim Freeman
(FAMED SINGER IN THE FIVE SATINS)
CLASS OF 2023



Dickey Lee
(FAMED SINGER/SONGWRITER/RECORDING ARTIST)
CLASS OF 2024



Al Huntzinger—President

Dave Schossow—Vice President

Dan Boddicker—Treasurer

Craig Cronbaugh—Secretary

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION



2026 MAMA DONATIONS TO MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Western Iowa Schools Amount Donated—\$5,000

Eastern Iowa Schools Amount Donated—\$3,500

2026 TOTAL AMOUNT MAMA DONATED TO MIDDLE SCHOOLS:

\$8,500

2026 MAMA Donations Western Iowa

Western Iowa MAMA \$1,000 Donations to Each Middle School



Photo: Algona Middle School choir director, Marisa Merkel (far right), with middle school students, accepts the check from MAMA Vice President Dave Schossow and recent MAMA Hall of Fame inductees John and Connie Pedersen.

Algona Middle School Music Students Receive Help from MAMA

January 22, 2026

The Midwest All-Music Association (MAMA) delivered a \$1,000 check to the middle school music department at Algona Middle School in December. The donations come from net profits from MAMA's Hall of Fame induction event that was held in October. Providing financial support and resources to middle school music programs in the communities where hall of fame events are held is a goal of MAMA.

Dave Schossow, Vice President of MAMA, spoke to the students when he came to the school and stressed to them the importance of sticking with music because of its lifelong benefits. John and Connie Pederson, recent inductees into the MAMA Hall of Fame from Ledyard, also spoke to the students on the importance of music.

Directors expressed their thanks. Among the uses of the money will be the purchase of new music and instruments.



Big John and Connie Pedersen are 2025 Midwest All-Music Association (MAMA) Hall of Fame inductees. They assisted in the presentation of MAMA donation checks.

Thank You

1 message

Kurt Kissinger <kkissinger@algona.k12.ia.us>
To: 71joncon@gmail.com

Mon, Jan 19, 2026 at 9:00 AM

Dear John & Connie,

On behalf of the Algona Middle School Music Department, thank you for your generous support of our program through the Midwest All-Music Association. Your commitment to music education makes a meaningful difference in the lives of our students and our school community.

Your gift directly supports opportunities for students to learn, create, and grow through music. Donations help fund instruments, instructional materials, performances, and enriching experiences that allow students to develop discipline, confidence, collaboration skills, and creativity. These experiences often extend beyond the classroom and have a lasting impact on students' academic success and personal growth.

Music education fosters critical thinking, teamwork, and self-expression, skills that students carry with them throughout their lives. Because of your generosity, our students are able to access a high-quality music program that inspires passion, builds community, and encourages lifelong learning.

Thank you for investing in the arts and in the students of Algona Middle School. Your support helps ensure that music remains a vibrant and valued part of our school for years to come.

With sincere appreciation,

Marisa Merkel and Kurt Kissinger
Algona Middle School
Music Department

Bishop Garrigan School—Algona, Iowa

BGHS music students receive help from MAMA



The Midwest All-Music Association (MAMA) delivered a \$1,000 check to the middle school music department at Bishop Garrigan in December.

The donations come from net profits from MAMA's Hall of Fame induction event that was held in October. Providing financial support and resources to middle school music programs in the communities where hall of fame events are held is a goal of MAMA.

Dave Schossow, vice president of the association, spoke to the students when he came to the school and stressed to them the importance of sticking with music because of its lifelong benefits. John and Connie Pederson, recent inductees into the MAMA Hall of Fame from Ledyard, also spoke to the students on the importance of music.

Directors expressed their thanks. Among the uses of the money will be the purchase of new music and the repair of instruments.

Bishop Garrigan band director Katherine Wiemers (front row, bottom left), with middle school music students in the back, accepts the check from MAMA Vice President Dave Schossow and recent MAMA Hall of Fame inductees Connie and John Pederson. Submitted photo.

The Bishop Garrigan Middle School Bands out of Algona, Iowa consist of a fifth grade, sixth grade, and junior high concert band. The junior high band is also where they begin marching band as they compete in parade marching for the Algona Band Day parade each year, along with the Bishop Garrigan homecoming parade. Throughout the school year, several students are selected to participate in multiple area honor bands such as the Karl King Honor Band, NCIBA Middle School Honor Band and the River City Honor Band. Grades 6, 7 and 8 participate in a middle school solo and ensemble contest where they have the opportunity to show off their individual talents and receive a rating for their performance. Each middle school band performs two concerts a year: one at Christmas and one in the spring. The enthusiastic developing musicians at Bishop Garrigan always strive to do their best and put forth their best performances.

North Iowa Middle School—Buffalo Center, Iowa

Music Hall of Fame supports aspiring musicians at North Iowa Middle School

By Andrew Shaw

North Iowa Middle School has an extra \$1,000 to put toward expenses for the middle school band, thanks to a donation from the Midwest All-Music Association (MAMA) Hall of Fame.

The money was raised as part of the association's 2025 Western Iowa Hall of Fame induction event, which was held in October at the Cobblestone Ballroom in Lakeside, IA.

John and Connie Pedersen of Ledyard were among the musicians inducted into the Midwest All-Music Association Hall of Fame this year, and they helped to select the beneficiaries of \$5,000 in donations to school districts across the western portion of the state. In addition to North Iowa Middle School, area schools receiving \$1,000 each included Algona Middle School and Bishop Garrigan Middle School in Algona.

"Big John" Pedersen grew up in a family of musicians and entertained in grade school and high

school with his strong voice and guitar playing. His entertaining came to a halt at 19 years old, when a farming accident almost completely severed his left wrist. It was a long road to recovery, but after many months in casts, and surgeries, plus physical therapy, he was able to get back to playing guitar.

His son dragged him out of musical retirement in 2006 to help with the Antique Rock Show in Nevada, IA, sponsored by the Iowa Rock and Roll Music Association. He later traveled to south Texas, where he shared his love of classic country music with people from all over the country. He entered contests at the Country Music Festival in Avoca, just for the fun of it, and he won awards for Best Male Vocalist, First Place Country Song Writer, First Place Gospel Song Writer, and the People's Choice Entertainer Award.

See more NORTH IOWA MUSIC on Page 2

More NORTH IOWA MUSIC from Page 1



North Iowa Middle School band students and Director Aaron Mathabs accepted a \$1,000 check in December from the Midwest All-Music Association (MAMA) Hall of Fame. The check was presented by MAMA Vice President Dave Schossow and 2025 Hall of Fame inductees John and Connie Pedersen from Ledyard. Front from left are: Mayah Hullstrom, Emma Van Hove, Mr. Aaron Mathabs, Dave Schossow, Connie and John Pedersen, and Franklin Garst. Second row: Jacob Levine, Sawyer Matson, Bailey Newton, Owyn Ostermann, Wyatt Bosma, Andreana Brunson, and Alexandria Valwick. Back row: Samuel Sadler, Colson Wubben, Brayden Berggren, Amelia Price, Fiona Potter, Ryker Albrant, Kayden Beck, Noah Hamilton, and Max Wirth.

He went on to win several more awards and trophies for song writing, and in 2012, he was inducted into the National Traditional Country Music Hall of Fame at Le Mars.

Big John and Connie Pedersen have performed together at the Mercedes Texas Country Music Festival, the South Dakota State Fair, the Wahoo Country Music Festival, and the Missouri Country Music Festival, among others.

Vice President Dave

Schossow says MAMA is a non-profit organization that raises funds throughout the Midwest, including Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, Illinois, Nebraska, and Missouri. The donations to school band programs are made possible thanks to ticket sales and sponsors who supported October's Hall of Fame induction.

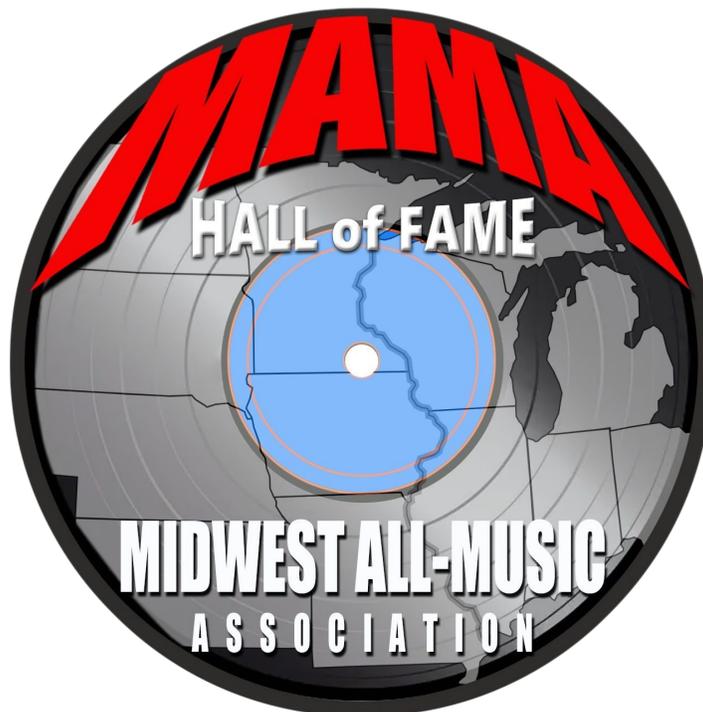
Local sponsors contributing in 2025 include Heartland Mutual Insurance Association; Erpelting Voigt & Co., LLP; Grass

Masters Lawn Care; Kernna Auto Center; Central States Agency, LLC; John and Sharon Cowin; Deitering Bros., Inc.; Nyman TV & Furniture; S&B Farms Distillery; Bank Plus; StateLine Cooperative; and Valero Renewables.

MAMA also started a \$500 drum studies scholarship this year, which will benefit a middle school percussionist looking to further his or her music education. Schossow encourages music teachers to have

their middle school students fill out an application.

For more information about the scholarship, visit MAMA's website <https://mamahof.com>. The website also includes information nominating a band for induction into the hall of fame. Two induction ceremonies take place each year in Iowa, with one in the western half of the state and the other in the eastern half.



2026 MAMA Donations Eastern Iowa

West Branch Middle School—West Branch, Iowa

WEST BRANCH TIMES

Established in 1875 • West Branch is the birthplace of President Herbert Hoover, the Great Humanitarian & Home of the Bears



Midwest All Music Association representatives present a \$1,000 check to West Branch Middle School instrumental music teacher Beth Wirtanen-Oberholte on Jan. 14. MAMA members, from left, include Gene and Phyllis Vineyard and President Al Huntzinger. Gregory R. Norfleet/West Branch Times

MAMA donates \$1,000 to fine arts

By Gregory R. Norfleet
gregory.norfleet@westbranchtimes.com

From new music to new

mouthpieces, West Branch Middle School hopes to give its Fine Arts program a boost with a \$1,000 dona-

tion.

Midwest All Music Assoc. stopped by on Jan. 14 to present a check to instrumental music teacher Beth Wirtanen-Oberholte.

"I love this!" she said when representatives unrolled a poster-sized check. "This is awesome!"

MAMA President Alvon "Al" Huntzinger and Board of Directors members Gene and Phyllis Vineyard visited the school and explained how they raise the money by visiting businesses in towns where schools benefitted

from donations.

"I'm so blessed you have provided these funds," Wirtanen-Oberholte said.

She said the fine arts program could use new music and some of the instruments need new mouthpieces that "don't squeak, squak or blat."

"This could make a big difference," she said.

According to information from MAMA, the group formed in 2015 "to preserve the history of music — as well as to ensure that music has continued support in the future."

"Our mission is to recognize, remember and honor the people and places that have had an impact on the music in the Midwest," read the information.

To learn more about MAMA, visit the group's website at mamahof.com.





SPORTS
Trey Ramer passes coach on leaderboard
Page B1

MAMA donates to West Liberty Jr. High



From left, MAMA members Gene and Phyllis Vineyard, WL Choir Director Rebecca Swanson, WL Band Director Thomas Theiling, and MAMA President Al Huntzinger.

By **Andrea Grubaugh**
Reporter

Often the people who understand the importance of youth music programs the most are former music students and musicians. Since 2015, many of these musicians have stepped up to support school music programs across the Midwest.

Last Wednesday, Jan. 14, saw members of the Midwest All Music Association (MAMA) make their latest donation stop, presenting a \$1,000 to the music departments of West Liberty Middle School.

"After retiring (from officiating basketball), this is our way of still staying in contact with the schools and with the kids," MAMA President and former drummer Al Huntzinger said. "The money we give to schools strictly goes to the music department. We want to make sure they have the money to perform and do things."

Huntzinger also noted the importance of supporting middle school-level musicians specifically, as he and other musicians know this point tends to be when these students, based on the experiences they've had through their middle school band and choir, decide whether or not they want to continue pursuing music in high school and beyond.

Following the check presentation, the leaders of the West Liberty Jr. High Music Department, choir director Rebecca Swanson and band director Thomas Theiling expressed their gratitude to MAMA for the support.

"Seeing the amount of support that the arts get in this community means a lot, and to see it coming from outside of our community too is just a testament to what music means to West Liberty, and it's just so great to get that," Theiling said.

Theiling said he also appreciated the donation being for the entire department, not just band. "The choir, I feel like, sometimes doesn't get the same amount of recognition since they don't have to buy as much material and equipment, but it's lovely when they get that because they need it just as much as we do," he said.

"It was so touching to learn that this group has chosen to support the middle school music department," Swanson said. "We were so excited that this donation was specifically for our district's middle school music department, as middle school music departments are often supported via high school boosters. Not only do

WEST LIBERTY

Continued from previous page

Mr. Theiling and I feel the support from our community, but our students will feel that support too. We are incredibly grateful!"

Although a final decision hasn't been made yet, Theiling and Swanson have already started discussing what to spend the money on, with it either being split about 50/50 or being used to purchase something that can benefit both the band and the choir.

"We recently were really lucky to get a new sound system installed here, which we both use, and we work really closely together so we may end up getting something together," Theiling said.

If the money were to be split, Swanson said it would likely be used to repair or replace broken instruments and purchase new repertoire for their band and choir students to perform.

In return for the support, Theiling invites Huntzinger and the other members of MAMA to attend one of the school's future concerts, wanting to show his and Swanson's appreciation. "We are seeing how many departments are not as fortunate as ours is, so it's a blessing to see that we get so much good will and support."

Through the association, the MAMA Hall of Fame Iowa was formed to preserve the history of music and to ensure that music has continued support in the future through providing financial support and resources to middle and high school youth music programs. The group also raises awareness and support of musical excellence through concerts, performances, and special events.

The Vinton Eagle

Your local community newspaper

FEBRUARY 10, 2026

MAMA Donates \$1000 to VSMS Music Program

By AMY STOURAC

news@vintonnewspapers.com

VINTON — Board members of the Midwest All-Music Association (MAMA) delivered a \$1,000 donation to The Vinton-Shellsburg Middle School on Friday, February 6, 2026.

Dan Boddicker, Terry McCauley and Joyce Rublack gave the donation check to Fine Arts Century Club President Eric Upmeyer, and Jessica Helms from Farmers Savings Bank and Trust in Vinton. FSB&T serves as the trustee for the Benton County Community Foundation, and therefore the Fine Arts Century Club.

VSMS Band Teacher Justin Hughes was also present for the

donation presentation and said he was very grateful to MAMA for the funds.

"Thank you so much," Hughes said. "It's going to go towards the students and it means a lot and we really appreciate it."

Formed in 2015, MAMA, is a nonprofit organization that exists to raise money for youth interested in music. They help support school music programs, and to recognize all genres of musicians, as well music teachers, conductors and directors, and even the venues that host them.

"We think it's important to support the kids, so they keep singing

MAMA, see pg. A15



PHOTO BY AMY STOURAC

Board members of the Midwest All-Music Association (MAMA) delivered a \$1,000 donation to The Vinton-Shellsburg Middle School on Friday, February 6, 2026. PICTURED (L-R): VSMS Band Teacher Justin Hughes, Joyce Rublack, Dan Boddicker, Terry McCauley, Eric Upmeyer, and Jessica Helms.

Vinton Eagle — February 10, 2026

NEWS

MAMA, from pg. A1

or playing, because if the bands die off and the venues close, the dancers have nowhere to go, so we all have to promote each other," Joyce said.

Although MAMA covers the midwest and goes beyond the borders of Iowa, a few of the board members have local connections. Dan Boddicker, local musician and co-owner of The Niche and Red Cedar Wines, serves as Treasurer for MAMA. Terry McCauley, a musician who has played in Benton County many times, is also on the board, and the MAMA Board Secretary is Urbana native and drummer, Craig Cronbaugh.

Beast & Bird and Cedar Valley Bank each gave \$250 to put towards the VSMS donation. Dan said that

the rest of the funds were raised during the MAMA Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, which was held at Elks Lodge 251 in Cedar Rapids on Oct. 12, 2025.

"We had a ton of ticket sales from Vinton people for the event," Dan said, who was inducted into the MAMA Hall of Fame in October, along with fellow Vinton graduate Jeff Reed. Jeff now lives in Kentucky, where he serves as Executive Director (CEO) for the Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center (SKy-PAC) in Bowling Green. Terry McCauley is a 2022 MAMA Inductee.

Another donation check of \$500 will be delivered in the near future to the Benton Community Middle School.



PHOTO BY AMY STOURAC

MAMA Board Members (L-R): Joyce Rublack, Terry McCauley, and Dan Boddicker.

CEDAR VALLEY TIMES



Thank YOU to our local business, the community, and the people who support us. We are proud to be a part of the community we serve.

Your local community newspaper

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026



\$2.99
ISSUE NO. 88881

CELEBRATING THE LEGENDS SINCE 1882

MAMA Donates \$500 to Benton Community Middle School Music Program



Representatives from MAMA delivered a \$500 check to the Middle School Music program at Benton Community School in Van Horne on Tuesday Feb. 25, 2026. PICTURED (L-R): Benton Community Middle School Band Teacher Michelle Lampkin, and MAMA Board members Terry McCauley and Dan Boddicker.

PHOTO BY AMY STOURAC

VINTON — Representatives from the Midwest All-Music Association (MAMA) delivered a \$500 check to the Middle School Music program at Benton Community School in Van Horne on Tuesday Feb. 25, 2026.

MAMA Board members Dan Boddicker and Terry McCauley presented the check to Middle School Band Instructor Michelle Lampkin during band class. The students applauded with gratitude and even asked a few follow up questions.



Benton Community Middle School students listen to remarks from MAMA representatives on Tuesday Feb. 25, 2026.
PHOTO BY AMY STOURAC

Boddicker explained to the students that his friend, and music partner in the Boogie Woogers, Mitch Smith, was a Benton Community graduate. He also encouraged the students to stick with music in their futures.

Benton Community High School Band Teacher Mike Meyer, who was an avid basketball player in his younger days, was also present for the presentation with the middle school students and offered the following words of wisdom.

“I’m definitely an advocate for athletics, but eventually the days of being able to play sports at a high level really kind of end. But the days of being able to play your instrument, or be in a band are still going for all of us up here. You can play your instruments into your 90s if you want. My days of running up and down the court for basketball are over now, but I still play an instrument every day,” he said.

Formed in 2015, MAMA, is a nonprofit organization that exists to raise money for youth interested in music. They help support school music programs, and to recognize all genres of musicians, as well music teachers, conductors and directors, and even the venues that host them.

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2025 MAMA School Music Department Donations

Western Iowa MAMA \$1,000 Donations to Each Middle School

BUENA VISTA COUNTY'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2025

Storm Lake Times Pilot



St. Mary's music instructor Gayle Strom accepts the check, with sixth-eighth band students in back.

MAMA donates to local middle school music programs

BY DOLORES CULLEN
The Midwest All Music Association delivered \$1,000 checks to middle school music departments at St. Mary's, Storm Lake Public, Newell-Fonda, Sioux Central and Alta-Aurelia Monday and Tuesday.

The donations come from net profits from MAMA's Hall of Fame induction event Nov. 3 at Cobblestone Ballroom & Event Center.

"MAMA Hall of Fame Iowa was formed to preserve the history of music, and to ensure that music has continued support in the future," said Dave Schossow, vice president

of the association and bass player of the famed band The Senders.

Providing financial support and resources to middle school music programs in the communities where hall of fame events are held is a goal of MAMA.

As Schossow traveled from school to school and handed out the checks, he stressed to the students the importance of sticking with music because of its lifelong benefits.

Directors expressed their thanks. Among the uses of the money will be the purchase of new music and the repair of instruments.



Storm Lake Middle School band directors Cindy Mickens and Shannon Poor Bear hold the check with Dave Schossow at left and Assistant Principal Jaymie Bral at right. Principal Megan Richardson is in back with seventh and eighth grade jazz band members.



Sioux Central Middle School music students accept a check.



Newell-Fonda band director Andy Schertz accepts the check from Dave Schossow. With the music students in the background are choir director Heide Barnhardt and Principal Bo Darrow.



With MAMA Vice President Dave Schossow are Alta-Aurelia Director Nikole Nuttall, Aurelia Principal Taylor Boeckolt and students.

Southeast Junior High School and Northwest Junior High School in Coralville, Iowa, Receive \$1,000 Each for Band Departments from the Midwest All-Music Association (MAMA)

January 2025

Southeast Middle School Receives \$1,000 Donation to Music Department



MAMA Directors Terry McCauley, Gene Vineyard, Al Huntzinger (MAMA President) and Phyllis Vineyard present Southeast Middle School Music Director Natalie Madsen with a check for \$1,000.

January 2025

Northwest Middle School Receives \$1,000 Donation to Music Department



MAMA Directors Al Huntzinger (MAMA President), Terry McCauley, Gene Vineyard, Phyllis Vineyard present Northwest Middle School Music Director Kevin Brown with a check for \$1,000.



MAMA President Al Huntzinger and Music Director Kevin Brown

Recent MAMA School Music Department Donations



From left are Jerry Best and Al Huntzinger, board members of the Midwest All Music Association with a \$5,000 check for the Clayton Ridge School music department. (Photo submitted)

MAMA donates \$5,000 to school

By Molly Moser

Uniforms. Sheet music. Risers, instruments, and instrument repair; managing a school music program can be costly. That's why the Midwest All Music Association (MAMA) has decided to give a gift in the amount of \$5,000 to the Clayton Ridge School District music programs.

"With the money we want to donate, we want to try to cover vocal, orchestral, band, whatever area produces music," said Jerry Best, MAMA board member. "We're going to hopefully get feedback from the various instructors or musical directors within the system on what their most important needs might be."

Best grew up playing piano and trombone in an era when sheet music was marked at 50 cents a song. "I know right now, you'd pay \$5.50

or \$7 for one copy. It's expensive to provide sheet music for 30 or 40 people, plus a conductor's score." Best also pointed out that more expensive, school-owned instruments used by students, such as sousaphones and timpani drums, often require repair, which can also add up.

"We're spearing in toward the middle school level, where musicians really start to take off.

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MAMA donates \$5,000 to school

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They've learned a lot of the basics and they get to that point and now, in their own mind, almost feel professional. A lot of people in the middle school bracket are in need of monies and are overshadowed by sports and other areas of the school," said Best.

Last year, MAMA donated \$3,500 to the Clayton Ridge music department thanks to Steve Dikers, who built a guitar and donated it for auction at the annual Rock n Roll on the River event in Guttenberg. The \$5,000 donation this month stems from MAMA's goal: to promote music and to give back to the communities it serves. The Iowa-based organization's nine board members organize concerts throughout the state and made the first induction into their Hall of Fame in April.

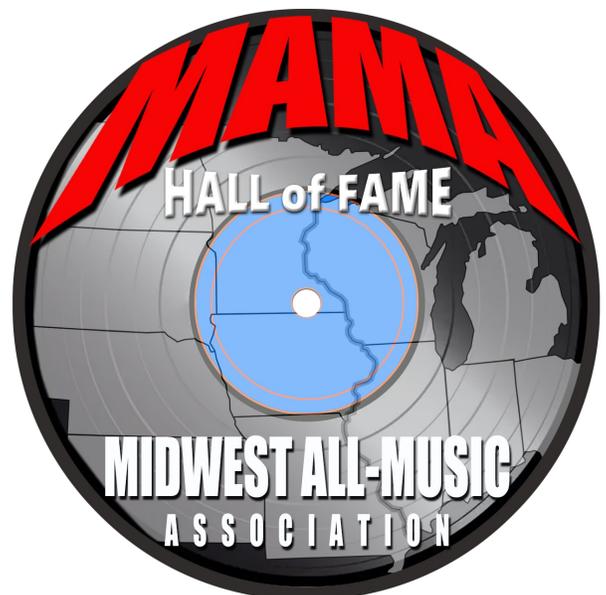
"MAMA exists to keep the music alive, especially the rock and roll," said Al Huntzinger, MAMA board member. Rock n Roll on the River will return for the seventh consecutive year in 2017, bringing in Pastmasters, a Steve Bobbitt tribute to Rod Stewart, and local

favorite, Backwater. The event will be held at Lakeside Ballroom on April 8, with a traditional 50s and 60s dance and costume contest.

Last year's event drew over 300 people to Lakeside Ballroom, and big names like The Diamonds have attracted crowds of over 700. "They come from surrounding areas: Prairie du Chien, Waukon, Iowa City, Cedar Rapids," Huntzinger told The Press. Concertgoers stay in the motels in Guttenberg, Lakeside serves a buffet and sells beverages, and ultimately, the money raised from the event ends up back in the local economy in the form of a donation.

"We feel that we've got a great relationship with the community," Huntzinger said.

"On behalf of the Clayton Ridge Music Department, I would like to convey our gratitude for the generous donation of \$5,000 from the Midwest All Music Association," said Superintendent Shane Wahls. "We take great pride in our music programs and are extremely appreciative of this gift."



NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

Schools get a boost

Monday, June 20, 2022

By Beverly Van Buskirk, Lifestyles Editor



(Photo Contributed) Receiving donations to their school's middle school/junior high music department from Midwest All Music Association board members are, from left, Emma Davis from MMCRU, Dean Rhodes, Dan Ruden and Kathy Brandt, Remsen St. Mary's.

REMSEN — The band departments of Remsen St. Mary's and MMCRU Schools are the recipients of a donation from the Midwest All Music Association (MAMA).

MAMA board members Dan Ruden and Dean Rhodes made the presentation recently.

The checks were presented to Kathy Brandt, Remsen St. Mary's Music Department head, and Emma Davis from MMCRU.

Each school received \$750 to be used in the middle school/junior high music department.

The money came from proceeds of the Midwest All Music Association's Western Iowa 2021 Hall of Fame Inductee event at the Avalon Ballroom held last fall.

The Midwest All Music Association or MAMA, is an organization that was formed to acknowledge all genres of music throughout the heartland, not just rock 'n roll and country. Its mission is to recognize, remember, and honor the people and places that have had an impact on the music in Iowa, and to encourage the youth to continue their music careers. MAMA always makes a donation to a school or schools in the community where they hold an event.

Two of the men who started MAMA are former board members of Iowa Rock 'n Roll Music Association (IRRMA). They are Tom Golden, the CEO, and Al Huntzinger, who is also an IRRMA inductee.

Golden noted he created MAMA for that purpose. He said, "I had for a while wanted to create an association that honored all genres of music and also give monies back to music booster organizations to assist middle and high school students in their pursuit of music. With MAMA, we have been able to accomplish this."

Ruden, of Le Mars, is a member of the MAMA board of directors, and a member of The Jammers, a Le Mars/Sioux City band that was inducted into the hall of fame in 2018.

Rhodes has a long history with the Avalon Ballroom in Remsen.

MAMA will again hold their western Iowa Induction ceremony this coming Oct 22 at the Avalon Ballroom in Remsen with Classic Rock 99.5 DJ Big Daddy as emcee. Details and inductees will be announced in the near future, according to Ruden.



MAMA Donates to Hinton School Music Program

Last Wednesday, the Midwest All Music Association (MAMA) awarded a gift of \$1,000.00 to the Hinton Community Schools TK-6 music program.

MAMA is a non-profit agency dedicated to acknowledging Iowa and Midwest musicians, singers, bands, and venues. In an effort to promote music, the group donates to area elementary and middle school music programs. Funds are raised through Hall of Fame and music performance fundraising events, which, in turn, make it possible for the organization to give back to Io-

wa's young music students.

Other area schools, including Le Mars Community, Gehlen Catholic, Remsen St. Mary's, and MMRU, are past beneficiaries of the group's largesse. This year, Hinton's music program is the recipient. Mrs. Angela Iversen accepted the gift on behalf of Hinton Community School.

Midwest All Music Association's mission is "to recognize, remember, and honor the people and places that have had an impact on the music in Iowa." *(Photo contributed)*



Hinton's TK-6 music program will benefit from a \$1,000 donation by Midwest All Music Association. Pictured, from left, Jeanette Schwartz of Hinton, Mrs. Angela Iversen, Hinton Community School Vocal Music teacher; Dan Ruden, Le Mars, vice-president of MAMA board.



Midwest All Music Association Donates to Music Department

Midwest All Music Association donated \$1,000.00 to the North Union Elementary Music Department. The Midwest All Music Association was formed in 2015 by the late Tom Golden, to preserve the history of music - as well as to ensure that music has continued support in the future. Their mission is to recognize, remember and honor the people and places that have had an impact on the music in the Midwest. Thru fundraising, sponsors, concerts and induction they are able to raise enough money to give back to local schools. Pictured above is Steve Lang, David Schossow with the Midwest All Music Association, and instructors with the North Union Elementary Music Department.



Midwest All Music Association Donates to Music Boosters

On Friday, January 26th, the Midwest All Music Association donated \$1,250.00 to the Okoboji Middle School Music Boosters. The Midwest All Music Association was formed in 2015 by the late Tom Golden, to preserve the history of music - as well as to ensure that music has continued support in the future. Their mission is to recognize, remember and honor the people and places that have had an impact on the music in the Midwest. Through fundraising, sponsors, concerts and induction they are able to raise enough money to give back to local schools. Pictured above is Dave Schossow with the Midwest All Music Association, Jody Ingwersen, Middle School Instrumental Music instructor, and Steve Lang also with the Midwest All Music Association.

The Tipton Conservative

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Officers of the Midwest All-Music Association (MAMA) recently presented a \$500 check to Tipton High School Band Director Andy Owen for the Tipton band program. Shown above, l-r, are MAMA president Al Huntzinger and treasurer Dan Boddicker; Andy Owen and Tom and Margo Weih, of Tipton Electric Motors, generous supporters of MAMA. Photo by Kris Clark

Midwest All Music Association Donates \$500 To Tipton Band Program

The Midwest All-Music Association (MAMA), often confused with the Iowa Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, is an all-music genre and music promotion organization. The organization's goal is to promote music in Iowa and the surrounding states by recognizing outstanding musicians, performers, songwriters, radio stations and personalities, and educators.

The organization recently donated \$500 to the Tipton band program.

MAMA accepts nominations from the public for induction

into the MAMA Hall of Fame for people to be recognized for their musical achievements. The MAMA Board of Directors vote on who will be inducted into the MAMA Hall of Fame for the current year. We plan two events in the fall (eastern and western Iowa) to recognize inductees as well as showcase performances by selected inductees. Ticket sales, sponsorships, and memorabilia auctions at the events raise funds for the organization, and excess funds are donated back to the communities of the inductees,

sponsors, or other worthy music-related causes.

Tipton Electric Motors has been a very generous sponsor of MAMA events for several years, and we wanted to recognize their support by giving back to the Tipton Community. Tipton High School band has long been an outstanding program in developing young musicians and promoting the love of music. They are a very deserving recipient.

If you want more information about MAMA, check out our Facebook Page and website mamahof.com

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

North Union Middle School Band Department receives \$1,000 donation from MAMA



MAMA Director Steve Lang, MAMA Vice President Dave Schossow, Anna Hanbeck (6-12 Band Director), Paige Lang (6-12 Choir Director), Julie Runksmeier (Middle School Principal)

By Kim Meyer

The North Union Middle School Band Department received a monetary boost with the donation of \$1,000 from the Midwest All-Music Association (MAMA). The check was presented to the school on Wednesday, January 17th with the middle school band present.

North Union was one of four schools to receive the monetary donation. Other schools received money were Okoboji-Milford, Tipton and West Sioux Middle Schools.

The check was presented to North Union middle school band instructor Anna Hanbeck, middle school choir instructor Paige Lang and elementary/middle school principal Julie Runksmeier. Presenting the check to the school were MAMA members Steve Lang and Dave Schossow.

MAMA donates to only middle schools to aid students start and continue their music careers.

In order to be considered for the monetary donation, a school must be nominated which was done by Board Member Steve Lang of Armstrong. Lang is an advocate of music and was recently inducted into the MAMA Hall of Fame.

Anna Hanbeck, North Union 6-12 band instructor, was asked to write a letter about the band program.

She wrote the following:

“Hello, my name is Anna Hanbeck, a first-year teacher. I am the 6-12 band director and I work alongside two great music educators, Paige Lang and Courtney Mondragon. Paige teaches 6-12 choir and Courtney teaches K-5 general music and 5th grade band, but we all utilize the music room at North Union Middle School. The 8th grade band students work very hard in band, as well as have a music-packed year. Each student has one band lesson a week, however they are more than welcome to come in multiple times a week as long as I am free to

have another lesson. We have band on Mondays, Wednesdays, and every other Friday at the end of the day. During the Fall Semester, we spend those four months preparing for our Winter Concert, and they do such a great job of learning their music. This past semester, I also allowed students to participate in playing the school song with the high school marching band students during pregame for one of our home football games. With this opportunity, I had multiple 6-8th grade band students join us for that night and they all had a really good time. With this being my first year, I am continuously learning, and these kids are such a huge help with that. For the spring semester, we will spend our time preparing for our spring concert as well as the annual trip to Valleyfair, where the 7 /8th grade band and choir will play a couple pieces. I also nominate students who would like to go to various honor bands, in which I have quite a few who want to be nominated. So once those honor bands take place, I take my students there and they spend the day making music with other top middle school musicians in the state of Iowa. Towards the end of the spring semester, I will also work on marching technique with the students, to get them ready for high school marching band.

Students who tend to be in band, also tend to be in choir as well. Having students in both (or at least one) is very beneficial to the music program, but also their own lives. Students who are involved in music are kept busy and are continuously learning, as well, making music with their friends. Our middle school band and choir could really use new equipment, as a lot of our current equipment is old, outdated, and hasn't been replaced in years. I know the students are eternally grateful, as well as myself and my other music colleagues. Thank you for choosing our middle school to be a recipient of this donation. We are so thankful!"

The committee was so impressed with Ms. Hanbeck's letter, they voted unanimously to approve the nomination for North Union.

The money is made for this program through donations and concerts held by MAMA. Local donors include Hi-Way Grocery of Armstrong, Bank Midwest of Armstrong and Fairmont, Indulge Salon and Devenish Nutrition of Fairmont, Gosh Town Tavern of Imogene, along with several other donors.

Midwest All-Music Association is a nonprofit agency dedicated to acknowledging Iowa and Midwest musicians, singers, bands and venues. This is achieved through their Hall of Fame and music performances fundraising events which in turn make it possible for the organization to give back to Iowa's young music students.

MAMA's mission is to recognize, remember and honor the people and places that have had an impact on the music in the Midwest. The MAMA Hall of Fame Iowa LLC was formed to preserve the history of music—as well as to ensure that music has continued support in the future.

In addition to keeping the music alive, they want to provide financial support and resources to youth music programs in high schools and middle schools.

The MAMA has also established a program to provide refurbished musical instruments to music booster organizations.

To learn more about the MAMA donation program and their hall of fame, please visit their website at www.mamahof.com.

Photo and article: Stateline Publications