

THE ND MUSIC HALL OF FAME PRESENTS: MARCHING BAND CAMP



Made In Mandan / MHS Marching Band

THE NORTH DAKOTA MUSIC HALL OF FAME MARCHES TOWARD AMERICA'S 250TH

By: The North Dakota Music Hall of Fame Team

The air in the Peace Garden State is about to get a lot more rhythmic. This summer, the North Dakota Music Hall of Fame is trading the quiet of the archives for the high-energy pulse of the parade route. From **July 1st through July 4th**, 2026, the Bismarck-Mandan area will play host to the 2026 Marching Band Camp, a four-day residency to celebrate music, community, and the 250th Anniversary of the United States.



Connor Challey / NDSU



BISMAN Cafe / BSC

Meet Director Connor Challey

To lead an initiative of this scale, the Hall of Fame has secured one of the best in North Dakota music: **Connor Challey**. Connor is the Director of Athletic Bands at North Dakota State University, and has officially stepped in as the Camp Director. Known for his transformative leadership of the NDSU Gold Star Marching Band and Bison Pep Bands, Challey brings a modern, high-energy approach to the field.

"We aren't just looking for the 'elite' performers," Challey says. "We are looking for students who simply love to play. Whether you've been marching for years or you just love the energy of being in a band, there is a place for you in the '250.'"

A Collegiate Experience at BSC

Campers won't just be visiting; they'll be living the collegiate dream. Hosted at Bismarck State College (BSC), students will have access to top-tier rehearsal facilities and housing. The residency offers a unique "college-preview" experience, where musicians will eat, sleep, and breathe music together, building lifelong friendships and professional connections.

But the work isn't confined to the rehearsal field. The camp includes curated social activities and exploration across the Bismarck-Mandan area, ensuring that the students experience

the best of our state's culture and community.

Multiple Bands, One Mission

The culmination of the camp is a performance like no other. On July 4th, the Hall of Fame will field multiple marching bands spaced throughout the Mandan Independence Day Parade. As the largest and longest-running Independence Day celebration in North Dakota, the parade will serve as the ultimate stage for these 250 musicians to provide the musical heartbeat for America's 250th Anniversary.

Registration is Open

The Hall of Fame is primarily recruiting high school students, but the door is also open for adults with band experience who want to relive the thrill of the march and support the next generation of performers.



The City of Mandan / Visit MaNDan

The camp is all-inclusive, covering expert instruction, meals, and transportation to all activities:

- **Boarding Students (\$299):** Includes 3 nights in the BSC dorms. Note: Dorm space is limited to 130 beds, so early registration is encouraged!
- **Commuter Students (\$199):** Perfect for local Bismarck-Mandan musicians.

Registration is easy. Simply visit www.ndmusichall.com to secure your spot.

This July, the soundtrack of North Dakota is taking a step forward. Will you be part of the march?

**SIGN UP BY
SUNDAY, JUNE 21ST**

OTHER NOTABLE UPCOMING EVENTS:

- September 18th- SAVE THE DATE. TBA. (Minot, ND)
- September 19th- SAVE THE DATE. TBA. (Mandan, ND)
- September 20th- 2026 Inductee Ceremony. (Bismarck, ND)

INDUCTEE NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the ND Music Hall of Fame Class of 2026 are now OPEN! We will be accepting nominations until May 31st. Please go to ndmusichall.com for more information on nominating.

-The nominee must have been born in ND, lived/made music in ND, or been married to an ND resident during their career.

-Nominees must be veterans of the music industry with at least 20 years of professional experience.

INDUCTEE *legacy*

The Matriarchs of North Dakota Music

In honor of Mother's Day, this month we are shining a special light on the three incredible women among our 13 inductees:

Peggy Lee, Lynn Anderson, and Mary Osborne.

While the world knew them as global superstars and "First Ladies" of their genres, they also shared a common, deeply personal role: *Motherhood*. These women didn't just break glass ceilings in the music industry; they did it while raising families and passing their musical gifts down to the next generation.

PEGGY LEE

The "Queen of American Pop" found her greatest joy in her daughter, Nicki. Peggy famously balanced a whirlwind career of recording and acting while ensuring her home was filled with the same grace and creativity she showed on stage.



The New York Public Library / Peggy Lee Associates, LLC

LYNN ANDERSON

Known for the legendary "Rose Garden," Lynn was a devoted mother of three. She often spoke about the strength it took to navigate the road, proving that a North Dakota woman could conquer Nashville and still keep family at the center of her world.



The Lynn Anderson Rose Garden / Lynn Anderson

MARY OSBORNE

The "First Lady of the Jazz Guitar" raised three children with her husband and fellow musician, Ralph Scaffidi. Mary was a pioneer who showed that being a world-class instrumentalist and a dedicated parent weren't mutually exclusive—they were two parts of a beautiful life. Mary's legacy continues today through her children, including her son, Peter, who also became a professional guitarist.



ND Music Hall of Fame / Mary Osborne

MEET LAST MONTH'S FEATURE ARTISTS...

MICKY IRONWOOD (LUCAS HRANICKA)



Photo Contributed By Lucas Hranicka

Featured Dates: March 30th– April 5th

Fargo, ND

Behind the Scenes: Mickey remembers his first ND paycheck being exactly \$22. Despite the small amount, he says it was the "best feeling in the world" to get paid for his passion.

[Facebook.com/lucas.hranicka](https://www.facebook.com/lucas.hranicka)

**MAY NOTABLE
NATIONAL
DAYS**

**May 22nd– National Buy A
Musical Instrument Day**

49th PARALLEL



Photo Contributed By 49th Parallel

PEYTON LILY



Photo Contributed By Peyton Lily

AARON N. (KOHLRABI SOUP)



Aaron N, (Kohlrabi Soup)

Featured Dates: April 6th - April 12th

Rugby, ND + Fargo, ND

Behind the Scenes: Their drummer, Izaiah, made a massive move to the North Dakota prairie all the way from the heart of New York City!

49thparallelfargo.com

Featured Dates: April 13th - April 19th

Bismarck, ND

Behind the Scenes: Peyton is a talented country singer who has one very ironic secret—she is actually allergic to horses!

peytonlily.com

Featured Dates: April 20th - April 26th

Fargo, ND

Behind the Scenes: When asked for his favorite dessert, Aaron skipped the cake and went straight for his true favorite: Diet Mountain Dew.

aaronneihaus.com

JENNIFER LYN & THE GROOVE REVIVAL



Jennifer Lyn & The Groove Revival

Featured Dates: April 27th - May 3rd

Bismarck & Mandan, ND

Behind The Scenes: This powerhouse group reached the #4 spot on the Billboard Blues chart and even landed on a first-round Grammy ballot.

jlynandthegrooverevival.com

BOARD MEMBER OF THE MONTH...

MARLO
Anderson

Marlo is the ND Music Hall of Fame President. He is the visionary entrepreneur and founder of the **National Day Calendar**, known globally as the “Guru of Greek”. He is dedicated to celebrating North Dakota’s unique identity and ensuring our musical legends have a permanent place in history. Marlo believes that music is the heartbeat of our state’s story and is the driving force behind the NDMHOF’s growth and future physical home. Beyond past and present, Marlo is a leading expert on the future of technology in general!



Marlo Anderson / NDMHOF / Matt Foster

VENUE OF THE MONTH COMING SOON!

North Dakota's live music scene would not be the same without all of the venues throughout the state that support it. Whether it's your hometown dive bar that supports local artists and their music or if it's where you've gone to see your favorite NDMHOF Inductees play throughout the years, we'd love to hear about it! Head on over to ndmusichall.com to nominate your favorite music venue in ND for a chance for them to be featured in our upcoming monthly newsletters.



IS IT FRIDAY YET? NDMHOF PARTNERS WITH K-HITS 106.

Get ready, because you're about to have another reason to wish everyday was Friday. K-Hits 106 in Minot, ND is partnering with the ND Music Hall of Fame to spotlight local musicians EVERY Friday at 7pm! This station is family-owned and is run by three former meteorologists: Tom Schrader, Amber Wheeler, and Joe Goldade. Minot locals can tune in to 106.9FM or everyone can listen live at khits106.com.



TUNING UP TRIVIA

What day is
known as
"The Day
the Music
Died"?

- a. Feb. 3rd
- b. Jan. 8th
- c. Feb. 27th
- d. Jan. 23rd

NORTH DAKOTA MUSIC HALL OF FAME MARCHING BAND CAMP 2026

WHEN: July 1st – 4th, 2026

WHERE: Bismarck & Mandan, ND

THE HIGHLIGHT: March in the Mandan Independence Day Parade! (The absolute biggest parade in the region!)

BE PART OF A ONCE-IN-A-
LIFETIME CELEBRATION
FOR THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY
OF OUR COUNTRY

****SECURE YOUR SPOT!****

\$299 Full Residency
(Food, Events, & LIMITED Housing)

OR \$199 Commuter Rate

March in the biggest parade in the entire region!

Scan to register at



[www.ndmusichall.com/
marching-band-camp-2026/](http://www.ndmusichall.com/marching-band-camp-2026/)



Meet The Director

Connor Challey

Director of Athletic Bands
and Tuba Instructor at
North Dakota State University

