

Music Awards

from The Instrumentalist

New:
Sousa Student Award

(See p. 4)



Honoring excellence in school music programs since 1955

Concert Band

Jazz Band

Marching and Color Guard

Orchestra

Choir

Musicianship

People Behind The Products

As the calendar turns to a new year, we start to get excited for the next awards season. From the time standing orders go out in early March to the last day of school, we enter, pack, ship, and track orders to customers everywhere. While many directors order online at instrumentalistawards.com, plenty of others make a purchase or ask a question by email or phone. In a time when some companies try to avoid talking to customers, we love to hear from you!



Our small friendly staff now has a combined 110 years of service with the company. As a result, many customers contacting us are old friends. The name of a familiar school or director often pops up during the day. It might be a director in Hawaii who orders every year, a past Sousa winner who became a teacher, or a tireless educator keeping music alive in a big city school system. We are humbled that so many directors rely on us to help honor their best students each year.



The first Sousa awards were presented 70 years ago this year. Back then, no one could have guessed that our awards would continue far into the next century. As a family business from the beginning, we care passionately about maintaining high quality and standing behind everything we sell. When we introduced a gorgeous new Sousa Student Plaque and the National Band Leadership Award this past year, we took great care to make sure these items were worthy additions. The enthusiastic early response to these new awards was heartening. We thank you for trusting us to honor your very best musicians and look forward to working with you again.

Detailed information about award policies can be found on page 30. If you have any questions about them or which awards would be most suitable for your school, please give us a call or send an email. **888-446-6888** or awards@theinstrumentalist.com



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70 Years!

John Philip Sousa Band Award[®]

This award is nationally recognized as the highest honor high school band students can achieve. It was introduced 70 years ago with the approval of Sousa's daughters.

Sousa Student Awards: Each year honor your winning student's achievement with the Sousa Student Award and include your student's name on the official Sousa Registry.

(Purchase of one element of the official student award is a requirement of this honor.)

NEW

Option 1: Sousa Student Plaque (6" x 8")



Sousa Student Plaque: This elegant new option for Sousa winners is made of solid walnut, matching the style of the **Sousa Wall Plaque**. Students can hang the 6"x8" award on their wall to enjoy for years to come.

(Combination options with other elements of the Sousa Award, such as the pin or certificate, are also available. Go to our website or contact us for more details.)

Option 2: Sousa Combination Set



Sousa Deskpiece
(Base: 3" x 2.5", Height: 3")

Sousa Pin



Sousa Certificate (11" x 8.5")
(frame sold separately, see p. 11)

The traditional **Sousa Combination Set** remains available and includes the **deskpiece** with a white marble base and gold medallion, the **certificate** with embossed gold seal, and **pin**.

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The **John Philip Sousa Band Award**[®] honors superior musicianship and dedication to the band program and should be presented to the ensemble's top student in recognition of:

Outstanding achievement and interest in instrumental music, loyalty and cooperation, and an exemplary example of the high qualities of conduct and leadership.

Turn to p. 26 for biographical information on Sousa to share with students.

Sousa Student Combination Set <i>(21CB Deskpiece, pin, and certificate)</i>	\$73
Sousa Student Plaque (21AW)	\$75
Sousa Conductor's Combination <i>(21CC student award plus The Instrumentalist)</i>	\$82
Sousa Wall Plaque (21PL)	\$139
Sousa Add-on Plaque (21AO)	\$82
Certificate Frame (29PL <i>see page 11</i>)	\$36

Official Sousa Policies: *(see p. 30 for full details)*

- 1. Restricted Quantity:** To preserve the integrity of this top award, schools are limited to one set of student awards per year (or two in the event of a tie). The Gilmore Award (p.6), and The Director's Award for Band (p.7) may be used to honor additional students.
- 2.** Students must receive at least one part of the student award.
- 3.** The Deskpiece \$69 (21DN), Pin \$10 (21PN), Certificate \$10 (21CT) may be purchased separately but all portions of a combination set must be given to the same student and not divided among students.



Sousa Wall Plaque (12" x 15")

The solid walnut **Sousa Wall Plaque** hangs in the band room to highlight the band's history and inspire students for decades to come. Each year add the winning student's name. When the original plaque is filled, a matching **Add-on Plaque** (*see p. 23*) can be purchased to hang beneath it.



Sousa Add-on Plaque (12" x 6")

National Sousa Registry

Add your students' names to the registry of Sousa Award winners. This national registry is a permanent record of students' achievements.
www.sousawinners.com

Gilmore Student Award



(5" x 7")

Present the winners with the beautiful, solid walnut **Gilmore Student Award** each year, engraving their names on the provided line.

Many schools use the Gilmore Award as a runner-up to the Sousa Award to honor additional deserving students.

(Quantities are not limited, and directors may determine how many to present.)

Patrick S. Gilmore Band Award®

The **Patrick S. Gilmore Band Award®** was introduced in 1994 in honor of the legendary bandmaster and impresario. Like the **Sousa Band Award**, it recognizes outstanding achievement and dedication to the band program.

The walnut **Wall Plaque** (right) hangs in the band room as a permanent record of students' achievements. When the original plaque is filled, a matching **Add-on Plaque** with additional name plates is available.

Gilmore Prices

Gilmore Student Award (31AW)	\$62
Gilmore Conductor's Combination (31CC, student award plus <i>The Instrumentalist</i> , p. 25)	\$69
Gilmore Wall Plaque (31PL)	\$123
Gilmore Add-on Plaque (31AO)	\$82

Award Policy: If you present this award, you must give the official student award to the winner(s).



Gilmore Wall Plaque (10.5" x 13")



Add-on Plaque (10.5" x 6.5")

Turn to p. 26 for biographical information on Gilmore to share with students.

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The Director's Award for Band®

Use as a Middle School Band Award
or as Runner-up to the Sousa Award

Begun in 1973, **The Director's Award for Band®** honors outstanding members of a middle or high school band. Each year present the winning students the walnut **Student Award**. The award may be given to multiple deserving students. The large plate offers room to engrave the name of the recipient, school, director's name, and presentation date.



Student Award
(5" x 7")

Award Policy: If you present this award, you must give the official student award to the winner(s).



Wall Plaque
(10.5" x 13")

Add the beautiful walnut **Wall Plaque** to your order to hang in the school and display the names of the winners as inspiration for students. A matching **Add-on Plaque** with 12 additional name plates may be purchased when the original is filled (see page 23).

The Director's Award for Band Prices	
Dir. Band Student Award (25AW)	\$65
Dir. Band/Conductor's Combination (25CC, student award plus The Instrumentalist, p. 25)	\$72
Dir. Band Wall Plaque (25PL)	\$123
Dir. Band Add-on Plaque (25AO)	\$82



From humble beginnings in New Orleans, Louis Armstrong became one of the most famous musicians in the world.

Armstrong dazzled audiences with his skill as a trumpeter, singer, and bandleader for more than five decades and helped to make jazz an essential part of the musical world.

Turn to p. 27 for biographical information on Armstrong to share with students.

Louis Armstrong Jazz Award[®]

This award is the top honor for students in jazz band.

The **Louis Armstrong Jazz Award[®]** was introduced in 1974 to honor the outstanding jazz musician at each high school who exhibits superior dedication, musicianship, and creativity.

Armstrong Student Award

The official student award is the **Armstrong Combination Set** that consists of a deskpiece with a white marble base and medallion of Armstrong, a certificate with an embossed gold seal, and a pin.



Armstrong Certificate
(8.5" x 11")
(frame sold separately, p. 11)



Deskpiece
(Base: 3" x 2.5", Height: 3.5")



Pin
(actual size)

Do not put certificates through a printer.



Armstrong Wall Plaque

Place the beautiful walnut **Wall Plaque** in the band room as a permanent record of your outstanding students. (14" x 12")

A matching **Add-on Plaque** is available when the original is filled. It has 12 additional name plates and is designed to hang directly below the wall plaque. (14" x 5")



Award Policy: If you present this award, you must give the official student award to the winner(s).



Armstrong Student Combination Set	\$73
<i>(23CB Deskpiece, pin, and certificate)</i>	
Armstrong Conductor's Combination	\$80
<i>(23CC student award plus The Instrumentalist)</i>	
Armstrong Wall Plaque (23PL)	\$139
Armstrong Add-on Plaque (23AO)	\$82
Certificate Frame (29PL see page 11)	\$36

Official Policies: *(see p. 30 for full details)*

- 1. Restricted Quantity:** To preserve the integrity of this top award, schools are limited to one set of student awards per year (or two in the event of a tie). The Herman Jazz Award (p.10) may be used to honor additional students.
- 2.** Winning students must receive at least one part of the student award.
- 3.** The Deskpiece \$69 (23DN), Pin \$10 (23PN), Certificate \$10 (23CT) may be purchased separately but all portions of a combination set must be given to the same student and not divided among students.

Herman Student Award



(5" x 7")

Present the winners with the beautiful, solid walnut **Herman Student Award** each year, engraving their names and presentation date on the provided line.

Herman Prices

Herman Student Award (30AW) \$62

Herman Wall Plaque (30PL) \$123

Herman Add-on Plaque (30AO) \$82

(Note: If you present this award at your school, you must give the official student award to the winner/winners).

Woody Herman Jazz Award®

Woody Herman led a series of bands from 1936 to 1987 and was noted for hiring up-and-coming young musicians, many of whom became leading jazz performers. **The Woody Herman Jazz Award** was created in 1989, shortly after his death, as a way to honor outstanding jazz students.

Middle schools use this award to honor their top jazz players, while many high schools offer it as a runner-up for the Armstrong Award.

(Quantities are not limited.)



Herman Wall Plaque (10.5" x 13")

Order the walnut **Wall Plaque** to hang in the band room as a permanent record of your students' achievements. There is a matching **Add-on Plaque** when the original is filled.



Add-on Plaque (10.5" x 6.5")

Turn to p. 28 for biographical information on Herman to share with students.

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Certificates

3 Choices for Certificates →

Because so many students contribute to the success of a musical ensemble, there may be additional students you want to honor. These colorful 11" x 8.5" certificates are printed on heavy, high-quality paper stock. (All shown in certificate frame, which is sold separately – see below.)

Certificate Prices

Certificate quantities of

1-11 – \$4 each

12-24 – only \$3.25 each

25+ – only \$2.75 each

(Must be all the same certificate for quantity discount.)

Orders of certificates and/or pins alone are sent via USPS – unless rush shipping is requested. Shipping rates will vary based on quantity. Call or email if you need a quote.

Certificate Frame (29PL)

The wood certificate frame will protect the award and allow students to display their accomplishment. **All of our certificates fit in the beautiful wood frame** with an acrylic cover to protect the certificates for years to come.

Unlike the awards, which may be purchased only by schools, students and parents may order the frame. \$36

We recommend not putting certificates through a printer.

Merit Certificate (29ME)



For meritorious progress and service.

Musicianship Certificate (29MU)



For outstanding musicianship.

First Chair Certificate (29FC)

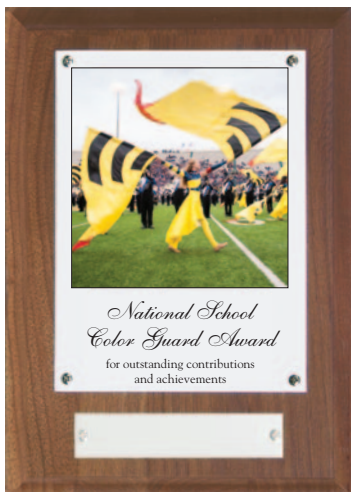


For the principal players in each section.

National School Marching Award® & National School Color Guard Award®



Marching Student Award



Color Guard Student Award

The National School Marching Award® and the National School Color Guard Award® recognize the outstanding achievements, contributions, and dedication of student leaders in marching band and color guard.

Each year honor your top students who make the season a success. Present the winners with the **Student Awards** (5" x 7"). These high-quality awards are made from solid walnut wood with a vibrant color picture.

Order the matching **Wall Plaques** to display a permanent record of their achievements. The solid walnut wall plaques come with 15 name plates to engrave the winners' names. When the original plaques are filled, matching **Add-on Plaques** are available. (See page 23.) Prices on following page.



Marching Wall Plaque
(10.5" x 13")



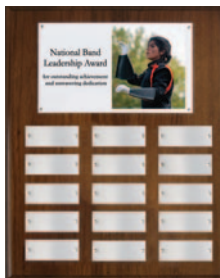
Color Guard Wall Plaque
(10.5" x 13")

NEW

National Band Leadership Award

The **National Band Leadership Award** offers directors a way to recognize those students who take a generous and selfless approach to serving their bands.

Sometimes these students have an official title: drum major, lead trumpet, or band manager. In other cases, students step up by lending a hand to a younger player needing help on the marching field or assisting directors with essential tasks outside of rehearsal. These students set the standard for others and instill a culture of success.



Present the winners with the (5" x 7") **Student Award** (right) each year. Like the **National School Marching** and **Color Guard** awards, it is made from solid walnut and includes a nameplate to engrave the winner's name.

Order the matching (10.5" x 13") **Wall Plaque** (left) to display a permanent record of their achievements in the band room.



National Band Leadership Student Award

(The image above is a representational mock-up of the award.)

Award image by Joe Bonello, B. Johnson Photography

Marching Award Prices

Marching Student Award (33AW)	\$62
Marching Wall Plaque (33PL)	\$123
Marching Add-on Plaque (33AO)	\$82

Color Guard Award Prices

Color Guard Student Award (34AW)	\$62
Color Guard Wall Plaque (34PL)	\$123
Color Guard Add-on Plaque (34AO)	\$82

Band Leadership Prices

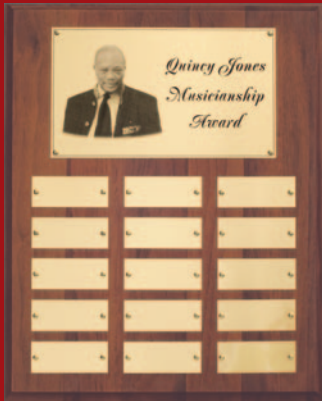
Leadership Student Award (37AW)	\$62
Leadership Wall Plaque (37PL)	\$123
Leadership Add-on Plaque (37AO)	\$82

Note: if you present this award at your school, you must give the official student award to the winner(s). These awards do not have quantity limits.

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The Quincy Jones Award honors outstanding students in band, orchestra, and choir for their creativity and musicianship.

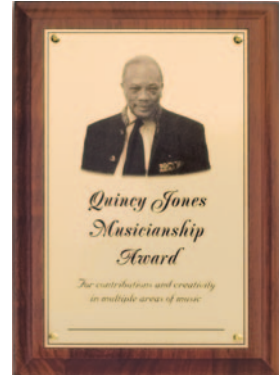


Wall Plaque
(10.5" x 13")

Quincy Jones Musicianship Award

In his long musical career Quincy Jones has done it all as a composer, arranger, performer, producer, and teacher. Every music program has students who share this boundless energy and musical versatility. With his approval we offer this award to encourage students in their pursuit of music.

Each year give the winning students the walnut **Student Award**. The award may be given to multiple deserving students.



Student Award
(5" x 7")

Order the walnut wood **Wall Plaque** (left) for the rehearsal room to inspire students for years to come. When the original plaque is filled, there is a matching **Add-on Plaque** with 12 additional plates is available. (See p. 23)

Quincy Jones Prices

Quincy Jones Student Award (28AW)	\$62
Quincy Jones Wall Plaque (28PL)	\$123
Quincy Jones Add-on Plaque (28AO)	\$82

(Note: If you present this award at your school, you must give the official student award to the winner/winners).

Turn to page 28 for biographical information on Quincy Jones to share with students.

Leonard Bernstein Musicianship Award

Leonard Bernstein made an indelible mark on the musical world as a conductor, composer, and teacher. The **Leonard Bernstein Musicianship Award** was introduced in 2016 to honor top music students.

Directors may use this award in a manner most appropriate for their school, but it is intended to honor students who participate in any area of the music program whose contributions, dedication, and creativity set them apart as deserving of the highest recognition for their achievements.



Bernstein Wall Plaque (10.5" x 13")

Order the beautiful walnut **Wall Plaque** (left) to hang in the band room as a permanent record of your students' achievements.

When the 15 plates on the plaque are filled, a matching **Add-on Plaque** is available. (See p. 23)

(Note: If you present this award at your school, you must give the official student award to the winners).

Bernstein Student Award



(5" x 7")

Each year give the **Bernstein Student Award** to the winners. The award is made from solid walnut to last a lifetime. Engrave the student's name on the line at the bottom.

Bernstein Prices

Bernstein Student Award (35AW)	\$62
Bernstein Wall Plaque (35PL)	\$123
Bernstein Add-on Plaque (35AO)	\$82

(Quantities are not limited.)

The name and likeness of Leonard Bernstein are U.S. registered trademarks owned by The Leonard Bernstein Office, and are used under license.

Turn to p. 29 for biographical information on Leonard Bernstein to share with students.

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The National School Orchestra Award began in 1960 as the counterpart to the **Sousa Band Award**. It recognizes outstanding contributions and dedication to the ensemble and superior musicianship.

National Orchestra Student Combination Set

The official Orchestra Student Award is the **Orchestra Combination Set** that consists of the deskpiece with white marble base and medallion, a certificate with embossed gold seal, and a pin.



Orchestra Certificate (11" x 8.5")
(frame sold separately, see p. 11)



pin



Deskpiece
(Base: 3" x 2.5", Height: 3")

Do not put certificates through a printer.



The National School Orchestra Award is the counterpart to the Sousa Band Award and the highest honor you can bestow upon a member of a high school orchestra.

Wall Plaque

Order the beautiful walnut **Wall Plaque** to hang in the music room as a permanent record of outstanding achievement each year. (16" x 13")

National Orchestra Award Prices

National Orchestra Combination Set <i>(24CB Deskpiece, pin, and certificate)</i>	\$73
National Orchestra Wall Plaque <i>(24PL)</i>	\$139
National Orch. Add-on Plaque <i>(24AO)</i>	\$82
Certificate Frame <i>(29PL see page 11)</i>	\$36



Add-on Plaque

A matching **Add-on Plaque** is available when the original is filled. It has 12 additional name plates and is designed to hang directly below the wall plaque. (16" x 4.75")

Policies: *(see p. 30 for full details)*

1. Restricted Quantity: To preserve the integrity of this top award, schools are limited to one set of student awards per year (or two in the event of a tie). The Director's Award for Orchestra (p.18) may be used to honor additional students.

2. Winning students must receive at least one part of the student award.

3. The Deskpiece \$69 (24DN), Pin \$10 (24PN), Certificate \$10 (24CT) may be purchased separately but all portions of a combination set must be given to the same student and not divided among students.

The Director's Award for Orchestra®

Use as a Middle School Orchestra Award or as a Runner-up to the National School Orchestra Award

The Director's Award for Orchestra® honors outstanding members of a middle or high school orchestra. Each year present the winning students the walnut **Student Award**. The award may be given to multiple deserving students. The large plate offers room to engrave the name of the recipient, school, director's name, and presentation date.



Wall Plaque
(10.5" x 13")

Add the beautiful walnut wood **Wall Plaque** to your order to hang in the school and display the names of the winners as inspiration for students.

An **Add-on Plaque** with 12 additional name plates may be purchased when the original is filled (See page 23).



Student Award
(5" x 7")

The Director's Award for Orchestra

Dir. Orch. Student Award (26AW)	\$65
Dir. Orch. Wall Plaque (26PL)	\$123
Dir. Orch. Add-on Plaque (26AO)	\$82

Quantities are not limited.

Award Policy: You must give the official student award to the winner(s) each year you present the award.

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Frédéric Chopin Piano Award

The **Frédéric Chopin Piano Award** was started in 1964 to honor outstanding pianists in the school music program. It recognizes exceptional dedication and superior musicianship.

Chopin Student Award



Chopin Deskpiece
(Base: 3"x2.5", Height: 3.5")

The official Chopin Student Award is the **Chopin Combination Set** that includes the deskpiece with a white marble base and medallion of Chopin, a certificate with an embossed gold seal, and a pin of Chopin.



Chopin Pin



Chopin Certificate (11" x 8.5")
(frame sold separately, see p. 11)

Do not put certificates through a printer.

Engrave the winners' names on the beautiful walnut wood **Wall Plaque** (10.5"x13") and hang it in the music room to inspire students for years to come. (Note: If you present this award at your school, you must give the official student award to the winner/winners).

When the 12 plates on the original are filled, a matching **Add-on Plaque** is available with 12 more plates (see page 23).



Chopin Prices

Chopin Combination Set (27CB)	\$73
Chopin Wall Plaque (27PL)	\$123
Add-on Plaque (27AO)	\$82
Certificate Frame (29PL)	\$36

Note: You may order the pin, certificate, and deskpiece separately, but all parts of the combination set awarded must be given to the same student. If multiple students receive awards, they must be given the same part(s). Deskpiece \$69 (27DN), pin \$10 (27PN), certificate \$10 (27CT).

National School Choral Award®

The National School Choral Award was started in 1964 to be the counterpart to the **Sousa Band Award** and **National School Orchestra Award**. It is the highest honor for high school choral performers and recognizes the dedication and musical achievement of the program's top two choral students.

National Choral Student Combination Set

The official **Choral Student Combination Set** consists of the deskpiece with white marble base and bright medallion, a certificate with embossed gold seal, and a pin.



Choral Deskpiece
(Base: 3" x 2.5", Height: 3.4")



Pin



Choral Certificate
(11" x 8.5")
frame sold separately, see p. 11

We suggest that you do not put certificates through a printer.

Official Choral Policies: *(see p. 30 for full details)*

1. Restricted Quantity: To preserve the integrity of this top award, schools are limited to two sets of student awards per year (or up to four in the event of ties). The Director's Award for Chorus (p.22) may be used to honor additional students.

2. Winning students must receive at least one part of the student award.

3. The Deskpiece \$69 (22DN), Pin \$10 (22PN), Certificate \$10 (22CT) may be purchased separately but all portions of a combination set must be given to the same student and not divided among students.

Order the beautiful walnut **Wall Plaque** as a permanent record of outstanding achievement each year.



Choral Add-on Plaque (12" x 6")

When the 15 plates are filled, a matching **Add-on Plaque** is available with 12 additional plates.



Choral Wall Plaque
(12" x 15")

National Choral Prices

National Choral Combination Set (22CB)	\$73
National Choral Wall Plaque (22PL)	\$139
National Choral Add-on Plaque (22AO)	\$82
Certificate Frame (29PL)	\$36

photo by Kirby Fong





Wall Plaque (10.5" x 13")

Student Award (32AW)	\$65
Wall Plaque (32PL)	\$123
Add-on Plaque (32AO)	\$82

Note: If you are presenting this award at your school, you must give the official student award to the winner(s).

The Director's Award for Chorus®

The **Director's Award for Chorus** honors the top leaders of a middle or high school chorus. It can be used as a secondary award after the **National School Choral Award**.

Each year present the **Student Award** to the winners. The large plate offers room to engrave the name of the recipient, school, director, and presentation date. **Quantities are not restricted.**

The beautiful walnut **Wall Plaque** hangs in the school to inspire students and generate enthusiasm. When the 12 plates are filled, a matching **Add-on Plaque** is available with 12 additional plates. (See p. 23)



Student Award
(5" x 7")



Fred Waring Director's Award for Chorus

Due to ongoing demand, we will continue to offer the **Fred Waring Director's Award for Chorus**. If you do not request the Waring format, you will receive the standard Director's Award for Chorus (*shown above*).

Waring Student Award (36AW)	\$62
Waring Wall Plaque (36PL)	\$123
Waring Add-on Plaque (36AO)	\$82

Add-on Plaques

Four styles of matching add-on plaques are available to accommodate additional names of recipients when the original wall plaques are filled.

Please specify which add-on plaque you need as the plates match the style of the original, and the plaque is designed to be the appropriate width to hang under the original wall plaque.

- **Sousa/Choral Add-on** for the Sousa Band and National School Choral awards.
- **Armstrong Add-on**
- **National School Orchestra Add-on**
- **Director's Add-on** *This style add-on plaque is used with all of our other wall plaques* including the Director's Awards for Band, Orchestra, and Chorus/Waring, as well as the Herman, Gilmore, Leonard Bernstein, and Quincy Jones awards. Also available with silver plates for the National School Marching and National School Color Guard awards.

All add-on plaques are \$82.



Sousa/Choral Add-on Plaque
(12" x 6")



Armstrong Add-on Plaque (14" x 5")



National School Orchestra Add-on Plaque
(16" x 4.75")



Director's Add-on Plaque
(10.5" x 6.5")

Save time, stress, and money each year with a Standing Order.

Each spring we get frantic calls from directors who have forgotten to place their award order and face rush shipping charges in order to receive their awards in time. The end of the school year is always a busy time. Avoid the rush and put the awards you order each year on a Standing Order. **Even if you make frequent changes, it is simple to adjust the order from year to year and add a purchase order before shipment.**

How it works:

1. You receive a confirmation form and a catalog each January. The confirmation lists the awards you placed on the standing order as well as the current prices.
2. Make any changes at that time. Add or subtract awards or cancel altogether. **You may add a purchase order number** and update any information on your account. If you do not want to make any changes, simply do nothing, and the awards will be shipped automatically. Confirm your standing order online at www.instrumentalistawards.com, email awards@theinstrumentalist.com or call 888-446-6888.
3. Your awards will be shipped in early March (unless you ask for them sooner) and arrive in plenty of time for your award presentation. Additional awards may be ordered at any time. **There is never any obligation to purchase the awards placed on standing order, and awards (in good condition) may always be returned.**

Contact us today to put your awards on standing order.

All of these awards (including the names and images) are registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and are protected by registered marks. **Duplication of these awards or the creation of similar awards is prohibited and will be prosecuted.** Please inform us of any violation of these registered marks.

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The Instrumentalist

Give yourself a reward – Add the best magazine for directors to your award order – Only \$9.

For seven decades band and orchestra directors have relied on *The Instrumentalist* to learn about the latest developments in music education. As a thank you to our best customers, we offer a special rate when a magazine is ordered with awards. Called a **Conductor's Combination**, you will receive a 1-year subscription for only \$9. (Add \$19 outside the U.S.)

Some schools also give a magazine subscription as an additional award to students planning a career in music education.



Important 2025 Awards Information

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John Philip Sousa

(1854-1932)

John Philip Sousa was a trail-blazer as a composer and as a band director. He wrote 136 marches, 15 operettas, 70 songs, 11 waltzes, and 20 band fantasies. He also wrote seven books, of which two were novels. Some of his most famous marches are *Stars and Stripes Forever*, *Semper Fidelis*, *The Washington Post*, *El Capitan*, and *The Thunderer*.

Sousa was born in Washington, DC in 1854. He learned to play the violin and wanted to join a circus band at age 13. His father was a Marine and decided that the boy should enlist in the Marines as

an apprentice musician instead. Sousa spent almost 20 years in military service over several stints. He became the leader of the Marine Band

at age 26. It was there that he perfected his musical skills.

When Sousa left the military, he formed the Sousa Band, which played everywhere for huge crowds. He hired the best musicians and always programmed sev-



eral featured soloists. The Sousa Band brought performances of fine music to smaller cities that did not have symphony orchestras. He was always eager to help struggling young composers, and his band probably played more new, unpublished American music than any other musical organization in the country at the time.

The John Philip Sousa Band Award was created in 1954 on the 100th anniversary of Sousa's birth with the enthusiastic approval of his daughters, Helen and Priscilla.

Patrick S. Gilmore

(1829- 1892)

Father of the American Concert Band



Patrick Sarsfield Gilmore (1829-1892) played for every president of his day, including Abraham Lincoln. He was the music director for the dedication of the Statue of Liberty. In 1891 he made some of the earliest commercial recordings at Thomas Edison's laboratory in New Jersey. Among Gilmore's most famous compositions are *When Johnny Comes Marching Home*, *Good News from Home*, *We Are Coming Father Abraham*, *Seeing Nellie Home*, and *Famous 22nd Regiment March*.

Gilmore was known for grandiose performances and





enthusiastic promotion. At the 1864 inauguration of a Louisiana governor, he enlisted a brass band of over 500, a chorus of 6,000, a battery of artillery, 50 anvils, and the church bells of the city. Later performances would employ an even grander scale of ensemble and helped build Gilmore's reputation and fame.

Gilmore's career came to an end just two days before the inaugural concert of John Philip Sousa's newly formed professional band. As a tribute, Sousa chose Gilmore's own composition, *The Voice of a Departing Soul*, for the opening number on his program. Thus, as one era in American bands ended, another was just beginning.

Louis Armstrong

(1901-1971)

Louis Armstrong was a jazz pioneer and one of America's best ambassadors of goodwill abroad. From his fabled beginning in a New Orleans orphanage, he was introduced to the trumpet by a band director.

Early on he played with several New Orleans bands but soon left for the bustling musical city of Chicago. He went on to play with Joe Oliver, Fletcher Henderson, and Coleman Hawkins and later formed his own band.

When the Great Depression hit in the late 1920s the music industry suffered greatly. A number of clubs closed, and some musicians had to take jobs in other professions.

In the 1930s Armstrong moved to Los Angeles and gained popu-



© Louis Ouzger

Louis Armstrong in 1956

larity among the Hollywood stars who came out to see his club dates. He appeared in several movies and also performed extensively throughout Europe.

In 1948 he appeared on one of the earliest television broadcasts, a show called *Toast of the Town* that would later be known as the *Ed Sullivan Show*. Armstrong's trumpet playing would continue to inspire jazz musicians for decades to come. As Miles Davis once said, "you can't play anything on a horn that Louis hasn't played." Armstrong helped bring the American art form of jazz to the world, and his influence on music will never be forgotten. Outstanding examples of Armstrong's playing can be found on the albums *Louis Armstrong Plays W.C. Handy*, *Satch Plays Fats*, and *Ambassador Satch*.

Woody Herman

(1913-1987)

A Life on the Road

Woodrow Charles Herman grew up in Milwaukee but did not spend much time there. “By the time I was nine, I was on the road as a song and dance kid. My father was a frustrated ham, so he got me into the business.”

Herman became a professional saxophone player at age 15. Perhaps remembering his youthful beginnings, Herman often took time to encourage young players throughout his career. He sometimes signed autographs long after a concert had ended.

Herman’s bands were known as Herds and performed under such names as Herman’s Herd, the Thundering Herd, and the Anglo-American Herd. His Second Herd began in 1947 and was known as The Four Brothers Band for its notable sax section with three tenors and a baritone. Herman’s groups also gained a reputation for adapting their playing style over the years but always maintained the common thread of great musicianship. Some of Herman’s most well-known songs include: *Woodchopper’s Ball*, *Four Brothers*, *Apple Honey*, and his band’s theme song, *Blue Flame*.

He commented in 1986, “when high school kids ask me if they can make a career in music I strongly advise them to continue if they love it because in music they have something real. The more deeply they get involved in it, the more music will do for them in their life. When you are involved in either playing or listening to music, you are completely on your own; you have complete solace from anything that might try to creep into your mind. I call it the great escape.”



Quincy Jones

(Born: 1933)



Quincy Jones, legendary composer, songwriter, arranger, and producer, has collaborated with the biggest names in music including Frank Sinatra, Count Basie, Ray Charles, Duke Ellington, and Michael Jackson. He has received 80 Grammy nominations and won 28 Grammy Awards.

Jones accompanied Dizzy Gillespie on State Department tours of the Mideast and Africa in the 1950s and credits these travels for broadening his musical horizons. In a 2007 interview in *The Instrumentalist* he noted that “Good musicians have an interest in many types of music. We studied Ellington, Bill Evans, and everyone else.”

His musical portfolio expanded in the 1960s when he became vice-president of Mercury Records in 1964. That same year, film

director Sidney Lumet invited him to compose music for the film, *The Pawnbroker*. Jones ended up scoring nearly 40 motion picture scores, including *The Color Purple*, for which he received an Academy Award nomination. He became highly in-demand as an arranger and record producer.

Now 90 years old, Quincy Jones's eclectic musical Journey and humanitarian efforts have led to dozens of awards and honorary degrees. His university honors include honorary degrees from Berklee College of Music, Morehouse College, the University of Pennsylvania, and Princeton University, among others.

The Harvard School of Public Health named him its Mentor of the Year in 2007 and simultaneously launched the Q Prize to recognize extraordinary advocacy on behalf of the world's children. He has been inducted into the California Hall of Fame, the Dance Music Hall of Fame, the Royal Swedish Academy of Music, and received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Even with his unprecedented career and success, Quincy Jones encourages others to focus on music, not accolades. "The cardinal rule is that you approach your creativity with humility and treat your success with grace."

Leonard Bernstein

(1918-1990)



Leonard Bernstein was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts in 1918 and studied music at Harvard University and the Curtis Institute of Music where he studied conducting with Fritz Reiner. In 1943 he was appointed assistant conductor of the New York Philharmonic and made his conducting debut with the orchestra when guest conductor Bruno Walter was stricken with the flu. This nationally broadcast performance brought him instant fame and led to many additional conducting appearances with other orchestras.

He was appointed music director of the New York Philharmonic in 1958 and held this post until 1969. He continued to conduct periodically with the orchestra throughout his life. Bernstein also gained great acclaim as a compos-

er of such music as *West Side Story*, *Candide*, *On the Town*, and many concert works.

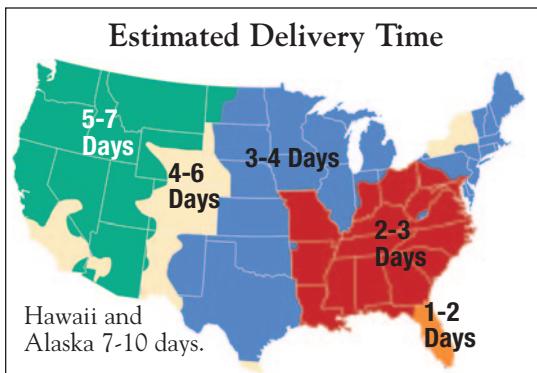
Bernstein was particularly proud of his work as an educator. One of his many projects was a series of 53 telecasts of Young People's Concerts between 1958 and 1972. These concerts, which were a Philharmonic tradition when Bernstein began leading the orchestra, became a centerpiece of his educational mission. They were broadcast on CBS and covered the works of many great composers, some of the nuances of musical theory, and the meaning of music. The programs were syndicated in 40 countries. Leonard Bernstein died in 1990, leaving a rich musical legacy that continues to inspire people today.



Award Policies

- Limited Quantities:** The John Philip Sousa Award®, Louis Armstrong Jazz Award®, and the National School Orchestra Award® are limited to one student per school per year. The National School Choral Award® is limited to two students per school per year. In the unusual instance of a tie, the director should certify this fact to us and present an extra award. All portions of a combination set must be given to the same student, not divided among students. In the event of a tie, each student must receive identical award(s).
- Unlimited Quantities:** The Patrick S. Gilmore Band Award®, National School Marching Award®, National School Color Guard Award®, National Leadership Award®, Woody Herman Jazz Award®, Director's Awards for Band®, Orchestra®, and Chorus®, Quincy Jones, Leonard Bernstein, Chopin, and the Merit, Musicianship, and First Chair Certificates are available in unlimited quantities.
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NEW AWARDS



Sousa Student Plaque

Introduced in 2024, this new option for Sousa winners is an elegant new award is made of solid walnut in the the style of the **Sousa Wall Plaque**. Students can hang the 6"x8" award on their wall to enjoy for years to come. This is an alternate official Sousa student award, and the traditional **Sousa Combination Set** remains available.

Please let us know by telephone or email if you want to change your standing order to this option – changes for 2025 should be made by February 28th. (*More information on p. 5*)

National Band Leadership Award

No band reaches its potential without strong student leaders. Whether they have an official title or just are always there to lend a helping hand to directors and their fellow students, these students set the standard for others and instill a culture of success. Honor their dedication and hard work with the **National Band Leadership Award**. (*More information on p. 13*)



(*The image above is a representational mock-up of the award.*)