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December 10, 2009



Mr. Van Mathews  
L. D. Bell High School Blue Raider Band  
Hurst, TX

Dear Mr. Mathews, members of the L.D. Bell Band, parents and alumni,

First accept my congratulations on an incredible season and finish at the Bands of America Grand National Championship. You should all be very proud of the tradition of excellence that has been built and continues at Bell.

Second, I wish to offer my sincere apology to Mr. Mathews and all of the L.D. Bell band community for what was an unfortunate set of mistakes at Grand Nationals and a couple that occurred prior to your Grand National Trip. The announcement in the finale that read your former directors name was an error that I apologize for on behalf of our entire organization. As a way of offering an explanation, during the week of Grand Nationals, we had four members of our already small staff come down with a serious illness that prevented them from being present on site for the event. We thus had to rely on the assistance from some incredible volunteers to help us in key roles during the event. Because of this situation, we missed a critical step in proofing information prior to it being read. We are all human and make mistakes. I hope that we did not cause too much embarrassment to anyone associated with the Bell program especially to Mr. Mathews. We have learned some valuable lessons that will hopefully prevent us from making this same mistake in the future.

Additionally, I am aware of similar mistakes in administrative communication during the regional season and I apologize for those as well. Unfortunately it appears that too many of these situations occurred with one program this season, that being yours. Add to that the unfortunate mishap with our camera crew during finals and I can see how there might be questions about how all of these things can happen. I share those concerns and we are working diligently to avoid this occurring in the future.

The L.D. Band is an incredibly important and loyal family member to Music for All's Bands of America program. I certainly hope that these mistakes have not caused irreparable damage to that relationship. We will be doing everything in our power to edit the announcement from the finale so that it does not appear in the Grand Nationals DVD's.

Thank you for your understanding.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Scott McCormick", written over a white rectangular background.

L. Scott McCormick  
President & CEO