



## PRESS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

### **International Festivals & Events Association (IFEA) and Zambelli Fireworks Announce Christopher Protho, M.Ed. as the 2013 Volunteer of the Year**

**Boise, Idaho** – The International Festivals & Events Association and Zambelli Fireworks are pleased to announce Christopher Protho, M.Ed. from Music for All in Indianapolis, IN, as the recipient of the 2013 IFEA/Zambelli Fireworks Volunteer of the Year Award. As this year's winner, Christopher was the guest of the IFEA and Zambelli Fireworks at the IFEA's 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention & Expo, September 16-18, 2013 in Pittsburgh, PA where he was recognized and presented with his award during the IFEA Awards Luncheon on Monday, September 16, 2013.



Chris's journey with Music for All began in 1990 when he was a freshman at West Virginia University. A member of their acclaimed Marching Band, Chris was required to volunteer at Music for All's Bands of America Eastern Regional Marching Band Competition for high school students. He was a parking lot attendant. Despite the lackluster volunteer assignment, this first exposure to Music for All made a lasting impression on the young man who grew up outside of Philadelphia, PA. So impressionable, that he continued to volunteer for Music for All for the next 23 years. Following his debut as a parking lot attendant, Chris traveled the following summer to Wisconsin to be a camp counselor for Bands of America's Summer Camp for high school marching band students. By then, he was hooked.

Within those 23 years, Chris experienced nearly every volunteer opportunity available at Music for All, from a parking lot attendant in 1990 to the Contest Director for the Grand National Marching Band Championships in 2009, Chris's progression is a result of his commitment to the organization at all levels. This is no small feat as Music for All is a multifaceted organization that: provides music education for middle and high school students in marching bands, concert bands, orchestras, music ensembles or as individuals; offers professional development for instrumental music teachers; organizes a series of regional and national performance events that are culminating experiences for schools and student musicians; and serves as an advocate for scholastic music programs across the country.

During his tenure with Music for All, Chris provided logistics support and event management at: 81 Bands of America Regional Marching Band Championships; 20 Grand National Championships; four Summer Symposiums; three Music for All National Festivals; and one Regional Concert Band Festival, which occurred during his honeymoon. His volunteer assignments at these events have included (but not limited to): event management, field manager, field operations, announcer, parking manager, ticketing, concessions, tabulator, timing and penalties judge, loading dock monitor and shuttle driver. Chris has logged 39,000 miles in personal vehicles to these events, and dedicated more than 7,000 services hours to Music for All. After 23 years

of volunteering, working a full-time job, earning a Master Degree, getting married, having children and pursuing a doctorate degree, Chris's dedication to Music for All has not waned.

For a more in depth look at Christopher Protho, M.Ed., [Click Here](#) or go to: <http://www.ifea.com/Awards/IFEA-Zambelli-VolunteeroftheYear-2013-ChristopherProtho.pdf>

Guy Leflamme, Sr. Vice President, Capital Experience, Communications & Marketing at the National Capital Commission in Ottawa, ON, Canada and Chair of the 2013 Volunteer of the Year Committee for IFEA, said *"It is volunteers that most often determine an event's success. Festivals and events rely heavily on the dedication of volunteers. Without their spirit of involvement and commitment to their communities it would be difficult to pull off any event, large or small."* Leflamme added that *"While ultimately only one person is selected for this high honor, hundreds of volunteers are recognized by IFEA's member organizations and affiliated associations. All of us in this industry recognize that volunteers are the backbone of our business."*

The late George Zambelli, Sr. of Zambelli Fireworks and sponsor of the award since its inception in 2001, summed it up well when he said *"imagine a world without the great blessing of volunteers; it would be a far different place. God bless them all."*

Headquartered in Boise, Idaho, the International Festivals & Events Association (IFEA) is *The Premiere Association Supporting and Enabling Festival & Event Professionals Worldwide*. In partnership with global affiliates under the umbrellas of IFEA Africa, IFEA Asia, IFEA Australia, IFEA Europe, IFEA Latin America, IFEA Middle East (MENASA), and IFEA North America, the organization's common vision is for *"A Globally United Industry that Touches Lives in a Positive Way through Celebration."* The Association offers the most complete source of ideas, resources, information, education and networking for festival and event professionals worldwide. Visit the IFEA website at [www.ifea.com](http://www.ifea.com) for additional details.

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