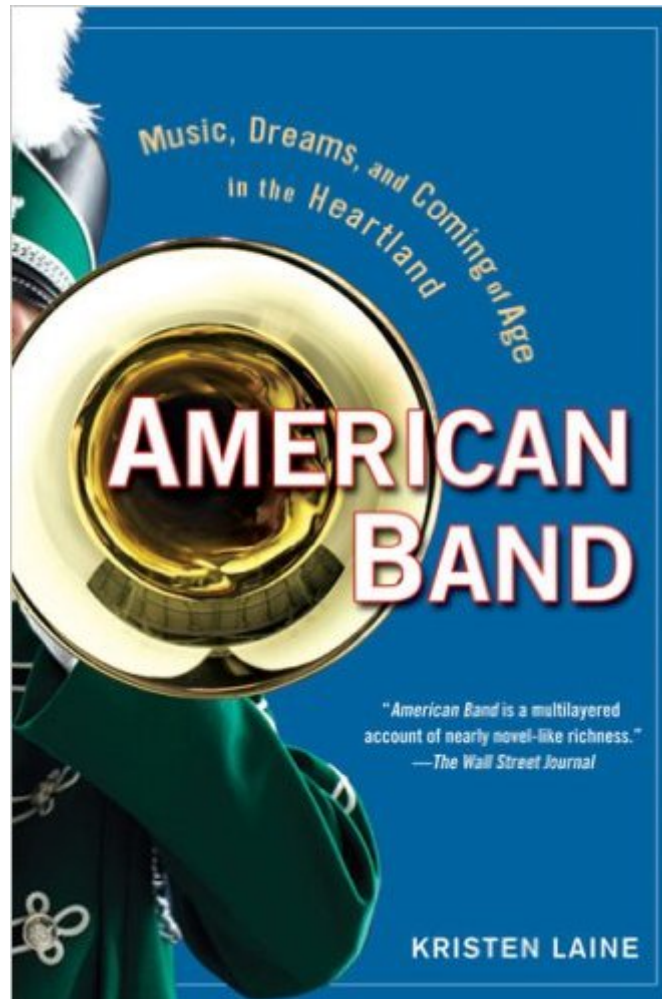


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# American Band: Music, Dreams, And Coming Of Age In The Heartland



## Synopsis

In the spirit of *Friday Night Lights* comes the stirring story of a marching band from small-town middle America. Every fall, marching bands take to the field in a uniquely American ritual. For millions of kids, band is a rite of passage—a first foray into leadership and adult responsibility, and a chance to learn what it means to be a part of a community. Nowhere is band more serious than at Concord High School in Elkhart, Indiana, where the entire town is involved with the success of its defending state champion band, the Marching Minutemen. In the place where this tradition may have originated, in the city that became the band instrument capital of the world, band is a religion. But it's not the only religion—as legendary director Max Jones discovers when conflicting notions of faith and purpose collide during his final year as director. In this intimate chronicle, the band marches through a season that starts in hope and promise, progresses through uncertainty and disappointment, and ends, ultimately, in redemption. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

They don't get much attention-they are the supporting act for the teams and cheerleaders but are missed if they fail to arrive at a football or basketball game. They are a part of most communities and provide music for parades, pep rallies, bonfires and other community events. The most recognition they get is a picture in the paper when they have done something special. They are the members of your local school band.I found this book in a clearance bin and purchased it. Of course I would -I am a former high school band director. There are not many books out there about us or

the kids that do more than make music;like many of the prominent personalities in the book, band kids are some of the finest young people you will find in our schools. It is about time someone told their story-and the story of millions of parents who also give of their time and talent to support our musical programs across the US. The story of this fine band is told very well: we get an insider's look into the world of the teaching staff, the students and the parents involved in the workings of this fine, carefully guided program. We see the good and bad side of it all and share the ride-the ups and downs, triumphs and tragedies of the 2004 fall season of this unique group.The author lets it all hang out. Once a high school musician herself, she shows us the inner workings of an award winning program-warts and all. The book slowly builds to its climax, culminating in a crack at the state championship in Indianapolis. Along the way we learn a number of things about life and the inner workings of teen culture-our American propensity to comepete-passion and apathy-leadership and rebellion-the fear of risk and the quest for perfection.

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