



Adjudicator Biographies



Bands of America St. Louis Super Regional Championship

October 18-19, 2019 • The Dome at America's Center • St. Louis, MO

MUSIC PANEL *(alphabetical by last name)*

John Alstrin, Prosper, TX

John Alstrin is the Director of Bands at Prosper High School in Prosper, TX. Mr. Alstrin is in his 18th year a music educator, having taught band at both the secondary and university levels. Mr. Alstrin earned his bachelor's degree in Music Education from Texas Christian University and his master's degree in Applied Music from the University of Houston, where he also served as the Associate Director of Bands. Mr. Alstrin served as an Associate Band Director at L.D. Bell High School in the Hurst-Eules-Bedford Independent School District in Hurst, TX from 2009 - 2014. During that period, the band continued its tradition of excellence, placing 2nd, 3rd, and 10th at the Bands of America (BOA) Grand National Championships, and consistently placed in the top three at various BOA Regionals and Super-Regionals. In 2010, the band earned the Silver Medal and in 2012 the Bronze Medal at the Texas UIL AAAAA State Marching Championships. Now in his fourth year at Prosper H.S., the Mighty Eagle Band has been a finalist at the UIL Area Marching contest and the Prosper Wind Ensemble was recently named the Grand Champion of the Dallas Winds Invitational. He has served on the brass staffs of the Madison Scouts and Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps and has led several drum major camps across Texas over the past 15 years. His professional affiliations include membership in the Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Bandmasters Association, Kappa Kappa Psi, Tau Beta Sigma, and The College Band Directors National Association.

Ryan Brittain, Houston, TX

Ryan Brittain has completed 7 years of teaching and began his career as the Associated Director of Bands at Cedar Ridge High School in Round Rock, Texas. During his time at Cedar Ridge he served as the marching band director and conductor of the symphonic band. Within a short timeframe, the Cedar Ridge Marching Band was a consistent Bands of America Regional Finalist and Caption Winner, a UIL 6A State Marching Band Participant, as well as a BOA Grand National Finalist in 2013. In the same year, the Cedar Ridge HS Low Brass Choir was invited to perform at the prestigious Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago. Concert Bands under his direction have been awarded consistent UIL Sweepstakes awards and best in class awards at state concert band festivals. After five years of teaching at Cedar Ridge, Brittain accepted a position as the Director of Bands at Wells Middle School in Houston, Texas. He helped the program achieve sweepstakes at UIL and grew the programs numbers substantially. His final year of teaching was as the Director of Bands at Westfield High School in Houston, where he aided in the continued success of the marching band and concert bands. Brittain's primary focus now is being an active clinician in the Houston area and running the Brittain Insurance Agency.

Aside from being the Director of Bands at VHS, Mr. Howard is an active Leadership Consultant and Workshop Presenter. He has been a facilitator for SASI for the last 11 years. In this time, Mr. Howard has had the opportunity to work with thousands of students and directors from around the United States. As a lead facilitator for SASI, he is heavily involved with the operations of all Drum Major camps as well as teaching several site-based workshops throughout the summer.

Before coming to Vandegrift, Mr. Howard taught at James E. Taylor High School in Katy, Texas. As Associate Director of the J.E. Taylor H.S. Band, his responsibilities included directing the Jazz Program, assisting with the marching band, conducting the Concert Band, and coordinating and teaching the drumline. A native of Hondo, Texas, Mr. Howard started his teaching career at Morton Ranch High School, where he was a band director and helped open the school in 2004. At Morton Ranch, he taught the Concert Band, Jazz Band, and assisted with the marching band. Before teaching at Morton Ranch, Mr. Howard was an instructor for the Cedar Park High School Band in Cedar Park, Texas, and an instructor for the Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps from Madison, Wisconsin. As a performer, Mr. Howard has performed with the Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps, the Austin Symphony Orchestra, the Austin Lyric Opera and several bands around the Austin/San Antonio area. Mr. Howard graduated from Texas State University in San Marcos, Suma Cum Laude, with a bachelor's degree in Music Education. He lives in Leander with his wife Amber, his daughter Madison, and his son Justin.

Albert Lo, Brownsville, TX

Albert Lo is currently in his fourth year as the Director of Bands at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and the resident Conductor/Artistic Director for the Brownsville Wind Symphony. Mr. Lo also serves as the Director of the UTRGV Jazz Orchestra and heads the secondary instrumental music education department. Mr. Lo is completing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at The University of North Texas in Denton, TX, where he is under the tutelage of Professor Eugene Migliaro Corporon, Professor Dennis Fisher, and Dr. Nicholas Enrico Williams. A native of Chicago, IL, he received his Bachelor of Music Degree from Northern Illinois University and his master's of art Degree from Western Illinois University. As a former Director of Bands at Winston Churchill High School in San Antonio, TX, his bands continued their tradition of excellence, placing in the finals at consecutive Texas 5A State Marching Contests, Bands of America (BOA) Regionals, and the Bands of America Grand National Championships in Indianapolis, IN. The Charger Band was selected to participate in the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, CA. and performed in the 50th anniversary celebration of Hawaii's Statehood. Mr. Lo is an active clinician and guest conductor in Texas and throughout the United States, Europe, and most recently in Asia. Mr. Lo is a two-time Teacher of the Year recipient and was awarded Certificate of Recognition by the Texas Academy of Math and Sciences at the University of North Texas in Denton, TX. He is a member of College Band Directors National Association, Pi Kappa Lambda Music Honor Society, Phi Mu Alpha Fraternity, Texas Music Educator Association, and Texas Bandmasters Association.

Paul McGarr, Brantford, Canada

Paul McGarr is currently teaching in Toronto at the prestigious Upper Canada College where he has been the Director of Bands at the Preparatory School since 2007. He has over 24 years of teaching experience throughout southern Ontario from the Director of Jazz Studies and Concert Bands at Toronto's Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts, Director of the Jazz Program at Westdale Secondary School, and Five years with the Toronto Catholic District School Board, to 15 years as musical director, composer, arranger and consultant to many prominent Drum Corps throughout Ontario. His bands have received many accolades and awards at Regional, National, International and World Championship Festivals all over North America, most recently having his Grade 7 Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, and Jazz Band receive a Gold medal of distinction on the Musicfest Canada stage in Toronto in 2015. They have also recently performed at Orchestra Hall in Chicago, Avery Fisher Hall, and the Lincoln Center Allen Room in New York City. He majored in Jazz Performance studies (trumpet) with a minor in composition at the University of Toronto, and earned an Honors Degree from Mohawk College's Applied Music program. Paul is also in high demand as an adjudicator and clinician, working all over North America for such sanctions as Drum Corps International, Music for All, Bands of America, Fiesta-val and Heritage Music Festivals, having the pleasure of adjudicating the Drum Corps World Championships and the United States National Championships 15 times in recent years. He and his wife, Jackie, and sons, Joshua, Mitchell and Andrew, and daughter, Jordyn, reside in Brantford, Ontario.

Dan Morrison, San Antonio, TX

Dan Morrison is currently the Director of Bands at Ronald Reagan High School in San Antonio, TX where he directs the Marching Band and the Wind Ensemble. In addition, he assists with the Symphonic Band, Concert Band and various chamber ensembles. In his time at Reagan, the concert bands have received superior ratings at the UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest, and the Marching Band has been a consistent Bands of America Regional, Super Regional and Grand National Finalist as well as a UIL State Marching Contest finalist. Under Mr. Morrison's direction, the Marching Band is a multiple time BOA Regional Champion and was selected to march in the 2018 Rose Parade and the 2019 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The Wind Ensemble was selected to perform at the 2018 Midwest Clinic and has been named a TMEA State Honor Band Finalist as well as a Mark of Excellence National Winner. Mr. Morrison attended Prospect High School in Mt. Prospect, Illinois and graduated from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Music Education. As a student at U of I, he studied with James Keene, Joseph Manfredo, Ronald Romm and Michael Ewald. Dan currently resides in San Antonio with his beautiful wife Ellie and their dog Pudge.

John Phillips, Cape Coral, FL

In demand as a clinician and consultant across the globe, John Phillips shares his unique brand of music education through workshops with State and Provincial Music Educators' Associations, the National Association for Music Education, and as a presenter at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic. Throughout his career, he has participated in numerous initiatives with Music for All, including the National Concert Festival, the annual Summer Symposium, and the Bands

of America Grand Nationals. Mr. Phillips is the Artistic Coordinator for the Southwest Florida Symphony in Fort Myers. Prior to moving to the U.S., he conducted ensembles and taught music education classes at the University of Western Ontario, the University of Toronto, and York University. Since 2000 he has served as judge administrator for Drum Corps International and was inducted into the DCI Hall of Fame class of 2015. Mr. Phillips also serves in the capacity as Senior Advisor for Music Mentors International leading professional development programs to promote critical and creative thinking.

Rick Rodriguez, Round Rock, TX

Mr. Rick Rodriguez is currently the percussion director and associate band director at Cedar Ridge High School in Round Rock, Texas. Rick has been the director of the Cedar Ridge Symphonic Band and is currently assisting all of the Cedar Ridge Concert Bands and the Cedar Ridge Wind Ensemble. He is also the primary director of the Cedar Ridge Jazz Ensemble and the Cedar Ridge percussion program. Mr Rodriguez and his ensembles have been fortunate to have several appearances at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic held annually in Chicago, Illinois. He is also a busy and active percussion arranger and versatile clinician. While earning his bachelor's degree, Rick was the "center snare" of the infamous University of North Texas PASIC Drum Line. Rick was also a snare drummer for the Concord Blue Devils. Rick has been a staff member of the Blue Devils, Phantom Regiment, Blue Knights and is currently with The Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps. He has also been on the adjudicating staff of Drum Corps International, Bands of America, and is currently on the WGI judging panel.

Jay Webb, Avon, IN

Jay Webb has been the Director of Bands at Avon High School in Avon, Indiana, since 1993. In that time, the Avon Band has consistently been at the forefront of the scholastic pageantry activity. Their many successes include multiple state and national championships, including the Bands of America Grand National Championship in 2008, '09, and '10. The Avon Marching Black and Gold was awarded the Sudler Shield in 2007. Avon is recognized as one of the premier band programs in the United States. All aspects of the band program strive to achieve at the highest national levels with participation in Winter Guard International, Bands of America, and Indiana State School Music Association events. Mr. Webb brings a variety of experiences ranging from performances with the award-winning drumline of the Bridgemen Drum and Bugle Corps from Bayonne, New Jersey, to the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Webb is a graduate of Butler University. (B.M.E. 1991) Mr. Webb is a member of Pi Kappa Lambda, Indiana Bandmasters Association, and the Indiana Music Educators' Association. As the founding member of Indiana Percussion Association, currently Mr. Webb serves on the Percussion Task Force for Winter Guard International and as an adjudicator for Drum Corps International. Mr. Webb was inducted into the Winter Guard International Hall of Fame in 2008. Jay shares his passion for life and music with his Boston Terrier, Ellie and his French Bulldog, Howard.

VISUAL PANEL *(alphabetical by last name)*

Curtis Costanza, Vancouver, WA

Curtis Costanza is a middle school teacher in Vancouver, Washington. He has extensive judging experience with Drum Corps International (DCI), Winter Guard International (WGI), Bands of America (BOA), Winter Guard Association of Southern California, Florida Federation Color Guard Circuit, and is the current chief judge administrator for WGI and the Northwest Association for Performing Arts. His pageantry experience includes consultant, designer and instructor for various high school marching bands and color guards throughout the country for the past 30 years. Curtis has been a clinician for Northwest Pageantry Association, Western Carolina University, North Texas Color Guard Circuit, Gulf Coast Color Guard Circuit, Southeast Color Guard Circuit, Florida Federation Color Guard Circuit, Northwest Marching Band Circuit, Colorado Band Masters Association, Winter Guard Association of Southern California, Drum Corps Japan, and BOA.

Michael Gray, Mount Pleasant, SC

Michael Gray's career in marching band, winter guard, and drum corps spans more than 30 years. He has judged World Champions and Grand Nationals in the U.S. as an adjudicator for Drum Corps International, Bands of America, and Winter Guard International. He has also judged and been a featured clinician on judging and design in Holland, England, and Japan. Gray is the current program coordinator for Bands of America Finalist Wando H.S. in South Carolina, and is the former program coordinator for the Bluecoats Drum and Bugle Corps. He is a highly sought-after clinician, design consultant, program coordinator, and motivational speaker, and has traveled the globe as part of his effort to bring pageantry and visual arts to as many places as possible. Professionally, Michael is an impressionist painter with his own flagship gallery, the "Michael Gray Gallery" in Charleston, South Carolina and has representation in five other galleries from Washington, D.C. to LA. His work is collected by museums, institutions, and private collectors throughout the world. His work can be also be seen on television in "Army Wives" and "Reckless" among others. Gray lives and works in Charleston, South Carolina.

John Howell, North Huntingdon, PA

Mr. John Howell resides in North Huntingdon, PA, just outside of Pittsburgh. He is a Business Education Teacher in the Hempfield Area School District where he serves as the Department Chairperson and teaches Sports and Entertainment Marketing, Web Page Design, and Video Game Programming. John holds a Bachelor of Administration in Business Management and an Accounting minor from the University of Pittsburgh, and a Bachelor of Science in Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He is a visual designer and has taught and written shows for various nationally acclaimed marching bands, drum and bugle corps, and indoor winter color guards. He continues to lead clinics and consultations for bands, winter guards, and judging associations across the United States. He has been a visual adjudicator over twenty-eight years and judges for Bands of America (BOA), Drum Corps International (DCI), Winter Guard International (WGI), and various other judging associations. He has had the opportunity to judge internationally on numerous occasions. He also conducts both the Trinity Handbell and Hand Chime choirs at his church, in which he has performed for over thirty-eight years.

Adam Sage, Delray Beach, FL

Adam Sage is an active choreographer, designer, and adjudicator in the pageantry arts. Adam has worked with numerous programs in the southeast, including Tarpon Springs High School, East Lake High School, Seminole High School (1993 WGI A class Bronze medalists), Clearwater High School, Kell High School, and Pope High School in Marietta, Georgia. Adam's drum corps experience includes being a performing member of the Suncoast Sound and The Cadets of Bergen County. He was the guard caption head for the Magic of Orlando and for the Crossmen, in addition to working with the Cavaliers Drum & Bugle Corps. Sage has also served as caption head and designer for Santa Clara Vanguard, Phantom Regiment, Madison Scouts, and as caption supervisor and designer for Carolina Crown. He also served as designer for the 2015 Boston Crusaders. Currently, he is a designer with Santa Clara Vanguard. Adam is also actively involved with Winter Guard International (WGI). He was the director of The Company Colour Guard from Tampa Bay, Florida, where they were a two-time WGI World Champion in the A and Open classes. He has also been the director of the Phantom Regiment Color Guard and Crown GUARD, and performed as a member of Emerald Marquis Winter Guard. Most recently, Adam Sage was the director and designer for the Kennesaw Mountain High School Color Guard in Kennesaw, Georgia, where they won numerous awards including Scholastic A and Open Class World Champions in 2004 and 2005, a Scholastic World Class Finalist in 2006, and receiving the 2013 Scholastic Open Class Bronze Medal. Currently, he is the designer and choreographer for East Coweta Winter Guard in Georgia; Yokohama Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps in Yokohama, Japan; and is the artistic director and color guard co-director at Park Vista High School (FL), which was named the 2018 WGI Scholastic Open Class Champions. When he is not teaching color guard, Adam is a third grade teacher in Parkland, Florida, where he resides.

Jim Sturgeon, Henderson, NV

Jim Sturgeon has enjoyed over 25 years in the pageantry arts. He serves as an adjudicator for Drum Corps International, Bands of America, Winter Guard International, Gulf Coast Judges Association, Florida Federation of Color Guard, and various marching band and color guard

circuits. Jim was a member of the Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps and Pride of Cincinnati Winter Guard. He has served as a designer/clinician for the Glassmen Drum and Bugle Corps as well as for several high school band and color guard programs. Outside of the pageantry arts, Jim has spent his professional career in the field of human resources. He possesses a BSBA and an MBA in business from the University of Louisville. Currently, Jim is the Vice President of People Services for HealthCare Partners of Nevada, a DaVita Medical Group company. Jim resides in Henderson, NV.

Michael Turner, San Francisco, CA

Mr. Michael Turner began his career in the pageantry arts as a member of the Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps. Trained in ballet, jazz and modern dance, Michael was one of the early color guard pioneers to introduce dance and movement to the marching arena. While in Madison, Mr. Turner performed with Kanopy Dance Theatre, Presentense, Children's Theatre of Madison, Madison Opera, and Ballet Madison. With such a diverse background, Michael developed an artistically strong and original teaching style. For 18 years, Michael worked with the two-time World Champion Madison Scouts, serving as Color Guard Choreographer and Visual Coordinator. In the San Francisco Bay Area, Mr. Turner served as Dance Master and Choreographer for the six-time World Champion Santa Clara Vanguard Drum and Bugle Corps. Mr. Turner has judged for Winter Guard International (WGI), Bands of America (BOA), and Drum Corps International (DCI), and continues freelance judging for marching bands, drum corps, and color guard throughout the world.

CHIEF JUDGE

Gary Markham, Dallas, GA

Mr. Gary Markham recently retired as Supervisor of Instrumental Music for the Cobb County School District in Marietta, GA. He is the former Director of Bands at Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax County, VA. He has over four decades of experience in music education, with 25 years as a high school band director and 20 years as a music supervisor. He currently serves internationally as clinician, guest conductor, adjudicator, and consultant. The Cobb County Music program has been named one of the "BEST Communities for Music Education in America, 12 times. Mr. Markham received his B. S. degree from Mansfield State University, M. Ed. degree from Penn State University, and studied for Ph. D. (ABD) in conducting and music supervision at George Mason University with Tony Maiello and Arnald Gabriel. His leadership experience includes membership on several state and national music education executive boards including the Mid-West Clinic Advisory Committee. He is currently the Senior Education Consultant and Chief Judge for Bands of America (BOA), Executive Director of the Music Administration Collaborative, and Judge Education Director for Drum Corps International (DCI). He is a 1992 recipient of the John Philip Sousa Foundation's "Sudler Order of Merit" and the Robinson Symphonic Band is the 1992 recipient of the "Sudler Flag of Honor." In 2006, Mr. Markham was presented with the Georgia Music Educators Administrative Leadership award and was inducted into the BOA "Hall of Fame." In 2007, Mr. Markham received the DCI & Coltrin & Associates "Excellence in Music Education Award." In 2009, NAFME presented the first "Excellence in Marching Music Education" to Mr. Markham for serving as chairman of the Blue Ribbon Commission for writing National Standards and a lifetime devoted to marching music excellence.