



Adjudicator Biographies



Bands of America West Houston Regional Championship

October 2, 2021 • Legacy Stadium • Katy, TX

MUSIC PANEL (alphabetical by last name)

Marty Griffin, Toms River, NJ

Martin Griffin received his Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from William Paterson University where he performed with the NJ Percussion Ensemble. He also has a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Kean University. He has been a band director in New Jersey for 30 years, and he is currently the Director of Bands and Coordinator of Fine Arts at Monroe Township High School. His responsibilities include directing the Marching Band (17 years), Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, and Percussion Ensemble, as well as teaching AP Music Theory.

The MTHS Marching Band was crowned New Jersey State and National Champions in 2013, and they were selected to represent New Jersey at the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor in 2016. In addition, the MTHS Wind Ensemble has received multiple Gold and Superior ratings, and they have performed at NJPAC and Carnegie Hall. The MTHS Percussion Ensemble has received numerous superior ratings and they twice represented Middlesex County at the NJ Teen Arts Festival.

Marty performed for five seasons with the Hawthorne Caballeros Drum & Bugle Corps. He has been a percussion arranger for high school bands throughout New Jersey since 1987 and is currently the arranger for JP Stevens High School, a Bands of America regional finalist. Marty currently judges for numerous organizations including Winter Guard International, Bands of America, and Drum Corps International. Marty has judged the Drum Corps Japan Championships held in Yokohama, Japan, and he is currently the Percussion Caption Head for Drum Corps Associates as well as judging coordinator for The Mid Atlantic Percussion Society. Marty has served as a member of the WGI Percussion Advisory Board, and he is on the faculty of the Bands of America Honor Band performing in the 2022 Rose Bowl Parade.

Matt McCready, Broken Arrow, OK

Matt McCready is in his 15th year with Union Public Schools and 7th as Director of Fine Arts. He previously served as Union's Director of Bands, and under his leadership, over 90% of students in the district now participate in a Fine Arts Department class or activity. Union has been named a "Best Community for Music Education" by the NAMM Foundation in both 2013 and 2017.

Under his direction, the Union Band saw exponential growth in student participation while also receiving top rankings and ratings at numerous local, state, regional, and national events. During his tenure, The Renegade Regiment, Union's marching band, was a Bands of America (BOA) Grand Nationals Finalist twice and participated in the 2013 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Since then, Matt has been honored to help the band return to BOA Grand Nationals Finals three more times, serving in the role of Program Supervisor. McCready maintains an active schedule around the country as a musician, clinician, conductor, and adjudicator.

McCready is currently ABD working toward an Educational Leadership Doctoral Degree at Oklahoma State University in Tulsa. He is a graduate of the University of Kansas (KU), earning both bachelor's and master's degrees in Music Education. While attending KU, he was the assistant director of the men's and women's basketball bands during the 100th year of Kansas basketball and was selected to be in the 1996 Walt Disney World All-American College Band. McCready is a native of Kansas City and is an avid Jayhawks fan as well

as a die-hard Royals and Chiefs supporter. Matt is thankful for his beautiful and loving wife, Amy, who is also an administrator with Union Public Schools.

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. Since 2015 he has been a member of the faculty at the National Music Camp of Canada and was recently the Artistic Director for the Hamilton All Star Jazz Band from 2009 - 2014. He has over 29 years of teaching experience.

His education consists of a major in jazz performance studies (trumpet), with a minor in composition at the University of Toronto. He also has an Honours Degree from Mohawk College's Applied Music program, including the Gold Medal Award (Mohawk College's highest Accolade) and the Dr. Mitminger Award for combining Athletics and Academic Excellence.

Paul is in high demand as an adjudicator and clinician, working all over North America and Japan for such associations as Drum Corps International, Bands of America, Fiesta-val and Heritage Music Festivals. He has had the pleasure of adjudicating the Drum Corps World Championships, the United States National Championships 22 times and Drum Corps Japan in 2017, and 2018. He is also the former Judge Administrator for the Ontario Drum Corps Association.

Richard Saucedo, Fishers, IN

Most recently the Director of Bands and Department Chairman at the William H. Duke Center for the Performing Arts at Carmel High School in Carmel, Indiana, Richard L. Saucedo retired at the end of the 2012-13 school year after teaching for 31 years. Under his direction, Carmel bands received numerous state and national honors.

The Indiana Bandmasters Association named Saucedo Indiana's Bandmaster of the Year for 1998-99 and named him the state's 2010 Outstanding Music Educator. Saucedo is a freelance arranger and composer, having released numerous marching band arrangements, concert band works, and choral compositions. He is currently on the writing staff for the Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation.

Saucedo travels throughout the country as an adjudicator, clinician, and guest conductor, and has been a featured clinician at a number of prominent conferences and clinics. He has served as Music Caption Head for the Drum Corps Midwest Judges Guild and as a music judge for Drum Corps International. Saucedo has also served as the brass composer/arranger for the Cavaliers Drum & Bugle Corps and was the brass composer/arranger for the Blue Stars in 2013. Saucedo did his undergraduate work at Indiana University in Bloomington and finished his master's degree at Butler University in Indianapolis.

VISUAL PANEL (alphabetical by last name)

Bob Elliot, Union, KY

Bob began his teaching career in 1985 and as a band director at Grant County High School in 1991. Mr. Elliott developed an award-winning marching band program that included 3 appearances in the KMEA State Championship Finals, highlighted by a KMEA Class A State Championship in 1995. Mr. Elliott then moved to Lexington, Kentucky to assume the Director of Bands position at Tates Creek High School. During this time, the Tates Creek Marching Band was a KMEA State Marching Band Finalist in 2000, 2001 and 2002. The marching band was also named a Bands of America Regional Finalist at Louisville, KY in 2000 and 2002 and at St. Louis, MO in 2001.

Mr. Elliott was named Director of Bands at Larry A Ryle High School in 2012. During his tenure the Ryle Marching Band was named a KMEA Class 5A Semifinalist from 2012 - 2016, highlighted by a 5th place finish in 2015. The marching band was named Bands of America Dayton Regional finalist in 2013 and 2014. The Ryle Marching Band was also a Bands of America Grand National Semi-Finalist at the 40th Bands of America Grand National Championships in 2015.

Bob is a member of the Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters Fraternity and has been awarded the KMEA District 6 Teacher of the Year Award. Bob is currently the Band and Orchestra Consultant for Fayette County Schools in Lexington Kentucky.

John Fisher, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Fisher has been involved in the pageantry arts in one form or another for over 30 years. John has performed with several drum & bugle corps including the Harrisburg Westshoremens, 27th Lancers, the Madison Scouts, and Reading Buccaneers. He was on staff with the Troopers Drum & Bugle Corps based out of Casper, Wyoming. John also has instructed and designed for many high school units on the East Coast.

He is a member of the National Judges Association and judges for the Northwest Pageantry Association, Northwest Association for Performing Arts, and many other judging circuits throughout the United States. John is an adjudicator for Winter Guard International and Bands of America. Professionally, John is an Accountant.

Ken Giese, Henderson, NV

Ken Giese is a nationally recognized visual caption designer and adjudicator. He is an active visual caption judge for Bands of America, Drum Corps International, Winter Guard International (Percussion Division), the Winter Guard Association of Southern California, the Florida Federation of Color Guards Circuit, and many other local circuits and organizations throughout the United States and abroad. He has served as a visual designer and instructor for numerous high school bands, winter guards, drum and bugle corps, and marching percussion units. He holds a bachelor's degree in secondary education and a master's degree in educational leadership. Mr. Giese currently resides in Henderson, Nevada, where he is a high school mathematics teacher.

CHIEF JUDGE

Gary Markham, Dallas, GA

Gary Markham retired as the Supervisor of Music for the Cobb County School District in 2013 and previously spent 25 years as a band director in Pennsylvania, Georgia, and the Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax County, Virginia. His programs have consistently received superior ratings. In 1992, Colonel Eugene Allen, Director of the United States Army Band, presented the Sudler Flag of Honor to the Robinson Band, and Markham received the John Philip Sousa Foundation's Sudler Order of Merit, one of the multitude of awards he has received during his career. Markham has been inducted into the Phi Beta Mu Honorary Bandmasters Fraternity in both Pennsylvania and in Virginia and has also been inducted into the Music for All Hall of Fame.

Markham works internationally as a clinician, guest conductor, adjudicator, and consultant. He currently serves on several Metro Atlanta Arts Boards, the BOA Advisory Board, the Drum Corps International (DCI) Rules and Systems Taskforce, and the Advisory Committee for The Midwest Clinic. He is the Chief Judge for BOA, Senior Education Consultant for Music for All, and Judge Education Director for DCI. Markham received his B.S. degree from Mansfield State University, M. Ed. degree from Penn State University, and did Ph. D (ABD) study in conducting and music supervision at George Mason University.