



Adjudicator Biographies



Bands of America St. Louis Super Regional Championship

October 22-23, 2021 • The Dome at America's Center • St. Louis, Missouri

PRELIMS

MUSIC PANEL (alphabetical by last name)

Bob Chreste, Georgetown, TX

Bob Chreste is an active arranger, consultant, and adjudicator residing in Georgetown, Texas. Bob spent 16 years as a high school band director at several prominent programs in Texas. Mr. Chreste is currently on the brass staff for the Bluecoats Drum & Bugle Corps and has previously worked with Carolina Crown, Santa Clara Vanguard, and The Cadets. Bob is one of only a few instructors in DCI that have been a brass caption head and a visual caption head at a finalist corps. Bob has been a clinician at the Music for All Summer Symposium, Midwest Clinic, Texas Bandmasters Association, and many other conferences.

In addition to Bands of America, he adjudicates for Winter Guard International, Texas Music Adjudicators Association, and several other local, regional, and state level circuits. Bob has an accomplished performance background as well. In 2001 and 2002, he was a conductor and a musician in the Tony and Emmy Award winning musical production, Blast! His educational background includes receiving his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Houston in 2000 and his Master of Music degree from Sam Houston State University in 2003.

Mike Leitzke, Thompson, NV

Mike Leitzke began his music career at Prospect High School in Mount Prospect, IL, and went on to become a member of the Carolina Crown Drum & Bugle Corps and Rhythm X Indoor percussion ensemble. During his tenure at Rhythm X, the group earned their first WGI World Class Championship.

Mike served as a designer and educator for many scholastic and independent ensembles, including the WGI PSW finalist Mt. Juliet Band of Gold and Indoor Drumline. Mike served as the front ensemble caption head and arranger for Palmetto Percussion, winning the WGI Open Class Championship in 2010 and making PIW Finals for the first time. On the drum corps side, Mike served on the faculty of the Colts Drum & Bugle Corps and Troopers Drum & Bugle Corps as well as worked as a clinician at the GearWORKS series of educational events sponsored by The Cavaliers Drum & Bugle Corps from 2009 to 2014.

Presently, Mike is an adjunct faculty member at Franklin High School (TN), a Sudler Shield band program. Mike is an adjudicator for Bands of America, Winter Guard International, and

Drum Corps International. Mike has had the honor of serving on several DCI championships week panels, including both the Open Class and World Class Championship Finals competitions. Mike is the percussion/winds coordinator of the CWEA and SCGC indoor circuits.

Mike earned his undergraduate degree in Atmospheric Science from the University of South Carolina and is currently an MBA candidate. Mike works for the State of Tennessee.

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 recognized as a leader in instrumental music education and pageantry activities. The Avon Band programs have many successes including multiple state (48) and national championships (13), including the Bands of America Grand National Championship in 2008, 2009, and 2010. The Avon Marching Black and Gold was awarded the Sudler Shield in 2007 and performed in the Tournament of Roses parade in 2012. 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. In 2016 Avon was awarded their third State Concert Band Championship. In addition, the Avon Band program had two Instrumental groups perform at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in 2015 in Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Webb brings a variety of experiences ranging from performances with the award-winning drumline of the Bridgemen Drum & 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 has memberships that include Phi Beta Mu, Indiana Bandmasters Association, Indiana Music Educators Association, and as the founding member of Indiana Percussion Association, Mr. Webb serves as an adjudicator for Bands of America, Drum Corps International, and Indoor Percussion competitions. Mr. Webb was inducted into the Winter Guard International Hall of Fame in 2008 and the Indiana Percussion Hall of Fame in 2016.

Greg Williams, Acworth, GA

Mr. Williams earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in Music Education from Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Alabama. He was a member of the Spirit of Atlanta Drum and Bugle Corps and the Jacksonville State University Marching Southerners. He also served as drum major for both organizations.

Mr. Williams spent his professional career as a high school band director and Fine Arts department chair in the Cobb County School District, located in a suburb of Atlanta, Georgia. During his career, he received the National Band Association Citation of Excellence three times and was honored as Teacher of the Year twice. He served as Director of Bands at North Cobb High School in Kennesaw, Georgia for 20 years. The North Cobb Bands won many local and regional contests and were selected to perform at the GMEA in-service conference in 2006 and 2012. Mr. Williams was named the Acworth Citizen of the

Year in 2016 for his many years of devotion and commitment to the community. He enjoys spending time with his family, playing golf, fishing, traveling, and judging high school bands. He and his wife of 35 years, Dr. Lisa Williams, reside in Acworth, Georgia.

PRELIMS

VISUAL PANEL (alphabetical by last name)

Tim Landess, Indianapolis, IN

Tim Landess began his judging career in 2003 and has judged winter guard and marching band contests throughout the country. He currently judges both Winter Guard International and Bands of America. He is often contacted for state and regional championship events. Tim served as a Visual Designer/Color Guard Director for winter guards and marching bands across Indiana for nearly two decades. His units were perennial state and national marching band finalists in the Indiana State School Music Association and Bands of America Regional and Grand National championships. In Winter Guard he has produced WGI finalists and Indiana High School Color Guard Association finalists and champions. He is also a member of the Florida Federation of Judges Association. Tim resides in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Kyle Miller, Las Vegas, NV

Currently teaching Language Arts in Las Vegas, Nevada, Kyle Miller's pageantry experience begins with high school marching band. While studying music at University of Iowa, he began teaching and designing. This progressed into judging, consulting, and teaching nationwide. He continues to place high value on his experience and opportunities to judge Bands of America events. In addition to his everyday position as a classroom educator, he works to develop a broad range of pageantry arts by evaluating DCI and WGI programs. He has served as Judge Liaison and Chief Judge in Illinois and Texas, and is fortunate to have additional experience judging internationally, evaluating performances in Europe, Thailand, and Japan.

Neal Smith, Canton, MA

Neal Smith began his journey in the Marching Arts as a member of the Boston Crusaders Drum and Bugle Corps at the age of 12. He went on to perform for 9 years as a brass soloist and drum major.

As a Visual Designer, he has designed shows for Drum Corps, Marching Bands, Color Guards, and Percussion Ensembles throughout the United States, Canada, The United Kingdom, and Europe. His designs have won numerous Regional, National, International, and World Championships. His trademark style of coordinating all the elements of Sound, Color, and Movement have made his designs entertaining, engaging, and effective.

In addition to designing, he is a judge, consultant and clinician and has worked on Marching Arts Task Forces in developing programs in inner cities. Mr. Smith is a member of the

Massachusetts Judges Association and judges regional, national, and world championships for Bands of America, US Bands, NESBA, MICCA, MAC, DCA, and various independent judging associations.

He has been inducted into the World Drum Corps Hall of Fame, The Massachusetts Music Educators and Drum Corps Hall of Fame, the Boston Crusaders Hall of Fame, and the Connecticut Hurricanes Hall of Fame. He continues to design shows for many high-profile marching bands, color guards, and percussion ensembles throughout the United States.

PRELIMS CHIEF JUDGE

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.

FINALS MUSIC PANEL (alphabetical by last name)

Ryan Brittain, Houston, TX

Ryan Brittain began his career as the Associate 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, and 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.

Gino Cipriani, Mechanicsburg, PA

Gino Cipriani received his Bachelor of Music in Instrumental Education from the University of Mississippi and his Master of Science in Music Education from Towson University. Gino has served as a consultant to marching bands, jazz bands, concert bands and Drum & Bugle Corps across the United States, Japan, Thailand, England, Canada, and Korea. In Korea, he had the pleasure of working with the Korean Armed Forces Bands in preparation of the World Cup Ceremonies in 2002. Gino also serves as an adjudicator at marching band competitions throughout the United States.

Gino spent ten years, 1990 through 1999, as a brass instructor for the sixteen-time World Champion Blue Devils Drum & Bugle Corps. In 2004, Gino held the brass caption head position for the six-time World Champion Santa Clara Vanguard Drum & Bugle Corps. From 2001 to 2004, he headed the brass section of the five-time DCA champion Syracuse Brigadiers. From 2007 to 2010 he took the position of Brass Caption Head for the DCA world champion Reading Buccaneers. Gino served as the Brass Caption Supervisor with The Cadets from 2000 - 2001 and from 2005 - 2016. During his time with the Cadets, he led the brass program to DCI World Championship titles in 2000, 2005 and 2011.

Currently, Gino works for Inspire Arts & Music as the Director of Music, which includes the role of Assistant Music Coordinator and Brass Caption Supervisor for the Boston Crusaders Drum and Bugle Corps. He is also the Associate Band Director at Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, PA.

Mike Howard, Leander, TX

Mike Howard is in his 12th year at Vandegrift High School and in his 17th year of teaching high school band. As the Vandegrift Marching Band Director, Mr. Howard's bands have been recognized with several high honors such as 2019 BOA Grand National Champion, BOA Regional Champion, BOA Super Regional Finalist, BOA Super Regional Class Champion, UIL State Marching Contest Finalist, 6A UIL State Marching Contest Bronze Medalist and 5A UIL State Marching Contest Silver Medalist. The Vandegrift Wind Ensemble was selected as the

2018 TMEA 6A State Honor Band Champion and performed at the 2019 TMEA Convention. Most recently, the Vandegrift Wind Ensemble was chosen as a feature ensemble at the 2020 Midwest Clinic in Chicago. Mr. Howard's concert bands are consistent UIL Sweepstakes Award winners and TMEA Honor Band State Finalists.

Before coming to Vandegrift, Mr. Howard was an assistant band director at James E. Taylor High School in Katy ISD. Mr. Howard, a native of Hondo, TX, started his teaching career as an Assistant Band Director at Morton Ranch High School, where he helped open the school in 2004. 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. Mr. Howard's professional affiliations include membership in Phi Beta Mu, Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Music Adjudicator's Association and the Texas Bandmasters Association. He has served music education as TMEA Region 32 Band Chair and continues to serve as TMEA Area E Band Chair. Mr. Howard graduated from Texas State University in San Marcos, Summa Cum Laude, with a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education. He lives in Leander, Texas with his wife Amber, his daughter Madison, and his son Justin.

Caleb Rothe, Fontana, CA

Caleb Rothe is the Percussion Education Coordinator for WGI Sport of the Arts. He has been a music educator in Southern California since 1997 and has worked with more than twenty different high schools, independent percussion ensembles, and drum and bugle corps. Caleb is an internationally sought-after clinician and has written for numerous groups across the United States and Japan.

Mr. Rothe has served as an adjudicator at events across the United States, Europe, and Asia. His judging experience includes work with Bands of America, Drum Corps International, WGI Sport of the Arts, Drum Corps Japan, and multiple local and regional marching arts organizations and events across the United States.

On the field, his groups have previously been named DCI Division III World Champions, Bands of America Grand National Finalists, Bands of America Regional Champions, and Western Band Association Grand Champions.

Mr. Rothe currently serves as an Instructional Technology Coach for the Redlands Unified School District, working with teachers on instructional pedagogy, student engagement, and 21st-century lesson design. Caleb lives with his wife and two sons in Fontana, California.

Caleb was inducted into the WGI Hall of Fame in 2020.

FINALS

VISUAL PANEL (alphabetical by last name)

Gregory Lee Carlson, Palm Springs, CA

Lee Carlson has been involved in the pageantry arts for over 45 years. He has spent the last 37 years as the drill designer and color guard instructor for the University of Southern California Trojan Marching Band. His high school teaching experience includes 18 years at Indio High, Indio, CA. He has taught and written drill for many high schools including four years with Kamehameha High School in Honolulu, HI. He has instructed the Denver Blue Knights, Great Bend Argonne Rebels, and the Hutchinson Sky Ryders.

He has been a judge for Drum Corps International, Bands of America, Winter Guard International, and other winter guard and marching band circuits across the United States. He served 18 years as a judge, four years as Visual Caption Head, five years as Judges Training Coordinator, and currently holds the position of Artistic Director for Drum Corps International. He has judged in Europe and Asia and has adjudicated the Drum Corps Japan Championships nine times.

Lee owns and operates a successful pottery studio in Palm Springs, CA.

Carl Nelson, Corona, CA

Carl has an expansive history in the marching and pageantry arts that spans over 30 years as a performer, designer, instructor, administrator, adjudicator, and clinician. As a visual judge for Drum Corps International, Winter Guard International and Bands of America, Carl has had the honor of participating in BOA Regional Championships, WGI Winds Championships, DCI Open Class Championships, DCI World Class Championships, and the 2019 Indonesia Drum Corps Championships. In his free time, Carl enjoys spending time with his wife of 24 years, Dia, and his sons Logan and Tyler.

John Turner, Mason, OH

Active in the Pageantry Arts since 1981, John has worked with marching bands from Northern Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana, and has served as visual technician and staff member with the Pride of Cincinnati Winter Guard. He has worked with Pride of Cincinnati from its inaugural year in 1984 through 1994 helping build the guard into a medalist program. John was a visual staff member, and later Visual Caption Head and Staff and Program Coordinator for The Glassmen Drum and Bugle Corps from 1990 through 1996. He has been a visual instructor and consultant for the Homestead Spartan Alliance Marching Band since 1993, during which time the band won Indiana State Class A Champion honors 6 times, including 2011 and 2017, and runner-up 6 times.

Since 1984, John has served on visual adjudication panels for marching band, color guard, indoor winds, and percussion competitions throughout the United States. He has served on

Regional and Championships panels across the country including California, the Carolinas, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, and Virginia. Internationally, judged the 2013 Thailand World Music Championships and the 2015 WGI UK Regional for Winds and Percussion.

John was the Secretary/Treasurer for the Ohio Judges Association and Drum Corp International's National Judge Administrator. Since 2003, John has been the DCI Open Class Judge Administrator, and he chairs the DCI Rules and Systems Task Force. He received DCI's 2016 George Bonfiglio Director's Award for Leadership, Service, and Effort.

Outside of the pageantry arts, he holds a bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Mathematics from the University of Kentucky and is Vice President in Information Technology with Fifth Third Bancorp.

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