



Adjudicator Biographies



Bands of America Grand Nationals Championships

November 11-13, 2021 • Lucas Oil Stadium • Indianapolis, Indiana

MUSIC ADJUDICATORS (alphabetical by last name)

John Alstrin, Prosper, TX

John Alstrin is the Director of Fine Arts for the Prosper Independent School District in Prosper, TX. Mr. Alstrin served as the Director of Bands at Prosper HS from 2014 –2019. During that time, the Prosper band surged from 180 to 380 members in five years and went from last place at their first contest in 2014 to Bands of America Grand Nationals Finalists in 2018. The Prosper Band advanced to the UIL 5A State Marching Contest for the first time in school history in 2017, and then returned to the UIL 6A SMC in 2018. The Prosper Wind Ensemble was named a Commended Winner in the Mark of Excellence National Wind Band Honors competition and was named the Overall Grand Champions of the 2017 and 2018 Dallas Winds Invitational.

Prior to serving in Prosper, TX, Mr. Alstrin served as an Associate Director at LD Bell High School, the University of Houston, and Lake Highlands High School. Mr. Alstrin is active across the United States as a guest conductor, clinician, consultant, and adjudicator. In the summer months, Mr. Alstrin has served as the director for several drum major camps across the state of Texas and has served on the brass staff for the Madison Scouts and Cavaliers Drum & Bugle Corps. His professional affiliations include the Texas Music Educators Association as a past TMEA Region 24 Band Chair, the Texas Bandmasters Association, Kappa Kappa Psi, Tau Beta Sigma (honorary), Texas Music Administrators Conference, Texas Music Adjudicators Association, and Phi Beta Mu (Alpha Chapter). Mr. Alstrin currently resides in Prosper, TX with his wife Christina, son Collin (12), and daughters Addison (9) and Harper (5).

George Boulden, Richmond, KY

George R. Boulden holds the positions of Professor of Music and Associate Director of Bands at the University of Kentucky, where he serves as the conductor of the Symphony Band. Additionally, he teaches conducting, music technology, and supervises student teachers. In 2011, George was selected as the Kentucky Music Educators Association College/University "Teacher of the Year." In February of 2014, George received the "Outstanding Bandmaster Award" from the Psi Chapter of Phi Beta Mu, the international bandmasters fraternity. George is past president of the Kentucky Music Educators Association.

Active as an adjudicator for Music for All/Bands of America, Drum Corps International, and Drum Corps Japan, George has also served as a clinician and guest conductor throughout the United States, Canada, and Japan. He has presented lectures and clinics at the Midwest International Band & Orchestra Clinic, MENC National Convention, NBA National Conventions, CBDNA National Conventions, MFA/BOA Summer Symposiums, and Drum Corps Japan.

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.

Dave Carbone, Bluffton, SC

Mr. David Carbone has over 30 years of experience in music education, including a 25-year career as a band director at the high school and collegiate levels in Florida, Ohio, Texas, and South Carolina. Mr. Carbone holds a Master's Degree in Wind Band Conducting from the University of South Florida, as well as a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from the University of Miami.

Throughout his career, ensembles under Mr. Carbone's leadership excelled, consistently advancing to finals contests at Bands of America Regional and Super Regional Championships, making numerous Bands of America Grand National Semifinals appearances, as well as consistently receiving superior ratings on the concert stage and in sight-reading. At James Martin HS in Texas, his bands earned the University Interscholastic League Sweepstakes Award eight years consecutively. The Wind Ensemble received an invitation to perform at Carnegie Hall, and the Symphony Orchestra was recognized as the Texas UIL Honor Orchestra Runner-up in 2014. At Bellbrook HS (OH), his marching ensembles won two Bands of America Grand National Class Championships, and the Bronze Medal at the WGI Percussion World Championships.

Recently retired from public education, Mr. Carbone enjoys an active schedule advocating for music education locally and serving as an adjudicator for Bands of America and Drum Corps International. He is also in demand as a band consultant, concert festival judge, and guest conductor nationwide. He resides in the Hilton Head Island area of South Carolina with his beautiful wife Carrie, son Beckett, daughter Jordan, and dogs Grainger and Daisy.

Glenn Fugett, Nashville, TN

Glenn Fugett is currently the Secondary Music Coach for the Metro Nashville Public Schools. From the summer of 2015 to May of 2019, he was the Director of Bands and Orchestras at the Nashville School of the Arts. In the spring of 2019, the NSA Wind Ensemble received the Award of Distinction in Concert Performance from the American School Band Directors Association. His chamber orchestra and wind ensemble were both selected to the Music for All National Festival in March of 2017.

From 2007 through June of 2015, Glenn was the Director of Bands at Legacy High School in Mansfield, Texas. The group was a finalist at numerous BOA Regional Championships, they were the 3A Class Champions at the 2011 Arlington and 2013 Allen Regional Championships. The Legacy Wind Ensemble performed at the MFA National Concert Festival in 2014. He was the Associate Director of Bands at Westlake High School in Austin, Texas from the fall of 1991 through the spring of 2007. The Westlake Band performed at the Midwest Clinic in 2002, the Tournament of Roses Parade in 2003 and was a consistent finalist at the San Antonio Bands of America Super Regional and the UIL State Marching Contest.

Glenn is a sought-after clinician for Music for All and Yamaha. Glenn has been a judge for Bands of America since 1995 and a judge for Drum Corps International since 1992.

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.

Nola Jones, Nashville, TN

As a lifelong music educator, Dr. Nola Jones has garnered a national reputation as a devoted and effective leader in arts education. Previously, Dr. Jones was Director of Visual and Performing Arts for Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools in Nashville, Tennessee where her duties included instructional supervision of four hundred professional arts education specialists, curriculum planning, professional development, and implementation of Music Makes Us, a unique public/private music education partnership in Metro Nashville Public Schools.

Dr. Jones maintains an active schedule as a guest speaker, conductor, adjudicator, clinician, and program evaluator. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Tennessee Performing Arts Center and the Education Advisory Board for the Frist Center for Visual Arts. She has been a featured presenter at the prestigious Midwest Clinic and NAMM Music Education Days and frequently serves as a clinician for Save the Music Foundation. At the request of the National Association for Music Education, Dr. Jones has directed the US Army All America Marching Band, facilitated the NAFME Collegiate Advocacy Summit, and presented at the US Army All America Marching Band Directors' Academy. She has served on the Executive Board of the Middle Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association, as state chair for the National Band Association, and President of Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters' Eta Chapter. She currently serves on the Judge Administrative Team for Drum Corps International and has adjudicated numerous national championships for Bands of America, Drum Corps International, Drum Corps Japan, Winter Guard International, and Winter Guard International Percussion. Her professional affiliations include Tennessee Council of Visual and Performing Arts Supervisors, National Association for Music Education, Tennessee Music Educators Association, Tennessee Bandmasters Association, Middle Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association, National Band Association, Phi Beta Mu, Sigma Alpha Iota, Tau Beta Sigma, and Kappa Kappa Psi. Dr. Jones received the Bachelor of Music Education degree from Mississippi State University and the Master of Music Education degree from Mississippi College. She received her Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of South Carolina.

Jay Kennedy, Ashland, MA

Mr. S. Jay Kennedy's career encompasses varied and successful experiences as a composer, arranger, producer, performer, educator, and administrative leader. He is Vice President for Academic Affairs/Vice Provost at Berklee College of Music in Boston. Kennedy received his

Ph.D. from Boston College and Master of Music and Bachelor of Music Education degrees from Northwestern University.

Mr. Kennedy has composed, arranged, and produced music for hundreds of television and radio commercials, for which he has received numerous awards. His music has also been heard in feature films, including *Wayne's World*, *Electric Horseman*, *Fast Break*, and *Lethal Weapon 2*; and in a variety of television series, including *One Tree Hill*, *Judging Amy*, and *Felicity*. A veteran of the recording industry, Mr. Kennedy has written and produced music for Sheryl Crow, Siedah Garrett, James Ingram, Patti Austin, Little Richard, Stanley Clarke, Brenda Russell, Dave Grusin, and Singers Unlimited. Mr. Kennedy was a Grammy Award finalist in 2002 for arrangements on the recording of "Virtuosi" by Gary Burton and Makoto Ozone.

His published compositions include works for concert band, percussion ensemble, and marching band. Mr. Kennedy has been an active adjudicator for marching band, drum corps, and indoor percussion competitions for over 30 years, and has written for several drum and bugle corps. He has also composed the themes for the Drum Corps International (DCI) championship broadcasts and DVDs. He was elected to the DCI Hall of Fame in 2007 for longtime contributions as an adjudicator, judge administrator, arranger, and composer.

Chester Phillips, Roswell, GA

Dr. Chester B. Phillips is the Associate Director of Bands and Director of Athletic Bands at Georgia State University. Under his leadership, the GSU Panther Band has received several honors and accolades including participation in the 2014 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, marching in the 57th Presidential Inaugural Parade, participation in the Pepsi Halftime Show of Super Bowl LIII, and an invitation to march in the 2021 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California.

As a clinician, Dr. Phillips has presented at numerous state music education conferences, the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic, the Music for All Summer Symposium, College Band Directors National Association Biannual Conference, and Drum Corps Japan. He is an active judge with Drum Corps International. Prior to his appointment at Georgia State University, Dr. Phillips taught for nine years in Georgia at the Cobb County and Gwinnett County public schools at the middle and high school level.

Ken Turner, Apalachin, NY

Ken has extensive experience in music education. He has served as band director, music supervisor, clinician, music arranger, program coordinator, adjudicator, and guest conductor. His bands have won numerous local, state, and national honors.

Ken was Music/Brass Chairman for the New York State Field Band Conference, Drum Corps Associates, the New York Federation of Contest Judges, and Drum Corps International (DCI). He served as Judge Administrator for the New York State Field Band Conference as well as

Drum Corps International. He has judged virtually every major state and national marching music event. He has been inducted into the DCI and New York State Field Band Conference Halls of Fame.

Ken was Director of Music for the Johnson City Central School District in Johnson City, NY, which was honored on 6 occasions as a GRAMMY Signature School and recognized as one of the 100 Best Communities in America for Music Education. He served as a member of the national advisory board for the Partners in Education Program at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, and is currently a member of NAMM's congressional advocacy group. Ken holds a US Patent for the angled shell drum.

W. Dale Warren, Fayetteville, AR

W. Dale Warren is a Senior Wind Band Conductor and Professor of Music, Director of Summer Music Camps, and former marching band director at the University of Arkansas. He received a bachelor's in Music Education from Austin Peay State University and a master's in Music Education from the University of Kentucky (UK). He also served on the UK music department faculty as Associate Director of Bands and Director of athletic bands from 1980 - 86. During his time on the faculty at UK he also taught at Bremen and North Hardin High Schools. Warren completed a faculty residency with the Kasetsart University Wind Symphony in Bangkok, Thailand.

Professor Warren has served as a computer clinician/drill designer for Advantage Showare, Inc. and Arranger's Publishing Company. For 20 years he served as an adjudicator/clinician for Musicfest Orlando. During Professor Warren's affiliation with Bands of America, he served as a member of the Educational Advisory Board and for the past 34 years as an adjudicator and chief judge. In addition to serving as chairman of the John Philip Sousa Foundation's Sudler Shield Award Committee, Professor Warren is a John Philip Sousa Foundation Board Member, a Past President of the Southeastern Conference Band Directors Association, and a member of the Institutional Review Board at Washington Regional Medical Center.

Professor Warren is a former marching member of the Guardsmen Drum and Bugle Corps of Schaumburg, Illinois and a former brass and visual staff member for the Guardsmen and the Imperial Guard Drum & Bugle Corps of Evansville, Indiana. Professor Warren has also served as a Drum Corps International adjudicator.

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.

VISUAL ADJUDICATORS (alphabetical by last name)

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.

Curtis Costanza, Vancouver, WA

Curtis Costanza is a middle school teacher in Vancouver, Washington. He has extensive judging experience with Drum Corps International, Winter Guard International, Bands of America, Winter Guard Association of Southern California, and the Florida Federation Color Guard Circuit. He is also the current chief judge administrator for WGI and the Northwest Association for Performing Arts.

His pageantry experience includes consulting, designing, and instructing various high school marching bands and color guards throughout the country for the past 30 years. Curtis has been a clinician for the 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.

Marie Czapinski, Des Plaines, IL

Marie Grana Czapinski is an expert in the field of pageantry and the only individual to hold Hall of Fame membership in all three elite marching arts organizations: Winter Guard International, Drum Corps International, and Music for All.

She is a co-founder of Winter Guard International, played a key role in forming and developing Bands of America, and was a DCI Championship adjudicator for 25 years.

Marie has instructed numerous championship winter guards, drum corps, and marching bands, including several Bands of America Grand National Champions. She is well known for her clinic presentations, integrity, and creativity. She is an active clinician and consultant, including with the Pride of Missouri State Winter Guard and Jubal Drum & Bugle Corps in Amsterdam.

Marie is devoted to all aspects of education in the marching visual arts. She serves as Director of Education for the Midwest Color Guard Circuit and is a member of their Hall of Fame. Marie is currently the Director of Educational Outreach for Phantom Regiment Drum & Bugle Corps.

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.

John Howell, Irwin, PA

John Howell resides in North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, just outside of Pittsburgh. He is currently employed as 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, Video Game Programming, and Personal Finance. He is also the varsity boys' volleyball coach. 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 & bugle corps, and indoor winter color guards. He continues to conduct clinics and consultations for bands, winter color guards, indoor drumlines, and judging associations across the United States.

He has been a visual adjudicator for over 36 years and judges for Bands of America, Drum Corps International, Winter Guard International, 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 or directed for over 42 years.

Tim Ochran, Tyler, TX

Tim Ochran has been a Bands of America judge since 1985 and has had the privilege of participating in over 100 BOA Regional Championships and over 20 Grand National Championship judging panels. He has served as the visual judge administrator for Drum Corps International and had the honor of serving as a member of the Music for All Board of Directors. He is the Senior Vice President & Chief Administrator Officer for the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler Graduate School.

Robert Solomon, Lake Balboa, CA

Robert Solomon has been involved in the marching arts since 1979. He played trumpet and was drum major at El Camino Real HS in Woodland Hills, CA. Robert continued to perform as a member of the color guard for the Velvet Knights Drum & Bugle Corps and at California State University, Northridge. He then turned to instructing and has designed for several top programs in Southern California and continues today. He has been judging since 1996 and is an adjudicator for Winter Guard International, Drum Corps International, Bands of America, and various state and local associations. Robert is a banker and lives in Los Angeles, CA.

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 diversified 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 Winter Guard International (WGI), Bands of America (BOA), and Drum Corps International (DCI) competitions. He continues to freelance judge for marching bands, drum corps, and color guards throughout the world.

CHIEF ADJUDICATOR

John Phillips, Cape Coral, FL

John Phillips maintains an active schedule as an adjudicator and clinician throughout the world. In addition to judging for Bands of America, he has adjudicated in Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Europe, South America and North America. He has served as the Judge Administrator for Drum Corps International since 2000 and was inducted in the DCI Hall of Fame in 2015.

John Phillips is an adjunct professor at Florida Gulf Coast University. Prior to moving to SW Florida, Phillips was a faculty member at the University of Western Ontario, where he conducted the Symphonic Band and taught in both the Faculties of Music and Education. Prior to teaching at Western, he served as the arts curriculum supervisor at the Ministry of Education for Ontario and principal of the music teacher training programs at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.

Phillips is in demand as an expert on marching music education. He was a member of the NAFME Blue Ribbon Panel on marching music standards and was director of the DCI Marching Music Academy for 3 years. In 2010, he received the MENC award for Excellence in Marching Music Education.