



# Adjudicator Biographies



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## Bands of America Iowa Regional Championship

September 24, 2022 • Northwest High School • Waukee, IA

### Adjudication Panel and Commentary General Information

#### Important Information

- Specific caption assignments will be distributed on-site at band check-in.
- Questions related to adjudication may be directed to Richard Saucedo, BOA Chief Judge - Team Leader, at [richard.s@musicforall.org](mailto:richard.s@musicforall.org)
- Music for All utilizes CompetitionSuite for adjudication scores and commentary. Directors will receive an email at least 2 weeks prior to this event from CompetitionSuite to create or update their profile. Directors can add staff members, cell phone numbers for text alerts, and other information to assist in receiving adjudicator commentary.

#### MUSIC

##### **MIKE BACK (Roswell, Georgia)**

Mike Back retired at the end of the 2018 school year after completing 34 years as a music educator. He served at Walton High School in Marietta, Georgia since 1985, where he was the Director of Bands and Fine Arts Department Chair.

Under Mr. Back's leadership, the band program at Walton received national recognition through performances at Bands of America Regional and Grand National competitions. The band is also a three-time participant in the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California. In 2010, the John Philip Sousa Foundation presented the Walton Band with the prestigious Sudler Shield, an international award recognizing marching bands of world class excellence. In 2011, the Walton Symphonic Band was selected to perform at the GMEA State In-service in Savannah, Georgia.

Mr. Back lives in Roswell, Georgia with his wife Andrea.

##### **RYAN HEATH (Keller, Texas)**

Ryan Heath has been a music educator for 15 years and has spent the last nine as an Assistant Director of Bands at Keller High School in Keller, Texas. He serves as the director of the Keller High School Symphonic Band, the Applied Music class, and the Keller Hornline. He also leads the Keller High School Marching Band. Additionally, he works with the concert ensembles at Keller Middle School. Prior to his appointment at Keller, Heath taught at Dawson High School in Pearland and Oak Ridge High School in Conroe.

During his time at Dawson, the group was a two-time TMEA Honor Band finalist, as well as a finalist at the 2011 and 2013 UIL 4A State Marching Band Contest. Since joining the staff at Keller High School, the marching band has been a finalist at the 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2021 UIL 6A State Marching Band Contests and the 2015 Bands of America Grand National

Championships. In 2015, the John Philip Sousa Foundation selected Keller to be the 76th band worldwide to receive the prestigious Sudler Shield. The band was also a participant in the 2018 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Concert ensembles under Heath's direction have received superior ratings at every competitive event attended. The Keller High School Symphonic Band is a four-time winner in the Citation of Excellence competition by the Foundation for Music Education. They were the first high school ensemble to earn this distinction three years in a row and have received this award more times than any other high school ensemble since its inception.

Heath is an active adjudicator for UIL and Bands of America, as well as a clinician for a variety of marching and concert ensembles. He has also been involved in the Drum Corps International community in roles from technician to caption head with several groups including Guardians, Boston Crusaders, and The Cavaliers. His professional affiliations include the Texas Music Educators Association, Phi Beta Mu International Honorary Bandmasters Fraternity, Texas Music Adjudicators Association, Texas Bandmasters Association, and Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band Fraternity.

Heath grew up in Duncanville, Texas and is an alumnus of the Duncanville High School Band Program. He earned a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Houston, studying conducting and education with David Bertman, Tom Bennett, John Benzer, and Eddie Green, as well as horn with Roger Kaza of the Houston Symphony. Heath is married to his high school sweetheart and former bassoonist, Dr. Corey L. Heath. They live in Keller with their son Owen and daughter Emery.

#### **KEVIN NIX (Plano, Texas)**

Kevin Nix has been a music educator, guard instructor, visual design coordinator, and adjudicator with over 29 years of public school teaching experience. Nix received a Bachelor of Music Education degree in Trumpet Studies from the University of Oklahoma. In addition to his many years of service as a band director, he has served as a visual designer and consultant for numerous performing ensembles competing in Bands of America Regional and Grand National Championships, Winter Guard International, as well as various Division I drum corps. His collaborative efforts with many high school bands and color guards throughout the country have helped mentor programs toward higher standards and established him as one of the most respected designers of recent years. Nix currently resides in Plano, Texas where he serves as visual coordinator and show designer for many high school bands across the country.

#### **JODIE RHODES (Canyon Lake, Texas)**

Jodie Rhodes has been a band director for twenty five years. She has spent the last ten years in Lubbock ISD teaching at Evans M.S Prior to this, she spent eleven years in Spring ISD in Houston, Texas at Westfield High School and its feeder programs. Ms. Rhodes is a graduate of Texas Tech University and received a Masters from Sam Houston State University. For the last two years, Ms. Rhodes has been the program coordinator for the Oregon Crusader Drum and Bugle Corps. She has received numerous accolades for both concert and marching band festivals and is a member of TMEA, TBA and Midwest and is a frequent marching band clinician and Bands of America judge.

#### **VISUAL**

#### **TONY CIMINO (Salem, Oregon)**

Tony Cimino is a Marching Arts professional who provides design, instruction and adjudication services to organizations throughout the country. With over three decades of experience as an educator, he is a staunch advocate for teaching life lessons through the performing arts.

Tony has served on the educational staff of the Bluecoats, Blue Stars, Boston Crusaders and Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps as well as numerous high school programs in Illinois, Texas and the Pacific Northwest. An in demand designer and consultant, he

is the owner of CiminoDesigns.com. Since 1996, he has been an adjudicator, for marching bands, indoor percussion, indoor winds and winter guard.

Tony earned a Bachelor's degree from Northern Illinois University and a Master's degree from the University of North Texas.

### **BOB ELLIOTT (Union, Kentucky)**

Bob began his teaching career at Ft. Thomas Highlands as assistant band director in 1985. Beginning in 1991 as band director at Grant County High School 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 in 2000 and 2002 and at St. Louis 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 as a 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 also a member of 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.

### **BRANDON SPIDEL (Indianapolis, Indiana)**

Brandon Spidel is a Junior High Band Director in Fishers, IN. He has been teaching high school and middle school band since 1998. Brandon received his Bachelor's of Science in Music Education from Indiana State University.

Brandon is very active is developing and creating unique classroom techniques in the band setting and has presented at the Indiana Music Educator's Association State conference. He has adjudicated for DCI (Drum Corps International), BOA (Bands of America), MEPA (Mid East Performance Association), IHSCGA (Indiana High School Color Guard Association), MSBA (MidStates Band Association) CITSA (Central Indiana Track Show Association), ISSMA (Indiana State School Music Association), FMBC (Florida Marching Band Coalition), TMA (TriState Marching Arts), MCCGA (Mid-Continent Color Guard Association), OIPA (Ohio Indoor Performance Association), and KMEA (Kentucky Music Educators Association).

## **CHIEF JUDGE**

### **DALE WARREN (Fayetteville, Arkansas)**

W. Dale Warren is Senior Wind Band Conductor and Professor of Music in the University of Arkansas' Department of Music. During his three-plus decades of service at the university, Professor Warren has conducted the Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, Chamber Winds, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Varsity Band, and Campus Band. He also teaches music education courses, supervises music education interns (student teachers), and is actively engaged in the graduate instrumental conducting program. From 1991-2000, Professor Warren was the Director of the UA Razorback Marching Band. He is also the director of the highly successful UA Summer Music Camps.

Professor Warren taught at Kentucky high schools Bremen and North Hardin from 1980-1986. His bands received numerous awards and Division I ratings. He has guest conducted all-district, all-region, and all-state honor bands as well as university bands in 39 states. Professor Warren has completed a faculty residency with the Kasetsart University Wind Symphony in

Bangkok, Thailand. For 20 years he served as an adjudicator/clinician for Musicfest Orlando. During Professor Warren's affiliation with Music for All/Bands of America, he served as a member of the Educational Advisory Board and for the past 36 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 for the past 21 years has been a member of the Institutional Review Board at Washington Regional Medical Center.

Since Professor Warren arrived at the University of Arkansas, the UA Wind Symphony has made six guest appearances at College Band Directors National Association Conventions. The UA Wind Symphony performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City and at the Arkansas Music Educators Convention/All-State Conference on two occasions under Professor Warren's baton. During his tenure as Director, the Razorback Marching Band performed numerous times for former President William Jefferson Clinton, including the 1992 Presidential Inaugural Parade in Washington, D.C. Under Professor Warren's leadership, the Razorback Band performed at the SEC Championship, the Cotton Bowl, the Citrus Bowl, the Carquest Bowl, and the Independence Bowl. The Razorback Marching Band also appeared as the Grand Finale Band at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin, Ireland.

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 and Bugle Corps of Evansville, Indiana. He has also served as a Drum Corps International (DCI) Adjudicator. He received his Bachelor of Music Education degree from Austin Peay State University and a Master of Music Education degree from the University of Kentucky. He also served on the music department faculty as Associate Director of Bands/Director of Athletic Bands at the University of Kentucky from 1986-1991.