



# Adjudicator Biographies



## Bands of America Louisville Regional Championship

October 1, 2022 • University of Louisville • Louisville, KY

### Important Information

- Specific caption assignments and clinician 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 PANEL

#### EVAN HINDS (O'Fallon, Illinois)

Evan Hinds is a marching band designer, writing drill and percussion arrangements for several bands and percussion ensembles across the country. He serves as a music program consultant and adjudicator for marching band, concert band, and chamber ensembles throughout the United States. Currently, Hinds is the Music Ensemble Coordinator for the O'Fallon Township Marching Panthers. Previously at O'Fallon, his duties included eight years as the caption head for the Marching Panthers Percussion and the director of four concert percussion ensembles. He also currently serves as a Clinical Assistant Professor for Illinois State University, observing student teachers for the music department. Hinds has previously instructed at McKendree University in Lebanon, Illinois, serving as the Marching Bearcats Drumline instructor and arranger along with the Marching Bearcats drill writer. Additionally at McKendree, he taught private percussion lessons, percussion ensemble, percussion methods, marching band methods, and supervised student teachers for the music education program. Hinds was the band director at Triad High School in Troy, Illinois for eight years and holds music degrees in education and conducting from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. In addition, Hinds is an artist/endorser for Remo Drumheads and other music industry leaders.

During his tenure, O'Fallon Township High School Marching Panthers have received many accolades. Recent accomplishments for the marching band include being a Bands of America (BOA) Grand National Championships Finalist in 2018, multiple appearances in BOA Grand National Championships Semi-Finals, and consistent appearances in BOA Regional and Super Regional Championship Finals. Other recent performances for the band program include The Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade (2015 and 2022), The Orange Bowl, The Hollywood Christmas Parade, Pearl Harbor, The Music for All National Festival, and Carnegie Hall.

Hinds resides in O'Fallon, Illinois with his wife Dr. Melissa Gustafson-Hinds, who is the Director of Bands at O'Fallon Township High School. They have a daughter named Evelyn.

#### MIKE LEITZKE (Franklin, Tennessee)

Mike Leitzke began his music career at Prospect High School in Mount Prospect, Illinois and went on to become a member of the Carolina Crown Drum and Bugle Corps and Rhythm X indoor percussion ensemble. During his tenure at Rhythm X, the group earned their first Winter Guard International (WGI) World Class Championship. Presently, Leitzke is the percussion director at Franklin High School (Tennessee), a Sudler Shield band program.

Leitzke has taught, arranged, and consulted for many high schools and indoor programs across the United States. He served as the front ensemble caption head and arranger for Palmetto Percussion, winning the WGI Open Class Championship in 2010 and making World Class Finals for the first time. On the drum corps side, Leitzke has served on the faculty of the Colts Drum and Bugle Corps and Troopers Drum and Bugle Corps as well as worked as a clinician and consultant for The Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps. Additionally, Leitzke served as a designer and educator for the WGI PSW finalist Mt. Juliet Band of Gold and Indoor Drumline.

He is an active adjudicator for Bands of America, Winter Guard International, and Drum Corps International (DCI). Leitzke had the honor of serving on several DCI championships week panels, including both the Open Class and World Class Championship Finals competitions. Leitzke is the percussion/winds coordinator of the CWEA, MEPA, SCGC, and WGASC/ADLA indoor circuits. He is proud to be an artist and clinician for Yamaha, Remo, and other music industry leaders.

#### **CALEB ROTHE (Fontana, California)**

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 a number of 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.

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

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.

#### **JAY WEBB (Avon, Indiana)**

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 many successes include 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 Winterguard 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 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 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 Winterguard International Hall of Fame in 2008 and the Indiana Percussion Hall of Fame in 2016.

## **VISUAL PANEL**

### **IRA JENKINS (Atlanta, Georgia)**

Ira Jenkins is the newly appointed Director of Bands at Decatur High School in Georgia. Prior to joining Decatur High School in 2022, Jenkins was the Director of Bands at Alpharetta High School. While at Alpharetta High School, the concert bands were featured performers at GMEA's In-Service Conference, UGA's JanFest Honor Band Clinic, Music for All's Southeastern Regional Concert Festival, and a host of other special performances. The marching band was a Bands of America regional finalist as well as Grand Champion at the Jacksonville University Invitational. Alpharetta's Indoor Percussion ensemble was GIPA's Scholastic A champion in 2022 as well as the WGI Atlanta Scholastic A champion. All three of Alpharetta's winter guards have been repeat SAPA championship medalists. In 2019, the Alpharetta varsity winter guard was a Winter Guard International World Championships finalist.

Prior to AHS, Jenkins taught elementary, middle, and high school bands in Atlanta City, Cobb County, Fulton County, and in Westchester County (NY) as well as Bergen County (NJ). His bands have consistently earned superior ratings at performance evaluations, and his winter guards have received state championships honors. Jenkins' students have earned chairs in county and district honor bands as well as all-state bands and university honor clinics. Many of his students continue their passion for performance in college bands, professional ensembles, drum and bugle corps, independent drumlines, and independent winter guards.

Jenkins' responsibilities have extended far beyond the classroom. He has served as an assistant high school marching band director, visual caption head, color guard caption head, and director of numerous winter guard programs throughout the east coast. He has also served as band chair and the district chair for GMEA's District 5.

Jenkins' professional affiliations include marching band and winter guard adjudication with BOA, WGI, DCI, and numerous state circuits. He holds memberships with GMEA, NAFME, SAPA, WGI, NYSSMA, NYSBDA, and FFJA.

Jenkins holds a B.M. in Music Education from Georgia State University and Florida A&M University (1994), a M.Ed. in Education Administration from Kennesaw State University (2007), an Ed.S. in Music Education from University of Georgia (2018), and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Music Education at Georgia State University.

**NEAL SMITH (Canton, Massachusetts)**

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 would perform for 9 years as 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 trad mark 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, 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.

**MICHAEL TARR (Wyandotte, Michigan)**

Originally from Wyandotte, Michigan, Michael Brady Tarr is grateful to have a successful career in the pageantry and performing arts that spans nearly three decades. Tarr has taught and consulted with many drum corps and high school programs throughout the world. His extensive and successful career includes working with several top drum corps including the Boston Crusaders, The Cavaliers, the Santa Clara Vanguard, the Bluecoats, and the Glassmen. Tarr has also taught many national-level bands throughout the country including Avon High School, Plymouth-Canton High School, Owasso High School, Flower Mound High School, and many others.

As an adjudicator and clinician, Tarr is in high demand judging throughout the world. He is an active adjudicator for Music for All/Bands of America, Drum Corps International, Winter Guard International, the Colorado Bandmasters Association, the Indiana State School Music Association, and the Michigan Competing Band Association. Tarr also had the honor to adjudicate the All Thailand Marching Championship and the All Japan Marching Championships.

Tarr earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Interpersonal Communication (1997) and a Master of Arts degree in Communication Arts (1999) from Eastern Michigan University. During his undergraduate studies, Tarr's work on a presentation for the Undergraduate Research Symposium was later expanded and developed into a research article focusing on Adolescent Children and Deception, which was presented at the National Communication Association Convention (1997). In addition, Tarr served on the adjunct faculty at Eastern Michigan University and The University of Michigan-Dearborn and most recently served as the Assistant Director of Student Affairs for the Mercer University School of Medicine – Savannah, Georgia Campus. When not teaching, Tarr is an avid reader who enjoys traveling, staying active, and studying the works of Benjamin Hoff and W. Timothy Gallwey.

## **CHIEF JUDGE**

### **KEN GIESE (Las Vegas, Nevada)**

Ken Giese is a nationally recognized visual caption designer and adjudicator. He is an active visual caption judge for Music for All/Bands of America, Drum Corps International, Winter Guard International (Percussion Division), the Winter Guard Association of Southern California, the Florida Federation of Colorguards 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 of Science degree in Secondary Education, Mathematics, and Computer Science; and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership. Giese currently resides in Las Vegas, Nevada, where he teaches Math, Color Guard, and Band at Ed W. Clark High School.