



Bands of America New Mexico Regional Championship

September 17, 2022 • New Mexico State University • Las Cruces, NM

MUSIC PANEL

MARTIN GRIFFIN (Toms River, New Jersey)

Martin Griffin has been a Band Director in New Jersey for 32 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 been selected to perform at Carnegie Hall and the NJ Performing Arts Center.

Griffin performed for five seasons with the Hawthorne Caballeros Drum and Bugle Corps. He has been a percussion arranger for high school bands throughout New Jersey since 1987, including J.P. Stevens High School, a multiple Bands of America regional finalist. Griffin currently judges for numerous organizations including Bands of America, Drum Corps International, and Winter Guard International. In 2006, Griffin was selected to judge for the Drum Corps Japan Championships held in Yokohama, Japan. He is currently the Percussion Caption Head for Drum Corps Associates as well as the judging coordinator for The Mid Atlantic Percussion Society. Griffin has served on the Winter Guard International Percussion Advisory Board and was on the staff for the Bands of America Honor Band that marched in the Rose Parade® on New Year's Day 2022. Griffin received his bachelor's degree in music from William Paterson University, where he performed with the New Jersey Percussion Ensemble and the New Jersey New Music Ensemble. Griffin also has a master's degree in Educational Leadership from Kean University.

NOLA JONES (Nashville, Tennessee)

A lifelong music educator, Dr. Nola Jones is a devoted and effective leader in arts education. In addition to extensive ensemble and classroom teaching experience, Dr. Jones possesses broad skills in leadership development, program design and implementation, curriculum writing, development, advocacy, and partnership building. She served as Director of Visual and Performing Arts for Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, 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 appeared nationally in forty-three of the United States and internationally in Canada, Japan, the Netherlands, and Singapore. 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. In 2017, she participated in the Yale University Symposium on Music in Schools. 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 served in multiple capacities, including facilitating the NAFME Collegiate Advocacy Summit, directing the US Army All America Marching Band, and presenting at the US Army All America Marching Band Directors' Academy. She currently serves on the Judge Administrative Team for Drum Corps International and on the Chief Judge Team for Bands of America. She is the Division Leader for the Band

Director Track at the Music for All Summer Symposium. Dr. Jones has adjudicated numerous championships for Bands of America, Drum Corps International, Drum Corps Japan, Winter Guard Netherlands Percussion, Winter Guard International, and Winter Guard International Percussion.

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.

JOHN MEEHAN (Martinez, California)

John Meehan is the Director of Community Arts Programs for BD Performing Arts as well as the brass arranger and caption advisor for the Blue Devils Drum and Bugle Corps. Previously, Meehan was on the brass staff of the Blue Devils beginning in 1994, holding the position of caption head from 2006 through 2019. Meehan is also the current brass arranger for the B & C Corps programs, as well as the Composer in Residence/Associate Conductor for the Diablo Wind Symphony. Outside of Meehan's BD Performing Arts responsibilities, he composes and arranges for marching bands around the world. Meehan is a world-renowned clinician on brass pedagogy, ensemble technique, and performance excellence, presenting various types of clinics in Brazil, Canada, China, England, Ireland, Japan, and throughout the United States of America.

Some of Meehan's "non-pageantry" writing includes composing the music for The Music of WYLAND CD, scoring scenes for several student and independent films, and composing two spots for Kaiser Permanente. He has also been commissioned to write several wind ensemble pieces.

Meehan was inducted into the Drum Corps International Hall of Fame in 2019, the World Drum Corps Hall of Fame in 2019, and the Buglers Hall of Fame in 2016. Notable career achievements include lead designer for both the System Blue and King marching brass instrument series and development and production for the Sample Logic and System Blue sound libraries (including Fanfare and VET). Meehan is a nationally recognized adjudicator for marching band circuits such as Bands of America. He has also performed on the movie soundtrack Monsters University as a percussionist.

Meehan lives in California with his incredibly supportive wife Jackie, and they have three daughters and two rescue dogs.

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 PANEL

SAL ADAMO (Belleville, New Jersey)

Sal Adamo has 35 years of involvement in the pageantry arts activity. He has designed and coordinated numerous shows for drum corps, high school marching bands and winter guards. He continues to stay active as a Visual Consultant for several teams.

He has been an adjudicator for over 25 years and is qualified to judge all visual captions. He has adjudicated for all the premiere pageantry organizations, including Bands of America, Drum Corps Associates, Drum Corps International, and Winter Guard International (guard and percussion). Sal has been a championship finalist judge many times for all of these organizations.

Sal is the co-founder and Chief Judge of the East Coast Judges Guild. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his grandchildren and studies watercolor painting.

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.

DEBORAH TORCHIA (Peabody, Massachusetts)

Debbie Torchia's pageantry experience began as a member of the Danvers Blue Angels Drum and Bugle Corps, her local corps. She has been an instructor and designer of Drum Corps, Winter Guards, and Marching Bands, including The Guardsmen Drum and Bugle Corps., St Joseph's Grenadiers Winter Guard, Triton Regional High School Band, Melrose High School Band, and The Boston College Eagles Marching Band, among others.

Debbie has a long history of judging locally and nationally for several associations, including Eastern Massachusetts, CYO, Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association, Winter Guard International, Bands of America, Western Band Association, WGASC, and Drum Corps International.

Debbie is a long-standing, active member of the Massachusetts Judges Association and is a respected member of the judging community in all seasons. Debbie has held many leadership positions within the judging community. These include Visual Caption Chairperson, Winter Guard Caption Chairperson, Association Education Director for the Massachusetts Judges Association, Equipment Facilitator and Ensemble Facilitator for Winter Guard International, Judge Administrator and Winter Activities Director for the New England Scholastic Band Association, and Judge Liaison of Visual Analysis and Judge Training for Drum Corps International.

Debbie Torchia holds a Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in Occupational Therapy.

CHIEF JUDGE

JOHN PHILLIPS (Cape Coral, Florida)

John Phillips is an Adjunct Professor at Florida Gulf Coast University and recently served as Artistic Coordinator for the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra. Prior to moving to Florida, he was on staff at the University of Western Ontario where he conducted the Symphonic Band and taught conducting and music education classes. He has also been a faculty member at the University of Toronto and York University in the departments of music and education.

In demand as an adjudicator and clinician, John Phillips shares his unique brand of music education through workshops with State and Provincial Music Educators' Associations, the National Association for Music Education, and as a presenter at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic. Throughout his career, he has contributed to numerous initiatives with Music For All including the National Concert Festival, the annual Summer Symposium, and the Bands of America Grand Nationals.

Phillips regularly guest conducts honour bands across Canada and the United States. For twenty years he conducted the Wind Ensemble at the National Music Camp of Canada, and has been a guest conductor at the International Music Camp. Phillips has served as Judge Administrator for Drum Corps International since 2000, and was inducted into the DCI Hall of Fame, Class of 2015.