



# Adjudicator Biographies



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## Bands of America Northwest Ohio Regional Championship

September 24, 2022 • Glass Bowl Stadium • Toledo, OH

### Adjudication Panel and Commentary General Information

#### 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

##### **STEVE BENTLEY (Salt Lake City, Utah)**

An active educator since 1991, Mr. Steve Bentley has appeared as a wind band, marching band and orchestral clinician. He has also adjudicated throughout the United States, France, Germany, Holland, Japan and in 2016, Thailand. Mr. Bentley has a long history of experienced teaching including serving as assistant music director for the 2002 SLC Winter Olympic Spirit Band and the University of Utah Marching Band. He has also been involved with many DCI organizations including the Boston Crusaders, The Cadets, Concord Blue Devils, and Santa Clara Vanguard. He has taught with Plymouth-Canton Educational Park and Northmont High School. Mr. Bentley holds a B.A. in Trumpet and Piano performance from California State University at Hayward.

##### **DAVID LESSER (Clovis, California)**

David Lesser has been the Director of Bands at the Clovis North Educational Center in Fresno, California since its opening in 2007. He started his 22nd year of teaching in the fall of 2022. He administers all aspects of CNEC Instrumental Music grades 7-12, conducts the Wind Ensemble, and directs the Bronco Marching Band and Color Guard. Lesser is the Secondary Instrumental Resource Teacher for the CUSD Visual and Performing Arts Department. Prior to the opening of Clovis North, Lesser held Director positions at Clovis West High School from 2001-2006.

The Bronco Marching Band and Color Guard has been invited to perform at the 2022 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and has been named Western Band Association (WBA) class or grand champions in 2010, 2011, 2013, 2019, and 2021. The Clovis North Wind Ensemble was featured at the 71st annual Midwest Clinic, the 2017 California All State Music Educators Conference, and the 2016 Music for All National Concert Band Festival.

Lesser was honored in 2020 by the John Philip Sousa Foundation as a Legion of Honor Laureate. In 2006, Lesser was recognized as one of the “50 Directors Who Make a Difference” by School Band and Orchestra (SBO) magazine. He was the Fresno Madera Counties Music Educator Association Jazz Educator of the Year in 2005. Lesser served as an Associate Director of the Music for All National Honor Band in the Rose Parade® in 2017 and 2022. He has adjudicated marching, concert, and jazz band festivals; guest conducted honor bands; and presented educational clinics across the United States.

Lesser has served in numerous capacities for NAFME, The Midwest Clinic, WBA, FMCMEA, CMEA Central Section, and the San Joaquin Valley Color Guard and Percussion Review. He founded the San Joaquin Valley Concert Band Invitational, a Music for All Affiliate Regional Music Festival, celebrating its 14th year in April 2023.

### **TANNER SMITH (Frisco, Texas)**

Tanner Smith has served as the Director of Bands at Wakeland High School since 2016. At Wakeland, his responsibilities include the Marching Band, Wind Symphony, and overall program direction. He also assists with Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Middle School ensembles. Prior to his appointment at Wakeland High School, Smith taught at Independence High School in Frisco Independent School District and Allen High School in Allen, Texas.

During his tenure, the Wakeland High School Marching Band has been named a finalist and regional class champion in the Bands of America Dallas/Ft. Worth Regional Championship. The marching band has been a consistent UIL Texas State Marching Band Contest finalist and was named the 2019 Class 5A Bronze Medalist. Most recently, the Wakeland Wind Symphony was invited to perform at The 75th Annual Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic.

Smith has previously been on the Educational Team for the Bands of America Drum Major Institute and was on faculty with the 2013 and 2022 Bands of America Honor Bands in the Rose Parade®.

Smith is a member of the Texas Music Educators Association and the National Bandmasters Association. He currently lives in Frisco with his wife Corey, daughter Nora, and their dogs Rex and Chester.

### **TODD ZIMBELMAN (Salem, Oregon)**

Todd R. Zimbelman is the Director of Bands and Co-Director of the Symphony Orchestra at West Salem High School in the Salem-Keizer School District (OR). Mr. Zimbelman has held Director of Bands and Associate Director of Bands positions at the high school and college levels in Oregon and Texas.

Mr. Zimbelman has been recognized as one of the “Top 50 Directors That Make A Difference”, the Claes Nobel’s Educator of Distinction, and the Oregon Symphony’s Music Educator of the Year. Under his direction, marching bands have received several championships and they are the reigning NWAPA Champions and Bands of America (BOA) Tacoma Regional Champions. Wind ensembles consistently receive superior ratings and most recently have placed first at the 6A OSAA State Band Championship the past nine years in a row (2009-Southridge, 2010-2017-West Salem).

His ensembles have attended national and international festivals, and have performed at the Oregon Music Educators State Conference and the NAFME All-NW Conference. Students under his direction are regularly selected for All-City, All-State, and All-Northwest honor bands, as well as the OSAA State Solo Contest. His arrangements and compositions are performed at national and international festivals and competitions.

His technique books are used by several programs across the United States. He has adjudicated for several organizations including BOA and Drum Corps International.

He is currently a member of The American Band Masters Association, College Band Directors National Association, National Association for Music Educators, National Band Association, Oregon Band Directors Association, Oregon Music Educators Association (president), and Phi Beta Mu.

## **VISUAL**

### **J.R. CARLISLE (Point Pleasant, West Virginia)**

Dr. J.R. Carlisle is the Owner of Carlisle Educational Services. He has served 21 years as a band/choir director, and five years as a high school principal in Ohio and West Virginia. His ensembles consistently received superior ratings at state concert and marching band festivals. His Federal Hocking Marching Band was a Sudler Shield Winner.

Dr. Carlisle has directed several Winter Guard International Regional Finalist color guards, national semifinalist color guards and drum lines, and a national finalist drum line. He is a founding member of the Tri State Circuit for the Pageantry Arts. Dr. Carlisle served as chief judge for the Nebraska Bandmasters Association and Education Director/Chief Judge for the CIPA Circuit. He has judged for Winter Guard International, Drum Corps International, and Bands of America. Dr. Carlisle has judged in 38 states. He has also adjudicated Drum Corps Europe's Championships and the drum corps competition in Kyoto, Japan. He resides in Point Pleasant, West Virginia.

Dr. Carlisle received his Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Marshall University, Master's degree in Education Leadership from West Virginia University, Master's in Business Administration in Organizational Leadership from Ashford University, and his Doctorate in Education from Grand Canyon University.

### **DOUG CASTEEN (Moseley, Virginia)**

Doug Casteen currently resides in Richmond, Virginia where he is a Project and Program Management Consultant. He holds professional certifications as a SAFe Agilist, Scrum Master, Project Management Professional (PMP), and is a Six Sigma Black Belt.

Doug currently sits on the Executive Board for the Virginia Marching Band Cooperative (VMBC) and the Atlantic Indoor Association (AIA) as their Chief Judge. He has been judging marching bands, drum corps and color guard contests around the country for 30 years. He was inducted in the AIA Hall of Honor in 2006 for his contributions to the circuit since its inception.

Doug has judged all visual captions for Drum Corps International (DCI) and currently judges the overall effect and visual analysis captions for the Winds Division of Winter Guard International (WGI). He previously served as a General Effect Judge for Color Guard Division of WGI for 12 seasons where he judged numerous Regional & World Championship contests. Doug was a former marching member with the Avant Garde, 27th Lancers, and Star of Indiana Drum & Bugle Corps.

### **MARIE CZAPINSKI (Des Plaines, Illinois)**

Marie Grana Czapinski is an expert in the field of pageantry and the only person to hold Hall of Fame membership in all three elite marching arts organizations: Winter Guard International, Drum Corps International, and Bands of America. Czapinski is a co-founder of Winter Guard International, a Drum Corps International Championship adjudicator for 25 years, and she played a key role in the formation and development of Bands of America.

Czapinski is devoted to all aspects of education in the marching visual arts. She is the Director of Education for the Midwest Color Guard Circuit and a member of their Hall of Fame. She is also an active educational clinician and consultant with Bands of

America and the Jubal Drum and Bugle Corps, Dordrecht, Netherlands.

## **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 honor 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.