



# Adjudicator Biographies



## Bands of America Orlando Regional Championship

October 22, 2022 • Camping World Stadium • Orlando, FL

### 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

#### MATTHEW JORDAN (Jacksonville, AL)

Dr. Matthew Jordan currently serves as Assistant Professor of Percussion at Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Alabama. He is also the front ensemble arranger for Music City Mystique, the music coordinator and sound designer for the Bluecoats Drum and Bugle Corps, a music designer for "The Commandant's Own" United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, and a music advisor for the Colts Drum and Bugle Corps. Prior to starting at JSU, Dr. Jordan was the Concert Percussion Marketing Manager for Pearl Corporation/Adams Musical Instruments and Assistant Director of Bands/Instructor of Percussion at Middle Tennessee State University.

Dr. Jordan has worked as a percussion instructor and arranger with a number of Drum Corps International (DCI) and Winter Guard International (WGI) groups, including the Phantom Regiment (2011-2014), Carolina Crown (2015), and Spirit of Atlanta (2007-2010, 2018). He is also very involved at the scholastic level as an arranger for indoor drumlines and marching bands, having written for groups such as Max Percussion (Bangkok, Thailand), Bangkok Society Drumline, Franklin High School, Dobyns-Bennett High School, The Woodlands High School, Science Hill High School, McGavock High School, and Father Ryan High School, among others.

As a performer, Dr. Jordan plays regularly with the Nashville Symphony, Alabama Symphony, Huntsville Symphony, and Tuscaloosa Symphony. He has previously performed with Intersection Contemporary Music Ensemble, Keith Brion's New Sousa Band, Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, San Angelo Symphony, Eastern Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Tennessee Philharmonic. While at North Texas, he performed with the UNT Wind Symphony, as well as the One o'Clock and Two o'Clock Lab Bands. Dr. Jordan was the timpanist of The Cavaliers (2003-2004) and Music City Mystique (2000-2005), and in 2004, he received first place in both the DCI and PAS Timpani Individuals competitions. Dr. Jordan has also been involved in commissioning or premiering works from numerous composers, including Nathan Daughtrey, Dave Hall, Evan Chapman, Caleb Pickering, Russell Wharton, Matt Filosa, Lucas Garner, Bill Hickok, Matt Ridge, and Greg Harrison.

Dr. Jordan also travels abroad frequently and has performed in Mexico, China, South Korea, Hong Kong, Macau, and Japan. In the summer of 2010, he traveled to Ghana in West Africa to study Ewe drumming. Dr. Jordan's major influences include Dr. John W. Parks IV, Dr. Robert Schietroma, Christopher Deane, Mark Ford, Paul Rennick, Lalo Davila, Erik Johnson, Leigh Howard Stevens, Christopher Norton, John Feddersen, and Bill Wiggins.

Dr. Jordan completed a Doctor of Music degree from Florida State University, a Master's degree from the University of North Texas, and a Bachelor's degree from Middle Tennessee State University.

### **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.

### **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.

**W L WHALEY (Arvada, Colorado)**

W L Whaley is the former Director of Bands at Pomona High School in Arvada, Colorado. He is currently the Chief Judge for the Colorado Bandmasters Association and Executive Director of AdvantEdge Tours LLC. Whaley serves as a clinician, consultant, designer, and adjudicator throughout the United States. He has adjudicated for Drum Corps International, Winter Guard International, Bands of America, and numerous state associations.

Whaley has been selected into the Colorado Music Educators Hall of Fame and the Colorado Bandmasters Association Hall of Fame. He was also named Phi Beta Mu's Most Outstanding Band Director.

**VISUAL PANEL**

**MIKE ANDERSON (Eagle, Idaho)**

Mike Anderson has been involved in pageantry arts for more than 30 years as a performer, instructor, designer, and adjudicator. Mr. Anderson serves as a program coordinator and visual designer for numerous programs throughout the United States. In addition to Bands of America (BOA), Mr. Anderson adjudicates for many other organizations, including Drum Corps International (DCI), Winter Guard International (WGI), and Drum Corps Japan. Mr. Anderson is the judges' coordinator for the Indiana High School Color Guard Association and enjoys spending time assisting the Maui Film Festival.

**KIM KUHN (Westland, Michigan)**

Kim Corney-Kuhn from Westland, Michigan, has played various roles since becoming involved in the pageantry arts 25 years ago. As a performer, designer, director, instructor, and clinician, Kim has been involved with multiple groups making appearances in BOA, DCI, and WGI semi-finals and finals. She continues to work with groups in the fall and winter as a writer/designer and technician. As an instructor, she most enjoys being able to share her passion for the activity with her students, watching the training foundation she put into place support their development continuing to higher levels of performance with other organizations as well as teaching groups of their own. Having served on the Board of Directors for the Michigan Color Guard Circuit for multiple years, she is currently the Vice President of Color Guards where her main focus is on instructor education. She remains an active member of the rules, championships, and education committees in MCGC. Her judging experience as a visual judge includes: Bands of America (BOA), Winter Guard International (WGI), Drum Corps International (DCI), as well as multiple local circuits throughout the country.

**TIM OCHRAN (Grayton Beach, Florida)**

Tim Ochran's first year as a Bands of America (BOA) adjudicator was 1985. Since then, Ochran has had the privilege of being part of over 100 BOA Regional Championships and 20 Grand National Championship judging panels. He was also a member of the Music for All Board of Directors. Since 1993, Ochran has been an active Drum Corps International (DCI) judge and has served as the visual judge administrator as well as other DCI judge administrative roles. Away from the marching music activity, he is passionate about working with others to have a healthy, long life.

## **CHIEF JUDGE**

### **DEAN WESTMAN (Plainfield, Indiana)**

Dean Westman is the Performing Arts Department Chair and Director of Orchestras at Avon High School in Avon, Indiana. He founded the Avon Orchestra program in 2007 with 40 6th grade beginners. Over the past 14 years, the Avon Orchestra has grown to over 600 students grades 6 through 12 served by 5 Full Time Orchestra Directors. Dean's concert ensembles have performed at Carnegie Hall, The Skirball Center at NYU, The Moores Opera House, The Meyerson, and the prestigious Midwest Clinic in Chicago. Internationally, the Avon Orchestra has performed in Rome, Florence, and at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. The Avon High School Symphony Orchestra placed 3rd at the 2014, 2015, and 2016 Indiana State School Music Association State Orchestra Finals, was State Runner Up in 2017 and earned ISSMA State Orchestra Championships in 2018 and 2019.

Mr. Westman also serves as a Program Designer for the 3-time Bands of America Grand National Champion and 14 Time Indiana State Champion Avon High School Marching Black and Gold. Prior to coming to Avon, Dean worked as the Educational Director for Music for All. He also served as Director of Bands at Stephen F. Austin High School in Sugar Land, Texas. Westman Co-Conducted the award winning SFA Symphony Orchestra. Under Dean's leadership, the SFA Marching Band was named Bands of America Houston Regional Champion in 2002, 2003, and 2004. The SFA Band placed 5th at the 2002 Bands of America Grand National Championships and 4th at the 2004 Bands of America Grand National Championships, winning both Outstanding Music Performance and the Al Castronovo Memorial Esprit de Corps Award. Mr. Westman has also held positions at Elkins High School in Missouri City, Texas and the Indian Prairie School District in Naperville, Illinois. Dean currently serves as a member of the Music for All Educational Steering Committee and a Board Member for the Avon Education Foundation.

In 2002, Dean was named the Texas Young Bandmaster of the Year by the Texas Bandmaster's Association. He has taught the Tenrikyo Aimaichi Marching Band from Nagoya, Japan, and has served on the teaching staff for the Bands of America Rose Parade Honor Band of America. Dean continues to guest conduct and present clinics throughout the United States and Japan, including presentations at the Midwest Clinic, the Texas Bandmaster's Association Convention, the Colorado Bandmaster's Association Convention, the Texas Music Educator's Association Convention, the DCI Judges and Instructor Clinic, and the Texas Dance Educator's Association Convention. He is a proud member of the Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Mu, the American String Teacher's Association, and the Indiana State School Music Association. Westman was inducted into the Bands of America Hall of Fame in 2018.

Dean has been an active designer, instructor, and arranger in the drum corps activity for 28 years. Westman served as Brass Caption Head for the ten-time Drum Corps International World Champion Cadets, Brass Arranger and instructor for the seven-time Drum Corps International World Champion Santa Clara Vanguard, and taught on the brass staff for the seven-time Drum Corps International World Champion Cavaliers. He was a music consultant for Carolina Crown and Brass Arranger and Program Coordinator for the Troopers, leading America's Corps to their first DCI Finals appearance in 23 years in 2009. In 2011, Dean instructed the Yokohama Scouts from Yokohama, Japan, as they became the first Japanese Drum and Bugle Corps to ever perform at a DCI World Championship. Westman currently serves as Program Coordinator for the 2016 Drum Corps International World Champion Bluecoats from Canton, Ohio.

Westman is a native of Park Ridge, Illinois and a proud alumnus of the University of Illinois. His conducting and musical mentors include James F. Keene, Gary Smith, Thomas J. Wisniewski, Gordon Henderson, Tim Salzman, and Larry Livingston. He lives in Plainfield, Indiana with his wife Adrianna and their 22-year-old daughter Abigail, who is a Senior Art Education Major at Indiana State University.