



Dallas Mid-Cities Regional Championship, presented by Yamaha

ADJUDICATION PANEL BIOGRAPHIES

October 7, 2023 - Bedford, TX



MUSIC PANEL

Michael T. Brown (*Atlanta, Georgia*) has spent the last three years directly supporting the Hawaii State Department of Education superintendent's cabinet, specifically serving the Office of Information Technology Services and the Office of Student Support Services, where he is leading the effort to modernize the student support information system across all islands and schools. In addition, Brown is a member of the Graduate Teaching Faculty at Columbus State University, Valdosta State University, and Georgia Southern University, teaching multiple distance learning courses each term on Multicultural Studies Across the Curriculum, Curriculum Design for Student Achievement, Literacy and Learning Strategies, and Education Psychology. Brown enjoys refereeing high school basketball, where he was selected for the 2023 Hawaii High School Athletic Association State Championships, and adjudicating for various organizations across the United States, including Drum Corps International, Western Band Association, and Michigan Competing Band Association. Prior to these roles, Brown held Director of Bands and Assistant Principal roles in Alabama, Georgia, and California, where he primarily focused on forging positive relationships with students, parents, and other stakeholders. Through kindly serving, putting others first, and offering positive feedback, Brown has supported thousands of students' transition into becoming functionally literate musicians and contributing members of society. Brown holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Jacksonville State University (JSU), where he studied Music Education and Conducting under Dr. Kenneth G. Bodiford and Dr. Jeremy L. Stovall. Brown served as the principal trombonist for The Marching Southerners, Chamber Winds, and Hardcorps Pep Band while at JSU. During his summers in high school and college, Michael toured with The Cavaliers Drum & Bugle Corps. Brown considers his time learning from Mr. David Bertman and Mr. Donnie Hull the most influential and significant impact on his content knowledge, pedagogical approach, and growth as a young educator and man. Brown completed a Master of Education degree from Columbus State University and a Doctor of Education degree from Liberty University. He resides in Senoia, Georgia with his wife, Courtney, and Golden Retriever, Chief.

Lafe Cook (*Kingsport, Tennessee*) has been a high school band director for 33 years and is in his 27th year as the Director of the Dobyons-Bennett High School Band in Kingsport, Tennessee. Under Cook's direction, the Dobyons-Bennett Marching Band has been a three-time Bands of America Class AAA Grand National Champion as well as a Bands of America Regional and Super Regional Champion. The Dobyons-Bennett Band has appeared in four Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parades, three Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parades, and the Presidential Inaugural Parade. The marching band is a 2014 recipient of the John Philip Sousa Foundation's Sudler Shield. The Dobyons-Bennett Wind Symphony has performed at The Midwest Clinic, the American Bandmasters Association Convention, the Music for All National Festival, and at the Tennessee Music Education Association Conference on six occasions. Cook holds degrees from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville where he was drum major of the "Pride of the Southland" Marching Band and a graduate assistant with the music department. He is a past president of the Tennessee Music Education Association, the Tennessee Bandmasters Association, and the East Tennessee Band and Orchestra Association. Cook currently serves on the Bands of America Advisory Committee, served two terms on the Board of Directors of the National Band Association, and is a five-time recipient of the National Band Association's Citation of Excellence. He was also honored by the John Philip Sousa Foundation as a Sudler Flag of Honor Laureate and was named "Aide de Camp" to the Governor of the State of Tennessee. Cook has been a clinician for regional, state, and university honor ensembles across the country. He has also presented professional development sessions at The Midwest Clinic and multiple state music education conventions. Cook was elected into the American Bandmasters Association in 2008.

Randy Greenwell (*Indianapolis, Indiana*) is the former Director of Bands and Performing Arts Department Chair of the nationally recognized Lawrence Central (LC) High School Performing Arts Department in Indianapolis, Indiana. During his time as a music educator, the Lawrence Central High School Marching Band was an 18-time Bands of America Grand National Championships Finalist and a two-time Grand National Champion. The Lawrence Central High School Marching Band was a 2001 Sudler Shield award recipient and a four-time Class A Indiana State Champion. They participated in

prestigious national events such as the Tournament of Roses and Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parades. His wind ensembles were consistent state finalists, being named ISSMA Concert Band State Champion on five separate occasions. In addition, the LC Jazz Ensembles were awarded honor band status at several jazz festivals throughout his tenure at Lawrence Central. Greenwell was named a "Distinguished Citizen of Indianapolis" in 2001. He was inducted into the Music for All Hall of Fame as well as the Phi Beta Mu Hall of Fame in 2018. In April 2023, Greenwell was recognized by the National Federation of High Schools as their Regional Music Educator of the Year. Greenwell actively judges for Bands of America, Drum Corps International, and Winter Guard International. He also guest conducts honor bands and does clinics on a variety of music education topics across the country. Greenwell currently serves on staff with The Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps as an ensemble specialist.

Gifford Howarth (Lewisburg, Pennsylvania) is currently Associate Professor of Percussion at Bloomsburg University located in Bloomsburg, PA. His previous teaching duties included teaching at Michigan State University and Nazareth College (Rochester, NY). Howarth has received degrees from Michigan State University (DMA), Kent State University (MM), and Ithaca College (BM). He has presented clinics and workshops throughout the United States, Canada, Asia, and Europe including Singapore, China, Thailand, The Netherlands, Sweden, and Malaysia. He has also presented at The Midwest Clinic in Chicago, The Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PASIC), several MENC All-State Conferences and PAS Day of Percussion events. The focus for most of the workshops is geared around percussion education. Howarth is heavily involved in different competitive marching activities. He was on the percussion staff for the Drum Corps International (DCI) group, The Cadets from 1999 to 2006. Over the years he has written for several Winter Guard International (WGI), Bands of America (BOA), and Drum Corps Associates ensembles. He is currently a national adjudicator for DCI, WGI, and BOA along with several statewide marching band and indoor percussion circuits. Dr. Howarth is a National Yamaha Performing Artist, a Signature Artist for the Vic Firth Company, and a clinician for Remo Percussion and the Zildjian Cymbal Company. He has several works published through Tap Space publications.

VISUAL PANEL

Kim Kuhn (Westland, Michigan) has played various roles since becoming involved in the pageantry arts 25 years ago. As a performer, designer, director, instructor, and clinician, Kuhn has been involved with multiple groups making appearances in Bands of America (BOA), Drum Corps International (DCI), and Winter Guard International (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 (MCGC) 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: BOA, WGI, DCI, as well as multiple local circuits throughout the country.

Tim Pierce (Memphis, Tennessee) has a broad range of experience in design for the visual and performing arts. His degrees include a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from The University of Southern Mississippi and a Master's degree in Fine Arts from Mississippi College. An alumnus of The Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps, his professional career began as a band director and continues as teacher, designer, consultant, and adjudicator. Pierce has served on adjudication panels for Bands of America (BOA), Drum Corps International (DCI), and numerous state and local judging associations. Additionally, he worked for Winter Guard International (WGI) adjudicating the Movement and Design Analysis captions as well as sitting on the WGI Task Force as Movement Caption Facilitator. Pierce is the owner of Signature Designs, Inc., a full-scale interior design business for residential and executive spaces. Signature Design Associates, his pageantry company, is under the same umbrella and offers program and visual design to competitive marching bands, drum corps, and color guards. His groups have accumulated state titles, finals placement in BOA Regional Championships, semi-finalist at BOA Grand National Championships, finalist at DCI World Championships, state indoor color guard titles, as well as finals and championship placements in both the Scholastic and Independent classes

at WGI Regionals and World Championships. Pierce was program coordinator for The U.S. Army All-American Marching Band in 2010 and 2011. His clients have performed in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and the Rose Parade. Pierce resides in Memphis, Tennessee with his husband Brandt Edwards, a 20-year veteran of the Broadway stage, and their feline child, Swede.

Jim Sturgeon (Henderson, Nevada) is very humbled to say he has been actively involved in the pageantry arts for more than 30 years. His involvement with the activity has taken him to 46 states and six countries. He proudly serves as an adjudicator for Bands of America, Drum Corps International, Winter Guard International, and many local and regional marching band and color guard circuits across the country. Sturgeon was a member of the Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps and the Pride of Cincinnati Winter Guard. He has served as a designer and clinician for the Glassmen Drum and Bugle Corps, as well as for several high school band and color guard programs throughout the country. Sturgeon possesses a B.S. in business administration and an MBA from the University of Louisville. Outside of the pageantry arts, Sturgeon has spent his professional career in the field of human resources. Currently, he is the Executive Vice President of Human Resources for Bristol Hospice, based in Salt Lake City, Utah. Sturgeon lives in Henderson, Nevada.

CHIEF JUDGE

Nola Jones (Nashville, Tennessee) is a lifelong music educator who is a devoted and effective leader in arts education. In addition to extensive ensemble and classroom teaching experience, 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 400 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. Jones maintains an active schedule as a guest speaker, conductor, adjudicator, clinician, and program evaluator. She has appeared nationally in 43 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 (NAfME), Jones has served in multiple capacities, including facilitating the NAfME Collegiate Advocacy Summit, directing the U.S. Army All-American Marching Band, and presenting at the U.S. Army All-American 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. 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. Jones received a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Mississippi State University and a Master of Music Education degree from Mississippi College. She received her Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of South Carolina.