



Memphis Regional Championship, presented by Yamaha
ADJUDICATION PANEL BIOGRAPHIES
October 7, 2023 - Memphis, TN



MUSIC PANEL

Tremon Kizer (Orlando, Florida) serves as the Associate Director of Bands, Director of Athletic Bands, and Associate Professor of Music at the University of Central Florida (UCF). In addition to serving as the lead administrator for the UCF athletic band program, he conducts the Symphonic Band, teaches courses in music education and conducting, and observes music education student interns. In addition, he serves as the Associate Director for the School of Performing Arts at UCF. Under his direction, the UCF Marching Knights has the largest membership in university history with over 400 students. Recently, they have performed at the American Athletic Conference Championship, Military Bowl, PlayStation Fiesta Bowl, Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl, Gasparilla Bowl, and AutoNation Cure Bowl. Furthermore, the Marching Knights were invited and have performed at Bands of America Regional Championships, the Florida Marching Band Championships, and at the Magic Kingdom Walt Disney World. The Marching Knights has also been recognized and featured at the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA) Southern Division Conference. In addition to his work at UCF, Kizer serves on the National Band Association (NBA) Revelli Composition Contest Selection Committee, the NBA IDEA Committee, the NBA Research Review Board, the Board of Directors for the Florida Youth Symphony Orchestra, and a CBDNA Task Force that researches current trends with recruitment. On the state level, he serves as the Florida Bandmasters Association Commissioning Committee Chair and is on the MPA Music Selection Committee. He is an active guest conductor, adjudicator, and leadership consultant of well over 200 clinics. Kizer has been a guest conductor for numerous district, regional, and state honor bands along with professional ensembles such as the United States Army Band. He has been on staff for several music camps, drum major clinics, and collegiate and high school concert and marching band camps.

Marc Whitlock (Livonia, Michigan) spent 30 years in education as a band director and is currently a school principal. As an educator, his prior appointments include being a band director for Marian Catholic High School in Illinois, Hebron High School in Texas, and Discovery Middle School and the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park in Michigan. During his time as a band director, his bands earned consistent superior ratings at band festivals, received the Mark of Excellence from the Foundation of Music Education, and earned the UIL Sweepstakes Award. In addition, bands under his direction received 14 state marching band championships, eight Bands of America national class championships, and the Bands of America Grand National Champion title three times. His bands were also selected for performances at the Music for All National Festival and for the Presidential Inauguration. Whitlock was formerly the music manager for the Broadway production of *Blast!*, which won a Tony award and an Emmy award. He also served as the first Chief Judge for Winter Guard International Winds. He has been an instructor, designer, and consultant for many award-winning ensembles. Whitlock has been actively involved in the drum corps activity for over four decades. He has been in demand as an educator for many corps, including the Blue Stars, The Cadets, Carolina Crown, The Cavaliers, Madison Scouts, Phantom Regiment, Santa Clara Vanguard, Star of Indiana, and the Troopers. Many of the drum corps he has worked with have been Drum Corps International (DCI) Finalists, recipients of the Jim Ott High Brass Award, and have been crowned DCI World Champions. He currently serves as the Music Coordinator and Brass Consultant for The Cadets. Whitlock has also started his own company to service the design, consultation, and educational needs of bands and other marching ensembles. His company, "On The Marc," strives to help concert and marching programs reach that next level of achievement.

Greg Williams (Acworth, Georgia) spent his professional career as a high school band director and fine arts department chair in the Cobb County School District, located in a suburb of Atlanta, Georgia. During his career, he received the National Band Association Citation of Excellence three times and was honored as Teacher of the Year twice. He served as Director of Bands at North Cobb High School in Kennesaw, Georgia for 20 years. The North Cobb Bands won many local and regional contests and were selected to perform at the GMEA in-service conference in 2006 and 2012. Williams was named the Acworth Citizen of the Year in 2016 for his many years of devotion and commitment to the community. Williams earned his Bachelor of Science and master's degrees in Music Education from Jacksonville State University in

Jacksonville, Alabama. He was a member of the Spirit of Atlanta Drum and Bugle Corps and the Jacksonville State University Marching Southerners, where he also served as drum major for both organizations. Williams enjoys spending time with his family, playing golf, fishing, traveling, and judging high school bands. He and his wife of 36 years, Dr. Lisa Williams, reside in Acworth, Georgia.

Todd R. Zimbelman (Salem, Oregon) is the Director of Bands and Co-Director of the Symphony Orchestra at West Salem High School in the Salem-Keizer School District (Oregon). Zimbelman has held Director of Bands and Associate Director of Bands positions at the high school and college levels in Oregon and Texas. Marching bands under his direction have received several championship titles and caption awards. His wind ensembles consistently receive superior ratings and have placed first at the 6A Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) State Band Championships multiple times. His ensembles have attended national and international festivals and have performed at the Oregon Music Educators State Conference, the Western International Band Clinic, 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 perform and medal at the OSAA State Solo and State Chamber Ensemble Contests. Zimbelman's arrangements and compositions are performed at national and international festivals and competitions. His tone and technique books are used by several band programs across the United States. Zimbelman has adjudicated for several organizations, including Bands of America and Drum Corps International. He is currently a member of the American Bandmasters Association, College Band Directors National Association, National Association for Music Education, National Band Association (state chair), Oregon Band Directors Association, Oregon Music Educators Association (treasurer), and Phi Beta Mu.

VISUAL PANEL

Todd James (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma) is the former Program Coordinator, Visual Designer, and Colorguard Director at Winston Churchill High School in San Antonio, Texas. In the world of field pageantry, he was responsible for choreographing and staging 20+ San Antonio Schools in the annual Battle of the Bands/Battle of Flowers Band Festival. James staged and produced the Alamodome Grand Opening Celebration, and he was responsible for bringing together over 4,000 vocal students and color guards for the Northeast Fall Festival. He has also served as a guest speaker for Texas Bandmasters Association. Additionally, James served as the Director of Musical Theater at South Texas' premiere fine arts high school: Northeast School of the Arts (NESA) in San Antonio, Texas. His musical theater productions were selected for both Texas and National Thespian Convention performances as well as the Fringe Festival. 2023 finds him visually designing, consulting, and serving as a guest clinician for various programs throughout the country, specializing in achievable design and effect for smaller programs. His performance background includes various summer stock, regional, and national productions. James was also a cast member of two international tours. He has appeared on numerous cruise ships and serves as the emcee of America's Youth on Parade. Reality television fans may know him from *Toddlers & Tiaras*. James holds a B.M. and B.E. from Texas State University. When not inspiring those in the arts, he is the owner of Thompson's Creations in Oklahoma City, a specialty fabric showroom providing winning looks and designs for a multitude of groups and individuals throughout performance genres.

Damon Padilla (Atlanta, Georgia) has been involved in the marching band, drum corps, and color guard activity for over 30 years. In this time, he has become a highly sought-after designer, clinician, and judge. His teaching and design credits include numerous well-known drum and bugle corps including the Santa Clara Vanguard, Phantom Regiment, Blue Knights, Madison Scouts, and the Pride of Soka from Tokyo, Japan. He has also had the pleasure of working with many high school marching bands from around the country, including bands from Texas, Florida, Indiana, Georgia, Colorado, Nevada, and California. Under his guidance, many of these bands have gone on to achieve numerous state, regional, and national titles. In addition to designing, Padilla serves as both a clinician and judge. He has been a 5-time featured clinician at the Music for All Summer Symposium, leading both director and student sessions in visual design and rehearsal techniques. He also spent 10 years as the color guard director for Positive Performance Concepts, a camp/clinic he helped create and develop for students of smaller band programs in the Mid-South. He currently judges for Drum Corps International (DCI), Winter Guard International (WGI), and Bands of America (BOA). Padilla resides in

Atlanta, GA. Outside of his work in the marching arts, he is also a Licensed Massage Therapist and the founder and owner of Rare Energy, his bodywork and holistic healing studio.

Bob Thomas (*Apollo, Pennsylvania*) has taught many championship high school marching bands, drum and bugle corps, winter guards, and winter winds. He currently judges or has judged for Bands of America (BOA), Drum Corps International (DCI), Winter Guard International (WGI), Drum Corps Midwest, Drum Corps Atlantic, Indiana State School Music Association (ISMMA), Drum Corps Europe (DCE), Ohio Judges Association, Florida Federation of Judges, Atlantic Indoor Association (AIA), Pennsylvania Federation of Judges, and Marching in Okayama, Japan and Drum Corps Associates (DCA). In 2008 and 2009, Thomas judged the World Marching Band Championships in Malaysia. He also judged in 2009 to 2011 for the Thailand Drum Line Competition in Bangkok, Thailand. In addition, Thomas has judged for Italian Marching Show Bands Association (IMSB) from 2014 to 2017. He also judged the Grand Prix Marching Band competition in Jakarta, Indonesia in 2017 to 2019. Thomas has been a clinician for Carolina Winter Ensemble Guard Circuit, Seton Hill College Color Guard Camp, West Chester College Color Guard Camp, Penn. Federation of Contest Winter Guard and Band, Ohio Judges Association Winter Guard, Florida Federation of Judges Winter Guard, Atlantic Indoor Association (AIA), South East Color Guard Circuit, Texas Color Guard Circuit, Indiana Indoor Color Guard, DEG Japan Clinician, Drum Corps Europe, Malaysian World Band Competitions, Marching Bands of Indonesia, Borneo Marching Days, Clinician for the European Mega Clinic, and the Irish Marching Bands Association. He is currently the Chairman of Drum Corps Asia, Director of Education for the Atlantic Indoor Association (AIA) indoor color guard association, Co-Chair of the Education Committee for the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Marching Band Association (PIMBA), Director of Education for The Virginia Marching Band Cooperative, and was the Director of Education for Drum Corps Europe (DCE) for the past 16 years. Thomas has been to Borneo and Bandung, Indonesia, where he taught the DCE Judges College for their DCE license partner Marching Bands of Indonesia. He designed the current scoring system for Drum Corps Europe and Drum Corps Asia, which is currently being used in 12 countries.

CHIEF JUDGE

John Phillips (*Indianapolis, Indiana*) recently served as an Adjunct Professor at Florida Gulf Coast University and was also the 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, 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 Festival, the annual Summer Symposium, and the Bands of America Grand National Championships. 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.