



New Mexico Regional Championship, presented by Yamaha
ADJUDICATION PANEL BIOGRAPHIES
September 23, 2023 - Las Cruces, NM



MUSIC PANEL

Mike Davis (St. Louis, Missouri) has been involved in the marching arts activity for 30 years. He currently resides in St. Louis, Missouri with his wife Luisa and sons Paul, Andrew, and Nicolas. He has arranged, designed, and taught for marching bands and winter percussion ensembles around the Midwest and is a sought-after judge for marching band and winter percussion contests across the country. Currently, Davis is a music adjudicator for Drum Corps International (DCI) and has been invited to judge both Open Class and World Class competitions at the DCI World Championship Finals, as well as other DCI major events and the individual and ensemble competition. He is endorsed by REMO drumheads and other music industry leaders. Davis is also the director for Freedom Percussion, an Independent winter percussion ensemble from St. Louis, Missouri.

Jay Kennedy (Chicago, Illinois) has had a career that has followed a unique trajectory, initially encompassing highly successful experiences as an entrepreneur and composer, arranger, and producer of music for commercials, television, and motion pictures. Subsequently, he transitioned to Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts, one of the world's leading music schools, becoming a widely respected educator and administrative leader. His career underscores his life-long commitment to music education. While working in the music industry in Chicago and Los Angeles, Kennedy remembered how music and his teachers had positively impacted him. He committed to passing those experiences on to others, continuing to write for high school and college ensembles, conducting master classes and workshops for students, and frequently being an adjudicator and clinician for high school ensembles. He retired from Berklee College of Music at the end of 2022 as Vice President for Academic Affairs/Vice Provost. Throughout his 28 years at the college, Kennedy held several administrative positions, including department chair, dean, and vice president. During his career, Kennedy composed music for hundreds of television and radio commercials. His music has been heard in feature films, including Wayne's World, Electric Horseman, and Lethal Weapon 2. Kennedy's published compositions include works for concert band, percussion ensemble, and marching band. Kennedy has been an active adjudicator for marching band, drum corps, and indoor percussion competitions for over 35 years and has written for several drum and bugle corps. He was elected to the DCI Hall of Fame in 2007 for longtime contributions as an adjudicator, judge administrator, arranger, and composer. Kennedy received his Ph.D. from Boston College and Master of Music and Bachelor of Music Education degrees from Northwestern University.

Van Mathews (North Richland Hills, Texas) has been an active educator, consultant, and adjudicator for more than three decades, instructing music and pageantry arts at the highest levels of achievement. Formerly Director of Bands at L.D. Bell High School, his ensembles there earned multiple Bands of America (BOA) Regional and Super Regional Championship titles, three Texas UIL State Marching Championship medals, and were BOA Grand National Finalists every year they attended. A Drum Corps International participant since 1984, Mathews instructed with the World Champion Concord Blue Devils for nine seasons, earning the Jim Ott Best Brass Award at Drum Corps International (DCI) World Championships on six occasions. He has designed and coordinated for DCI's Madison Scouts and Crossmen and is currently on staff with the Boston Crusaders. Mathews is a regular adjudicator for BOA Regional, Super Regional, and Grand National Championship events, Texas UIL State and Colorado State Championships. Prior to L.D. Bell, Mathews directed bands at Haltom, Lewisville, and Lake Highlands High Schools. His concert ensembles consistently received the highest ratings at Texas UIL concert and sightreading contests while performing university-caliber literature and inspiring countless students to earn accolades and scholarships, many choosing to pursue musical careers. Mathews holds degrees from the University of South Carolina and the University of Illinois. He is a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Pi Kappa Lambda, and Gamma Beta Phi. Mathews lives in North Richland Hills, Texas with his wife and two children.

Mark Nichols (Houston, Texas) is currently the Assistant Director of Bands at Clear Lake High School in Houston, Texas. Nichols is also currently on the brass staff of the Boston Crusaders Drum & Bugle Corps. Before that, he was the Brass

Caption Head for Santa Clara Vanguard from 2012-2022 and a brass technician for the Bluecoats Drum and Bugle Corps from 2007-2011. At Clear Lake, his Concert Bands have earned a UIL Sweepstakes consistently. Prior to Clear Lake High School, Nichols also taught at Brazoswood High School, La Porte High School, Dickinson High School, Blue Valley West High School, Blue Valley High School, Parkhill Junior High, and J.J. Pearce High School. His marching and concert bands have seen consistent success with multiple appearances at state marching contests and performances at state conventions. After earning his undergraduate degree in music education from the University of North Texas, Nichols went on to obtain a master's degree in music education, graduating summa cum laude. In 2006, he undertook postgraduate studies in instrumental conducting at Baylor University. Nichols spends his free time with his wife Krissa and their three boys: Riley, Blake, and Brady.

VISUAL PANEL

Austin Greene (Raleigh, North Carolina) is a professional visual designer and educator from Raleigh, North Carolina. He is in regular demand as an adjudicator for Bands of America (BOA), Winter Guard International, and numerous local circuits. Greene previously instructed The Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps from 2012-2015 and served as Visual Caption Head from 2014-2015. He also served as Education Director for the Blue Knights Drum and Bugle Corps and as a Drum Corps International adjudicator. He is currently the Assistant Visual Caption Head for The Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps. Previously, Greene was Director of Bands at Concord High School in Concord, North Carolina, and Director of Bands and Performing Arts Department Chair at Durham School of the Arts. In 2010, he was hired as an adjunct instructor at the Dublin Institute of Technology's National Conservatory of Music in Dublin, Ireland. He has served for 10 years as a program consultant and clinician for the BOA Grand National Championships Finalist Kennesaw Mountain High School Marching Band. Greene attended Western Carolina University, where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education in 2003. He went on to earn his Master of Music in Conducting from the University of Connecticut in 2006. He is in regular demand as a designer, clinician, and adjudicator throughout the United States and abroad.

Carl Nelson (Corona, California) has an expansive history in the marching and pageantry arts activity that spans over 35 years of experience as a performer, designer, instructor, administrator, adjudicator, and clinician. As a visual judge for Drum Corps International (DCI), Winter Guard International (WGI), and Bands of America (BOA), Nelson has had the honor of participating in BOA Regional Championships, WGI Winds Championships, DCI Open Class Championships, DCI World Class Championships, and the 2019 Indonesia Drum Corps Championships. In his free time, Nelson enjoys spending time with his wife Dia of 26 years and his sons Logan and Tyler.

Ted Wemhoff (Frisco, Texas) has been involved with pageantry arts as a designer, instructor, performer, administrator, and adjudicator. He began his pageantry career in 1982 at the age of 12, marching with River City Railmen Drum and Bugle Corps from Omaha, Nebraska. Other performance experiences include the Sky Ryders Drum and Bugle Corps of Hutchinson, Kansas and Contempo Winter Guard from Dallas, Texas. Wemhoff and his wife were directors of the Frisco High School color guard from 1995-2003 and served on the executive board of the North Texas Colorguard Association (NTCA) from 1997-2003. He was inducted into the North Texas Colorguard Association Hall of Fame in 2015 and currently serves NTCA as their Judges Coordinator. Wemhoff most recently worked as a visual design consultant and band dad for the Wakeland High School Band from 2013-2019. Wakeland High School is a five-time Bands of America (BOA) Regional Finalist, BOA Super Regional Finalist, and five-time Texas University Interscholastic League State Marching Band finalist. He also consulted with the Wakeland High School Winter Guard, a 2016 Winter Guard International (WGI) Scholastic Open Finalist, as well as the Coppell High School Winter Guard. Wemhoff began judging winter guard and marching band in 2002, judging for Winter Guard International as general effect judge in 2004, and for Drum Corps International as a visual judge in 2015. He has judged throughout the United States in local winter guard and high school marching band circuits, including Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit (FFCC), South Florida Winter Guard Association (SFWGA), Winter Guard Association of Southern California (WGASC), IHSCA, Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA), and more. He has also judged internationally in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Japan. Wemhoff currently lives in Frisco, Texas with his wife Melinda and their three cats.

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.