



South Texas Regional Championship, presented by Yamaha
ADJUDICATION PANEL BIOGRAPHIES
September 30, 2023 - McAllen, TX



MUSIC PANEL

Steve Bentley (*Salt Lake City, Utah*) holds a Master's Degree in Piano Collaboration and Music Education supported by a Bachelor's Degree in Piano and Trumpet performance. Bentley's expressive sight-reading skills have made him a favorite Piano Collaborator with members of the Utah Symphony and the University of Utah School of Music. He currently teaches Piano Collaboration and is the student recital coordinator at the University of Utah Valley. Presently, and for the past thirty years, he works with non-profit youth organizations that produce the world's finest Drum and Bugle Corps. The Concord Blue Devils, Santa Clara Vanguard, The Cadets, and currently, the Boston Crusaders have all benefited from his expert knowledge of brass playing. He has been on the winning brass staff of 5 Drum Corps International World Champions and 7 Jim Ott Excellence in Brass awards. This is Bentley's 18th year as a Bands of America adjudicator. In 2002, he was the Music Assistant to the Salt Lake City Winter Olympic Band. He worked closely with Olympic organizers and the Walt Disney special event coordinators, assisting in the creation of music and motion with the Olympic Band. The 132-band members performed at the opening and closing ceremonies, as well as many of the Olympic venues and the Medals Plaza.

Matt McCready (*Tulsa, Oklahoma*) is in his 18th year with Union Public Schools and 10th as Director of Fine Arts, having previously served as Union's Director of Bands. Union has a robust Fine Arts Department with extensive course offerings and student participation spanning Pre-K through grade 12. Union has been named a "Best Community for Music Education" by the NAMM Foundation multiple times. Under McCready's direction, the Union Band saw exponential growth in student participation while also receiving top rankings and ratings at numerous local, state, regional, and national events. During his tenure, The Renegade Regiment, Union's marching band, was a Bands of America (BOA) Grand National Championships Finalist twice and participated in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Since then, McCready has been honored to help the band return to BOA Grand National Championships Finals three more times, serving in the role of Program Supervisor. McCready maintains an active schedule around the country as a musician, clinician, conductor, and adjudicator. McCready is a graduate of the University of Kansas (KU) earning both bachelor's and master's degrees in music education as well as a doctorate in educational leadership from Oklahoma State University in Tulsa. While attending KU, he was the assistant director of the men's and women's basketball bands during the 100th year of Kansas basketball and was also in the Walt Disney World All-American College Band. McCready is a native of Kansas City and is an avid Jayhawks fan as well as a die-hard Royals and Chiefs supporter. McCready is thankful for his beautiful and loving wife, Amy, who is also an administrator with Union Public Schools.

Michael McIntosh (*Minneapolis, Minnesota*) is an active clinician throughout the United States and Europe. He has also provided clinics in Japan and Beijing, China. McIntosh is currently an adjudicator for Winter Guard International (WGI) and Bands of America (BOA). In addition to designing, coordinating, consulting, and composing for many pageantry groups throughout the United States, McIntosh is the Percussion Caption Manager, Music Coordinator, and one of two Percussion Designers for The Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps. From 1997-2011, McIntosh was the percussion specialist at Carmel High School in Carmel, Indiana. The band was named the 2001, 2017, and 2018 BOA class AAA National Champion as well as the 2005, 2012, 2016, 2017, and 2018 BOA Grand National Champions. McIntosh has been a part of six Highest Achievement in Music BOA Finals awards with two different performing groups. McIntosh was the Program Coordinator/Designer for the WGI IW group Gateway Indoor from 2012-2016 and was part of a team that led Gateway to its best placement ever, finishing in fifth place at WGI Championships in 2014. McIntosh has also worked with Music City Mystique as well as Avon High School. McIntosh has created content for commercial projects across different digital mediums including video games, startups, and digital advertising. He had works commissioned for The Midwest Clinic as well as the West Point Hellcats and the US Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps. In 2018, McIntosh was commissioned to write an original orchestral work for the Contemporary Youth Orchestra. Entitled "MESH," this work premiered at the Cleveland Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. McIntosh was also named the percussion designer for the

Bands of America Honor Band in the Rose Parade®. He is an artist/clinician for Yamaha and other music industry leaders. McIntosh is a graduate of Butler University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music with an emphasis in Composition. He works in software sales for ChannelAdvisor. McIntosh resides in Minneapolis with his wife Joy, daughters Scotlyn and Graysen, and their chocolate lab, Ellie.

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.

VISUAL PANEL

Christine Dillon (Dunedin, Florida) has been involved in the marching arts activity since 1981 as a performer, instructor, designer, and adjudicator. She holds a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies and an M.A. in Education. Currently, Dillon is an adjudicator for Drum Corps International, Winter Guard International, Bands of America, and several other competitive circuits throughout the United States. As an administrator, she was Education Director of Winter Guard Association of Southern California for eight years and was responsible for color guard classification, as well as instructor education for over 350 color guards in Southern California. She also serves on the advisory board for colorguardeducators.com, and has written numerous instructional articles for the website. You can read Dillon's performer-education archived articles in Halftime Magazine, where she authored the "Guard" byline under the name of Chris Casteel for five years.

Juno Orefice (Wyoming, Michigan) started in the activity as a marching member of the Brooklyn Royal Eagles back in 1971. In 1974 he marched with the Secaucus Meadowlarks who later merged with the Woodbridge Townsman to become the Royal Brigade, a 1976 DCI Regional Finalist. Juno has worked in the pageantry arts for over 30 years as a Visual Designer. He has judged for Drum Corps International since 2006, judging World Class Finals week on many occasions. He has been judging for BOA since 2015 and has judged Indoor Guard and Percussion for over 20 years. He helped develop the Michigan Color Guard Judging Association from the ground floor and fostered the growth of judges as well as circuit members. He was Judge Coordinator for the Michigan Color Guard Circuit from 1998 to 2019 and was inducted into MCGC Hall of Fame in 2009. From 2010 to 2015, he was the Visual Caption Head for the Michigan Competing Band Association. In 2015 he became the Judge Coordinator for the Michigan Competing Band Association. Juno continues to hold yearly clinics both locally and nationally for all Visual Captions. His attitude of "it's about the kids" has been maintained and professed over his many years of service.

Drew Solomonson (Canton, Georgia) is a graduate of the University of Kentucky with a degree in arts administration. Born in Central Illinois, Solomonson began his marching career with the Phantom Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps as a member from 2001-2005. He then spent 12 years on the visual staff for Phantom Regiment, and he was the visual caption head for his final two years on staff. Solomonson now continues to be involved with Drum Corps International as an adjudicator. Solomonson also serves as an adjudicator and clinician for various competitions and festivals across the country. He continues to be an active drill designer, having written for numerous high schools, drum and bugle corps, and universities for the last 20 years. Over the years, he has also been a part of the instructional staff for several programs in the Atlanta area, including Hillgrove High School, Lassiter High School, Kell High School, and Collins Hill High School. Solomonson currently lives in Canton, Georgia, and is in his eighth year as the Manager of the Broyles Arts Center at The

Westminster Schools in Atlanta, Georgia. Prior to his work at Westminster, Solomonson worked within the College of Music at Kennesaw State University, as well as The High Museum of Art in Atlanta.

CHIEF JUDGE

W L Whaley (*Arvada, Colorado*) 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.