



Wisconsin Regional Championship, presented by Yamaha  
**ADJUDICATION PANEL BIOGRAPHIES**  
September 16, 2023 - Whitewater, WI



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## **MUSIC PANEL**

**Bob Chreste** (*Spring, Texas*) is a retired high school band director from Texas where he is also an active arranger, consultant, and adjudicator. Chreste spent 16 years teaching at several prominent programs in Texas. During his career, his bands won the Texas UIL state championship, multiple Bands of America (BOA) class championships, and many other marching contests across Texas. Chreste is currently the Assistant Brass Caption Head for the Bluecoats Drum & Bugle Corps and has also worked with Carolina Crown, Santa Clara Vanguard, and The Cadets. He is one of only a few instructors in Drum Corps International (DCI) that has been both a brass caption head and a visual caption head at a DCI finalist corps. Chreste has been a clinician at The Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, the Music for All Summer Symposium, Texas Bandmasters Association, and many other conferences. He currently adjudicates for BOA, Winter Guard International, Texas UIL, and several other local, regional, and state-level circuits.

**Bryan Crisp** (*Independence, Kentucky*) is Principal Trumpet with the Cincinnati Ballet Orchestra and performs regularly with the Cincinnati Symphony & Pops, Cincinnati Opera, Dayton Philharmonic, and the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra as well as with New York touring Broadway Across America Series'. Crisp is the Founder and Artistic Director of Tri-State Ensembles and is an active adjudicator for marching and concert band competitions throughout the country. In addition to Bands of America, Crisp is an active adjudicator with Drum Corps International, the National Trumpet Competition, and the International Trumpet Guild competitions. Crisp works regularly with award-winning band programs across the country as a Music Consultant, Music Editor, and Brass Instructor/Clinician. He holds two undergraduate degrees from Tennessee Technological University in Music Education and Music Performance and a Master of Music degree from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music in Music Performance. Crisp currently lives in Independence, KY, with his wife Sarah and daughters Sadie & Georgia. He is proud to be a Yamaha Performing Artist and Clinician.

**Mike Howard** (*Leander, Texas*) currently serves as Director of Fine Arts, Music and Performing Arts, for the Leander Independent School District. Prior to this, he spent 19 years as a high school band director, most recently in Leander ISD at Vandegrift High School. He was one of the founding directors when Vandegrift High School opened in 2009 and became Director of Bands in 2014. At Vandegrift High School, Howard's marching bands have been recognized with several high honors, such as the 2019 Bands of America (BOA) Grand National Champion, 4-time BOA Regional Champion, consistent BOA Super Regional Finalist, BOA Super Regional Class Champion, 6A Texas UIL State Marching Contest Silver and Bronze Medalist, and 5A Texas UIL State Marching Contest Silver Medalist. The Vandegrift Marching Band was also awarded the Sudler Shield by the John Philip Sousa Foundation in 2019. Under Howard's direction, the Vandegrift Wind Ensemble was selected as the 2018 Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) 6A State Honor Band and was chosen as a featured ensemble at the 2021 Midwest Clinic in Chicago. The Vandegrift Concert Band Program was also the recipient of the 2020 Sudler Flag of Honor by the John Philip Sousa Foundation. Howard serves music education through state and local leadership roles. He currently serves as Texas Music Adjudicators Association (TMAA) Concert Band Vice-President, TMEA Region 32 Band Division Chair, and TMEA Area E Band Chair. He is also an active clinician around Texas and has served as an adjudicator for Texas UIL, BOA, and Drum Corps International. Howard's professional affiliations include membership in the American Bandmasters Association, Phi Beta Mu, TMEA, TMAA, and the Texas Bandmasters Association. He graduated from Texas State University - San Marcos with a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education and from Concordia University Texas with a Master's Degree in Educational Administration. Howard lives in Leander, Texas, with his wife Amber, daughter Madison, and son Justin.

**Clif Walker** (*Kansas City, Missouri*) is an arranger, clinician, and composer with original works performed at Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PASIC), Texas Music Educators Association, Drum Corps International (DCI), Bands of America (BOA), Winter Guard International (WGI), and The Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic. He is a design team member and front ensemble arranger with The Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps - recipients of the 2023 DCI Fred Sanford

Award for Best Percussion Performance, and adjunct faculty at the University of Missouri where he teaches in the percussion studio and serves as director of the *Marching Mizzou* Drumline. Walker is a faculty member at the Music for All Summer Symposium and is a member of the BOA and WGI adjudication rosters. He served as the Director of Percussion, design team member, and arranger for BOA Grand National Finalist Blue Springs High School, MO (2011-2015), and Director of Percussion at Timber Creek High School, FL (2001-2008), who performed at PASIC in 2005 as the high school International Percussion Ensemble Competition winners. Walker is in his fourth year as Program Coordinator of BOA Grand National Finalist Fishers High School, IN. Walker holds an MME from the University of Central Florida and is published with Musicon Publications and Tapspace. He is a proud endorser of Remo, Innovative Percussion, and Yamaha.

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## **VISUAL PANEL**

**Jackie Gilley (*Midwest City, Oklahoma*)** is a native of Stratford, Texas, and was the band director at Monroney Middle School in Midwest City, Oklahoma, for 29 years. She also taught color guard for Midwest City High School for 18 years. Her first job was in Miami, Texas, teaching art and music. Gilley received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Ceramics and her Masters of Music Education degree from Southwestern Oklahoma State University. She also has accreditation in Secondary Education Administration from the University of Central Oklahoma. Gilley also earned accreditation in 2002 as a “National Board Certified Teacher” in Instrumental Music. She is past president of the Beta Chapter of Phi Beta Mu Bandmaster Fraternity. Gilley is also in the Hall of Fame for OkMEA and Oklahoma Bandmasters Association. She currently serves as president for the Stratford Education Foundation in her hometown. Gilley is well-known as a clinician and adjudicator throughout the United States. She has been an adjudicator for Winter Guard International, Drum Corps International, Bands of America, Texas Color Guard Circuit, and Oklahoma Music Adjudicators Association. She has also judged numerous state concert band and marching band championships and served as a mentor for the Judges Academy of Marching Roundtable.

**John Howell (*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*)** resides in North Huntingdon Pennsylvania just outside of Pittsburgh. He is currently employed as a Business Education Teacher in the Hempfield Area School District where he serves as the Department Chairperson and teaches Sports and Entertainment Marketing, Web Page Design, Video Game Programming, and Personal Finance. Howell holds a Bachelor of Administration in Business Management and an Accounting minor from the University of Pittsburgh and a Bachelor of Science in Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He is a visual designer and has taught and written shows for various nationally acclaimed marching bands, drum and bugle corps, and indoor winter color guards. Howell continues to conduct clinics and consultations for bands, winter color guards, and judging associations across the United States. He has been a visual adjudicator for over 28 years and judges for Bands of America, Drum Corps International, Winter Guard International, and various other judging associations. Howell has had the opportunity to judge internationally on numerous occasions. He also conducts both the Trinity Handbell and Hand Chime choirs at his church in which he has performed for over 38 years.

**Michael Brady Tarr (*Wyandotte, Michigan*)** has experience spanning over thirty years, including consulting, designing, teaching, and leading the visual programs for many of the top drum corps in the activity. These drum corps include Boston Crusaders, Cavaliers, Santa Clara Vanguard, Bluecoats, and Glassmen. Additionally, Tarr has been fortunate to work with many outstanding university, high school, and international programs including Texas A&M University - Commerce (Commerce, Texas), Lassiter High School (Marietta, GA), Plymouth-Canton High School (Canton, MI), Kennesaw Mountain High School (Kennesaw, GA), Flower Mound High School (Flower Mound, TX), Avon High School (Avon, IN), Carlton J. Kell High School (Marietta, GA), The Aimachi Band and Color Guard (Nagoya, Japan), Horwang High School (Bangkok, Thailand), and St. Joseph School (Bangkok, Thailand), as well as many other national caliber programs. As an adjudicator/clinician, Tarr is in high demand judging throughout the world. He is an active adjudicator for Drum Corps International, Bands of America, Winter Guard International, Colorado Bandmasters Association, Indiana State School Music Association, and Michigan Competing Band Association. He also had the honor to adjudicate the All-Thailand Marching Championship and the All-Japan Marching Championship. Tarr earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Interpersonal Communication (1997) and a Master of Arts Degree in Communication Arts (1999) from Eastern

Michigan University. In addition, he served on the adjunct faculty at Eastern Michigan University, The University of Michigan-Dearborn, and previously served as the Assistant Director of Student Affairs for the Mercer University School of Medicine - Savannah, GA campus. When not teaching, Tarr is an avid reader who enjoys traveling, staying active, and studying the works of Benjamin Hoff and W. Timothy Gallwey.

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## **CHIEF JUDGE**

**Richard L. Saucedo (*Fishers, Indiana*)** retired in 2013 as Director of Bands and Performing Arts Department Chairman at the William H. Duke Center for the Performing Arts at Carmel High School in Carmel, Indiana. During his 31-year tenure, Carmel bands received numerous state, regional and national honors in the areas of concert band, jazz band, and marching band. Under his direction, Carmel's Wind Symphony I performed at the Music for All National Festival three times (1992, 1999, 2004) and was named the Indiana State Champion Concert Band two times. The group also performed at the 2005 Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago. The Carmel Marching Greyhounds finished in the top ten at the Bands of America (BOA) Grand National Championship for 17 years under Saucedo and were named BOA Grand National Champions in 2005. Carmel became one of the few schools to win the BOA Grand National Championship and perform at The Midwest Clinic in the same year in 2005. The Marching Band was the Indiana Class A State Champion four times. The Indiana Bandmasters Association named Saucedo as Indiana's "Bandmaster of the Year" for 1998-99 and he was named the "Outstanding Music Educator" in the state of Indiana for 2010 by IMEA. Saucedo's accomplishments have been highlighted in articles by Halftime and School Band and Orchestra Magazines. He was inducted into the Music for All "Hall of Fame" in 2015, and was recently inducted into the Drum Corps International "Hall of Fame" in 2022. Saucedo is a freelance composer, having released numerous marching band, choral, concert band, and orchestral works. He is currently on the writing staff at Hal Leonard Publishing. He is the music ensemble coordinator for the Blue Devils Drum and Bugle Corps in Concord, CA, and is the Brass Arranger/Composer for the Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps in Rosemont, IL. Saucedo is a member of Music for All's Education Team and currently serves as the Chief Judge for BOA.