



New Jersey Regional Championship, presented by Yamaha

ADJUDICATION PANEL BIOGRAPHIES

October 28, 2023 - Piscataway, NJ



MUSIC PANEL

Edward Argenziano (Clearwater, Florida) holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from William Paterson University and a Master of Arts degree in Music Performance from Montclair State University. He has taught secondary school in New Jersey for 34 years. He was Director of Bands and Orchestra, Jazz Bands, AP Music, and IB Music at Morris Knolls High School in Rockaway, New Jersey from 1986-2014. Over those years, Argenziano served as the North Jersey Area Honors Band President and Conductor as well as the New Jersey All-State Percussion coordinator. He was also the music composition/theory Middle College teacher for Fairleigh Dickinson University. Before moving to Florida in 2014, Argenziano served as the student performance coordinator for the NFL Super Bowl Halftime Show featuring Bruno Mars and The Red Hot Chili Peppers. From 2014-2016, Argenziano was Fine Arts Department Chairperson and Director of Bands and Orchestras at Clearwater High School. He is currently the percussion director at Northside Christian School in St. Petersburg, Florida, and a member of the music administration team for the Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit (FFCC). In 1997, Argenziano began composing for Row-Loff Productions from Nashville, Tennessee. Presently, he has over 25 compositions published with Row-Loff and Alfred Music Publications that are performed throughout the world. Argenziano is an Educational Artist for REMO Percussion and other music industry leaders. Since 1987, he has been extremely involved as a music/percussion clinician and music adjudicator and has toured extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Thailand, and Japan. Argenziano served as the Drum Corps International Percussion Caption administrator from 1997-1999 and the Drum Corps Association Percussion administrator from 2001-2003. He is currently a music judge for Bands of America and Winter Guard International (WGI) as well as a past member of the WGI Percussion Advisory Steering Committee.

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.

Jon Gomez (Chandler, Arizona) serves as a National Educational Clinician providing services as a music educator, conductor, consultant, public speaker, and adjudicator. He serves as the Artistic Director and Conductor of the Arizona Wind Symphony in Tempe, Arizona. Gomez is the Former Director of Bands and Department Chair for the Performing Arts at Dobson High School in Mesa, Arizona (2000-2016). In prior years, he served as Director of Bands at Coronado High School and as the District Team Leader for Bands in the Scottsdale Unified School District. Gomez received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and a Master's degree in Education Administration from Arizona State University. Bands under Gomez's leadership earned numerous accolades and have presented distinguished performances, including four invitations to the Music for All National Festival, Carnegie Hall, five performances at the Arizona Music Educators Conference, and have toured internationally throughout Europe and China. Gomez is currently associated with The Midwest Clinic Advisory Committee, Arizona Music Educators Association (AMEA), and several state music organizations. He is a Charter Member of the Kappa Zeta Chapter of Phi Beta Mu. Gomez is also the recipient of the Arizona State University School of Music Alumni Award and the AMEA O.M. Hartsell Excellence in Teaching Music Award. Gomez has been associated with

Northern Arizona University (NAU) as Interim Associate Director of Bands, NAU Curry Summer Music Camp, East Valley Youth Symphony, and the Tempe Wind Ensemble. He has served with the Arizona Band and Orchestra Directors Association as the Past President and Board Member, and as the Co-Founder of the Summer Marching Academy.

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.

VISUAL PANEL

Tony Cimino (Salem, Oregon) is a marching arts professional who provides design, instruction and adjudication services to organizations throughout the country. With over three decades of experience as an educator, he is a staunch advocate for teaching life lessons through the performing arts. Cimino has served on the educational staff of the Bluecoats, Blue Stars, Boston Crusaders and Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps as well as numerous high school programs in Illinois, Texas and the Pacific Northwest. An in demand designer and consultant, he is the owner of CiminoDesigns.com. Since 1996, he has been an adjudicator, for marching bands, indoor percussion, indoor winds and winter guard. Cimino earned a Bachelor's degree from Northern Illinois University and a Master's degree from the University of North Texas.

John Leonard (New York, New York) has had his work seen in most of the 50 United States and abroad in Thailand, Indonesia, Italy, and Japan, being an educator and choreographer for over 20 years. Leonard served 12 years as director of the Marcus Color Guard program in the Dallas, Texas area. He has worked with distinguished organizations such as Phantom Regiment, Santa Clara Vanguard, Crossmen, and numerous scholastic and independent outdoor and indoor ensembles. In Texas, Leonard served five years on the North Texas Colorguard Association (NTCA) Executive Board in various roles, such as: Secretary, Vice President of Color Guard, and President. Leonard also recently completed a two-year term on the Winter Guard International Color Guard Steering Committee as the A/Open representative. Leonard began his dance studies at the North Carolina School of the Arts and received his Bachelor of Arts degree, with honors, in dance from Columbia College of Chicago. He continued his dance studies at Arizona State University, where he was a graduate student and teaching assistant on scholarship. Leonard has performed with The Cavaliers and Crossmen Drum and Bugle Corps, Field of View and Pride of Cincinnati winter guards, Ludwig Dance Theatre, and the national and Japan tours of the Broadway show Blast.

Adam Sage (Boca Raton, Florida) is an active choreographer, designer, and adjudicator in the pageantry arts. Sage has worked with numerous programs in the southeast including Tarpon Springs High School, East Lake High School, Seminole High School (1993 WGI A class Bronze medalists), Clearwater High School, Kell High School, and Pope High School in Marietta, Georgia. Pope High School was the 2000 WGI Open class Silver medalists and the 2002 WGI World class Bronze medalists. Kell High School was the 2005 WGI A class Silver medalist. In addition, Sage also designed for Spanish River High School Winter Guard in Boca Raton, Florida (2009 Winter Guard International Scholastic A Silver medalists). Sage's drum corps experience includes being a performing member of the Suncoast Sound and The Cadets of Bergen County. He has been on the teaching and design teams for several drum corps over the years. They include the Crossmen, Cavaliers,

Santa Clara Vanguard, Phantom Regiment, Carolina Crown, and the Madison Scouts. Sage is also actively involved with Winter Guard International (WGI). He was the director of The Company Colour Guard, Phantom Regiment Winter Guard and CrownGUARD. Sage was the director and designer for the Kennesaw Mountain High School Color Guard in Kennesaw, Georgia 2003-2016 (2004 Winter Guard International Scholastic A World Champions, 2005 Winter Guard International Scholastic Open World Champions, 2006 Winter Guard International Scholastic World Class finalists, and the 2013 Winter Guard International Scholastic Open Bronze Medalists). Sage is currently the artistic director and choreographer for the Yokohama Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps in Yokohama, Japan. Sage is the visual creative director and color guard coordinator with the Phantom Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps. He also is one of the directors at Park Vista High School in Lake Worth, Florida where he is the artistic director, designer, and choreographer. When he is not teaching color guard, Sage is a third-grade teacher in Parkland, Florida and resides in Delray Beach.

CHIEF JUDGE

Mike Back (Roswell, Georgia) retired at the end of the 2018 school year after completing 34 years as a music educator. He served at Walton High School in Marietta, Georgia since 1985, where he was the Director of Bands and Fine Arts Department Chair. Under Back's leadership, the band program at Walton received national recognition through performances at Bands of America Regional and Grand National competitions. The band is also a three-time participant in the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California. In 2010, the John Philip Sousa Foundation presented the Walton Band with the prestigious Sudler Shield, an international award recognizing marching bands of world class excellence. In 2011, the Walton Symphonic Band was selected to perform at the GMEA State In-service in Savannah, Georgia. Back lives in Roswell, Georgia with his wife Andrea.