



St. Louis Super Regional Championship, presented by Yamaha

ADJUDICATION PANEL BIOGRAPHIES

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MUSIC PANEL

Chris Dessent (*Fort Wayne, Indiana*) is a music educator, conductor, composer, and arranger. He currently serves as Assistant Band Director and Assistant Professor of Practice at Purdue University Fort Wayne, where he co-directs the university's two concert bands and teaches music education courses. Prior to this position, Dessent was an Associate Band Director at Fishers High School (FHS) in Fishers, Indiana. His responsibilities there included working with the school's award-winning concert bands, marching band, and jazz bands. Under his direction, the FHS bands consistently received top ratings at state and national contests and festivals. Dessent's other responsibilities included working with the school's pep band, pit orchestra, and chamber ensemble program. From 2015-2021, he served as a Band Director at Fishers Junior High School and Sand Creek Intermediate School. From 2012-2015, Dessent taught K-8 general music, band, and choir in Cincinnati Public Schools. Dessent is also a highly sought-after clinician, adjudicator, and performer. He is on faculty with the Indiana Clarinet Experience and frequently adjudicates for Bands of America events across the country. Dessent is a woodwind specialist, maintaining a private studio of clarinet and saxophone students in his community. As a composer and arranger, his works for wind ensemble and other mediums reflect Dessent's diverse musical experiences and interests. A 2012 graduate of the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, Dessent received a Bachelor of Music Education degree with high distinction, studying clarinet with Howard Klug. In May of 2023, Dessent received a Master of Music Education degree from Butler University in Indianapolis.

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.

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.

Paul McGarr (*Brantford, Ontario, Canada*) is Director of the Arts at the prestigious Upper Canada College in Toronto, Ontario, Canada where he has been since 2007. He is also a member of faculty at the National Music Camp of Canada and was recently the Artistic Director for the Hamilton All Star Jazz Band. He has over 25 years of teaching experience throughout southern Ontario and 15 years as musical director, composer, arranger and consultant to many prominent Drum Corps throughout Ontario. His education consists of majoring in Jazz Performance studies (trumpet) with a minor in composition at the University of Toronto and an Honours Degree from Mohawk College's Applied Music program, including the Gold Medal Award (Mohawk College's highest Accolade) and the Dr. Mitminger Award for combining Athletics and Academic Excellence. McGarr is also in high demand as an adjudicator and clinician working all over North America and Japan for such sanctions as Drum Corps International, Bands of America, Fiesta-val and Heritage music Festivals, having the pleasure of adjudicating the Drum Corps World Championships and the United States National Championships 22 times, and the Drum Corps Japan Championships in 2017 and 2018. He, his wife Jackie, with sons Joshua, Mitchell, Andrew, and daughter Jordyn, reside in Brantford, Ontario, Canada.

David Starnes (*Acworth, Georgia*) recently retired as the Director of Orchestras at Kennesaw Mountain High School in Kennesaw, Georgia where he joined the faculty in August of 2020. Prior to his arrival at Kennesaw Mountain High School, he served as Assistant Professor in The School of Music at Western Carolina University from 2011-2020 serving as the Director of Athletic Bands. During his tenure at Western Carolina University, The "Pride of the Mountains" Marching Band performed as halftime entertainment for the Carolina Panthers (2011), exhibition performances at Bands of America Regional Championships in Atlanta, Georgia (2011) and St. Louis, Missouri (2018), the Bands of America Grand National Championships in Indianapolis, Indiana (2012, 2015) and the 88th and 93rd annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City (2014 and 2019). He is the recipient of the WCU College of Fine and Performing Arts Service Award (2017) and the James E. Dooley "Excellence in Music Teaching" Award, presented by the WCU School of Music faculty and students. He served as the Director of Bands at Kennesaw Mountain High School in Kennesaw, Georgia from 2000-2011. As the founding Director of Bands at Kennesaw Mountain High School, the band program grew from its initial 85 students to over 250 members. Under his direction, Kennesaw Mountain High School was recognized in all areas of performance for their achievements at local, state, and national levels including concert band, jazz band, marching band, winter guard, and winter percussion. Under his direction, they were a six-time national finalist at the Bands of America Grand National Championships, being named the 2004 Bands of America AAA National Champion and a four-time Regional Champion in Bands of America events. In December of 2003, the John Philip Sousa Foundation presented the Kennesaw Mountain High School Band the prestigious "Sudler Shield of Excellence" for outstanding achievement in marching band. In 2005, the band appeared in the 79th Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. The Kennesaw Mountain High School Wind Symphony performed at the 60th Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic held in Chicago, Illinois in December of 2006. Starnes is sought out nationally and internationally as an adjudicator, clinician, guest conductor, and creative designer. In 2016, he was appointed a member of the John Philip Sousa Foundation's Sudler Shield Jury. From 2013-2018, he served as Design Advisor for Carolina Crown Drum and Bugle Corps, during which time the corps won the DCI World Championship and received the silver and bronze medals four times. Starnes served as the founding Board Chairman for United Sound, a nationally recognized special needs music education program from 2014-2017. Throughout his career, he has adjudicated for several state, national, and international organizations including Bands of America, Winter Guard International, and Drum Corps International from 1994 to the present. At Music for All, he has served as the program director for The Honor Band of America, who appeared in the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California 2005, 2009, 2013, 2017, and 2022. Starnes was inducted into the Bands of America Hall of Fame as a member of the Class of 2019. As a native of Chattanooga, Tennessee, Starnes graduated magna cum

laude from The University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 1988. He and his wife, Rhea Jeanne Starnes, who is a practicing architect, reside in Acworth, Georgia. His daughter, Hannah, works as an Interior Designer in Royal Oak, Michigan.

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.

Jay Webb (Avon, Indiana) recently retired as the Director of Bands at Avon High School, IN after 29 years. In that time, the Avon Band was consistently recognized as a leader in instrumental music education and pageantry activities. The Avon Band program's many successes include 55 state and 16 national/world championships, including the Bands of America (BOA) Grand National Championship in 2008, 2009, and 2010. The Avon Marching Black and Gold was awarded the Sudler Shield in 2007 and performed in the Tournament of Roses parade in 2012. All aspects of the Band program strive to achieve at the highest national levels with participation in Winter Guard International (WGI), BOA, and Indiana State School Music Association events. In 2016, Avon was awarded their third State Concert Band Championship. In addition, the Avon Band program had two Instrumental groups perform at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in 2015 in Chicago, Illinois. Webb brings a variety of experiences ranging from performances with the award-winning drumline of the Bridgemen Drum and Bugle Corps from Bayonne, New Jersey to the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. Webb is a graduate of Butler University. (B.M.E. 1991). Webb has memberships that include Phi Beta Mu, Indiana Bandmasters Association, Indiana Music Educators Association, and as the founding member of Indiana Percussion Association, Webb serves as an adjudicator for BOA, Drum Corps International, and indoor percussion competitions. Webb was inducted into the WGI Hall of Fame in 2008 and the Indiana Percussion Hall of Fame in 2016.

Tim Yontz (Fort Myers, Florida) is Professor of Music, Head of Instrumental Studies, and Director of Bands for the Bower School of Music & the Arts at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) in Fort Myers, Florida. Before joining the faculty at FGCU, Yontz served as Professor of Music Education and Director of Bands at Wheaton College in Illinois, Associate Director of Bands at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and Director of Bands at Marinette High School in Wisconsin, and New Palestine High School and New Albany High School in Indiana. Yontz holds a Ph.D. in administration, curriculum, and instruction in music from the University of Nebraska; Master of Music from Butler University in Indianapolis; and Bachelor of Music Education from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. He is a member of the College Band Directors National Association, National Association for Music Education, Phi Beta Mu International School Bandmaster Fraternity, and is a recipient of the National Band Association's "Citation of Excellence."

VISUAL PANEL

Mike Anderson (Eagle, Idaho) has been involved in pageantry arts for more than 30 years as a performer, instructor, designer, and adjudicator. Anderson serves as a program coordinator and visual designer for numerous programs throughout the United States. In addition to Bands of America (BOA), Anderson adjudicates for many other organizations, including Drum Corps International, Winter Guard International, and Drum Corps Japan. Anderson is the judges' coordinator for the Indiana High School Color Guard Association and enjoys spending time assisting the Maui Film Festival.

Marie Czapinski (*Des Plaines, Illinois*) is an expert in the field of pageantry and the only person to hold Hall of Fame membership in all three elite marching arts organizations: Winter Guard International, Drum Corps International, and Bands of America. Czapinski is a co-founder of Winter Guard International, a Drum Corps International Championship adjudicator for 25 years, and she played a key role in the formation and development of Bands of America. Czapinski is devoted to all aspects of education in the marching visual arts. She is an active educational clinician and consultant with Bands of America. Czapinski is also the Assistant to the Director of the Phantom Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps in Rockford, Illinois.

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.

Kim Kuhn (*Westland, Michigan*) has played various roles since becoming involved in the pageantry arts 25 years ago. As a performer, designer, director, instructor, and clinician, Kuhn has been involved with multiple groups making appearances in Bands of America (BOA), Drum Corps International (DCI), and Winter Guard International (WGI) semi-finals and finals. She continues to work with groups in the fall and winter as a writer/designer and technician. As an instructor, she most enjoys being able to share her passion for the activity with her students, watching the training foundation she put into place support their development continuing to higher levels of performance with other organizations as well as teaching groups of their own. Having served on the Board of Directors for the Michigan Color Guard Circuit (MCGC) for multiple years, she is currently the Vice President of Color Guards where her main focus is on instructor education. She remains an active member of the rules, championships, and education committees in MCGC. Her judging experience as a visual judge includes: BOA, WGI, DCI, as well as multiple local circuits throughout the country.

Gregory Llacer (*Placitas, New Mexico*) has been a pageantry arts adjudicator and clinician since 1989, judging field show, winter guard, and percussion competitions nationwide. He is most recently affiliated with Bands of America as a Regional, Super Regional, and Grand National Championships judge; Drum Corps International as a Regional and World Championships judge; and as an adjudicator for regional/state organizations across the United States. He has taught color guards and has written field show drill for large high school and university programs such as Vista and Poway High Schools in north San Diego County, California; San Diego State University; and Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. He also has served in leadership roles across the pageantry arts, as a member of the Board of Directors for the Winter Guard Association of Southern California (from which he is recipient of the Order of Excellence and Hall of Fame honors), Chief Judge for the Texas Color Guard Judges Association, and former member of the Field Adjudication Steering Committee for the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association. Llacer lives in Placitas, New Mexico, and is affiliated with Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he is the former director of competitive international, national, and institutional scholarships as well as university-wide undergraduate research programs. He currently serves as the Global Director of Amgen Scholars, a worldwide program for undergraduates in biotechnology research, supported by the Amgen Foundation.

Michael Turner (*San Francisco, California*) began his career in the pageantry arts as a member of the Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps. Trained in ballet, jazz and modern dance, Turner was one of the early color guard pioneers to introduce dance and movement to the marching arena. While in Madison, Turner performed with Kanopy Dance Theatre, Presentense, Children's Theatre of Madison, Madison Opera, and Ballet Madison. With such a diversified

background, Turner developed an artistically strong and original teaching style. For 18 years, he worked with the two-time World Champion Madison Scouts, serving as Color Guard Choreographer and Visual Coordinator. In the San Francisco Bay Area, Turner served as Dance Master and Choreographer for the six-time World Champion Santa Clara Vanguard Drum and Bugle Corps. Turner has judged for Winter Guard International, Bands of America, and Drum Corps International, and continues freelance judging for marching bands, drum corps, and color guard throughout the world.

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.