



Waco Regional Championship, presented by Yamaha
ADJUDICATION PANEL BIOGRAPHIES
October 28, 2023 - Waco, TX



MUSIC PANEL

Donald Hill (Ventura, California) is active as a free-lance composer and arranger. He is currently published by Great Works Publishing Inc., and Ludwig Music, and has received commissions from high schools and universities throughout the United States. Hill has been a member of The American Society of Composers and Publishers (ASCAP) since 1994, and six times has received recognition from the ASCAP Special Awards Panel for his works. Hill judged for Drum Corps International from 1984 to 2001 and served as the Caption Chairman for Brass and Music General Effect from 1993-1999. He also judges for Bands of America and many other invitational contests, both nationally and internationally.

Travis Moddison (Grants Pass, Oregon) is an educator, composer, and trumpet player from Oregon. He's currently the Director of Bands at Ashland High School, where the groups regularly premier new works and have a comprehensive music program. In addition to high school, Moddison has taught at several drum corps, including Santa Clara Vanguard, Cadets, Oregon Crusaders, and countless marching bands. He also enjoys raising ducks and chickens and is a huge fan of new and diverse composers.

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.

Caleb Rothe (Fontana, California) is the Percussion Education Coordinator for Winter Guard International (WGI). He has been a music educator in Southern California since 1997 and has worked with more than twenty different high schools, independent percussion ensembles, and drum and bugle corps. Rothe is an internationally sought-after clinician and has written for numerous groups across the United States and Japan. He has served as an adjudicator at events across the United States, Europe, and Asia. His judging experience includes work with Bands of America (BOA), Drum Corps International (DCI), WGI, Drum Corps Japan, and a number of local and regional marching arts organizations and events across the United States. On the field, his groups have previously been named DCI Division III World Champions, BOA Grand National Finalists, BOA Regional Champions, and Western Band Association Grand Champions. Rothe was inducted into the WGI Hall of Fame in 2020. He currently serves as an Instructional Technology Coach for the Redlands Unified School District, working with teachers on instructional pedagogy, student engagement, and 21st-century lesson design. Rothe lives with his wife and two sons in Fontana, California.

VISUAL PANEL

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.

Randy Nelson (*Jacksonville, Florida*) is a Lifetime Member of the Florida Bandmasters Association after serving as the Director of Bands at Choctawhatchee High School in Fort Walton Beach, FL for 26 years. He is a member of the Winter Guard International (WGI) Hall of Fame and a Past President of the WGI Board of Directors. Nelson is currently a member of the Board of Directors for the Florida Marching Band Coalition (FMBC). He has adjudicated for Bands of America, Winter Guard International, Drum Corps International, Indiana State School Music Association, CBA, FMBC, and served as Chief Judge for the Western Band Association. Nelson attended Jacksonville State University where he received his degree in Music Education and is also the visual designer for the 450-member Marching Southerners. He is currently a freelance designer, adjudicator, and clinician for bands and winter guards in the United States and internationally.

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.

CHIEF JUDGE

Ken Turner (*Apalachin, New York*) has extensive experience in music education. He has served as band director, music supervisor, clinician, music arranger, program coordinator, adjudicator and guest conductor. His bands have won numerous local, state and national honors. Turner was Music/Brass Chairman for the New York State Field Band Conference, Drum Corps Associates, the New York Federation of Contest Judges and Drum Corps International, and served as Judge Administrator for the New York State Field Band Conference as well as Drum Corps International. He has judged virtually every major state and national marching music event. He has been inducted into the DCI and New York State Field Band Conference Halls of Fame. Turner was Director of Music for the Johnson City Central School District in Johnson City, NY, which was honored on 6 occasions as a Grammy Signature School, and recognized as one of the 100 Best Communities in America for Music Education. He served as a member of the national advisory board for the Partners in Education Program at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, and is currently a member of NAMM’s congressional advocacy group. Turner holds a US Patent for the angled shell drum, and is currently the President of ErgoSonic Percussion LLC.