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**ADJUDICATION PANEL BIOGRAPHIES**  
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## **MUSIC PANEL**

**Cliff Croomes (Austin, Texas)** serves as the Associate Director of Bands and Director of the Longhorn Band at the University of Texas at Austin. Prior to his return to Austin, he was the Assistant Director of Bands at Louisiana State University and the Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Civic Orchestra of Baton Rouge. Previous to his appointment as a faculty member, he studied at LSU for his Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees. Prior to his time at LSU, Croomes served as the Director of Bands at Georgetown High School in Georgetown, Texas. Under his baton, the Georgetown Wind Symphony was named a 2014 Mark of Excellence Commended Winner. Earlier in his career, Croomes was the Associate Director of Bands at Douglas MacArthur High School in San Antonio, Texas. He has also taught at Westview Middle School, Pflugerville High School and Bastrop High School. He has also had the pleasure of serving on the faculty of the University of Texas Longhorn Music Camp from 2001-2014. Croomes earned his Bachelor of Music Studies degree from the University of Texas at Austin, and is an alumnus of the Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps from Rosemont, Illinois. He has performed with ensembles throughout the United States, London, Paris, Switzerland, Germany, and Italy as well as serving as an international consultant throughout Japan. He has served as an adjudicator and clinician for marching and concert bands throughout the states of Texas and Louisiana. Croomes holds an artist/educator endorsement with Innovative Percussion and is a founding board member of the composer diversity initiative "And We Were Heard" as well as a member of the Dr. William P. Foster Initiative advisory board. He also holds professional memberships in the Texas Bandmasters Association, Texas Music Adjudicators Association, the Percussive Arts Society, Louisiana Music Educators Association and the Texas Music Educators Association.

**Chip Crofts (Acworth, Georgia)** serves as Director of Jazz Studies and Assistant Director of Bands at the Georgia Institute of Technology. A Grammy-nominated artist, Crofts has performed and recorded for the Disney Company in Europe and the United States and maintains an active career as a first call musician for national touring shows and orchestral dates throughout the United States. Crofts has toured and worked with numerous international artists and ensembles, including Ray Charles, Natalie Cole, The Manhattan Transfer, Frankie Valli, Jamie Cullum, Boston Brass, Rhythm and Brass, The O'Jay's, The Temptations and Maynard Ferguson, among others. He can be heard on recent albums with John Driskell Hopkins, Jennifer Holliday, and Joe Gransden, as well as on the SeaBreeze Jazz label, with groups such as the Bob Meyer Concept Orchestra and Third Coast Jazz Orchestra. Crofts was also a featured musician on the Grammy-nominated "Celebration of Life" with Little Joe Y La Familia. Additional recordings include performances with the University of Texas Wind Ensemble, University of Texas Jazz Orchestra, Penn State Centre Dimensions and East Carolina Jazz Ensemble "A". Dr. Crofts has also been a featured soloist in some of the world's premier musical venues, including Birdland, Blues Alley, Blue Note, Hollywood Bowl and Carnegie Hall. As an educator and clinician, Crofts presents clinics nationally on Brass Pedagogy, Jazz Pedagogy, Breathing for Wind Players and Versatility in Performance. Currently, Crofts serves as Vice-President of the Georgia Association of Jazz Educators, as well as being a member of NAFME, the American Federation of Musicians, the Jazz Education Network and The International Trumpet Guild. He is a past fellowship recipient from the Aspen Music Festival and Music at the Banff Centre (Canada), as well as a grant recipient from the National Endowment for the Arts, Georgia Tech Foundation, and recent selection as a Georgia Tech "Class of 1969 Teaching Fellow". Highly involved in the Marching Arts, Crofts has served as a brass instructor with Spirit of Atlanta, Phantom Regiment, The Cavaliers, Santa Clara Vanguard and is presently Brass Caption Head for the 19-time World Champion, Blue Devils. Crofts is active as a clinician and adjudicator and has served in this capacity with organizations such as Bands of America, Drum Corps International, Drum Corps Japan, DCI Taiwan Marching Academy, Winter Guard International, and numerous state and national music educator associations. Crofts received his undergraduate degree in Music Business from East Carolina University, a Master of Music in Orchestral Performance from Penn State University, as well as the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Trumpet Performance with a Jazz Emphasis from the University of Texas at Austin. His primary teachers include Ray Sasaki, Ray Crisara, John Daniel and Tom Huener, including additional studies with Boyde Hood and Roger Ingram. Previously, Crofts served on the faculties of Samford

University, Jacksonville State University and The University of Texas at Austin. He resides in Acworth, GA with his wife Kelly and daughter Abigail.

**Beth A. Fabrizio (Fairport, New York)** recently retired after 36 years as a public school educator. She most recently taught in The Hilton Central School District in New York as a director of bands at Village Elementary School. Fabrizio maintains a private clarinet studio with numerous students pursuing careers in music education, music business, therapy, recording, and performance. She performed as the principal clarinetist and personnel manager with The Greater Rochester Music Educators Wind Ensemble and former Eb clarinetist with The Perinton Concert Band. Fabrizio is a freelance performer and an active artist/clinician. She also presents educational clinics and workshops through Fabrizio's Musical Concepts. Fabrizio has conducted various honor bands and given master classes and clinics across the United States, Europe, Japan, and Malaysia. She has taught marching bands and drum and bugle corps for over 40 years. Fabrizio has been the brass caption head with The Carolina Crown Drum and Bugle Corps; brass coordinator with The Pride of Soka from Tokyo, Japan; and brass staff with the Boston Crusaders, The Glassmen, and Spirit of Atlanta. Fabrizio adjudicates for Bands of America, Drum Corps International, Winter Guard International, and numerous other state associations. She is honored to be the founder and charter member of the newly formed Chi chapter of Phi Beta Mu and was inducted in May of 2022. Fabrizio holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Clarinet Performance from the Eastman School of Music. She also holds a Master of Music degree in Conducting, Education, and Performance from Ithaca College. Fabrizio has studied conducting with Rodney Winther and Dr. Donald Hunsberger and clarinet with Michael Webster, Richard Waller, Stanley Hasty, William Osseck, and Carmine Campione. She has also performed in master classes with Richard Stoltzman.

**Glenn Fugett (San Antonio, Texas)** is a retired music educator. His career spanned 37 years in both Texas and Tennessee. From 2019 to 2022, Fugett worked in Instructional Support for Metro Nashville Public Schools. From 2015 to 2019, he was the Director of Bands and Orchestras at Nashville School of the Arts (NSA). In the spring of 2019, the NSA Wind Ensemble received the Award of Distinction in Concert Performance from the American School Band Directors Association. His Chamber Orchestra and Wind Ensemble were both selected to perform at the Music for All National Festival in 2017. From 2007 through 2015, Fugett was the Director of Bands at Legacy High School in Mansfield, Texas. The group was a finalist at numerous Bands of America (BOA) Regional Championships and Texas UIL State Marching Contest. They were the 3A class champions at the 2011 Arlington and 2013 Allen BOA Championships. The Legacy Wind Ensemble performed at the Music for All National Festival in 2014. Fugett was the Associate Director of Bands at Westlake High School in Austin, Texas from 1991 through 2007. The Westlake Band performed at The Midwest Clinic in 2002, the Tournament of Roses Parade in 2003, and was a consistent finalist at the BOA San Antonio Super Regional Championship and the Texas UIL State Marching Contest. From 1986 to 1991, Fugett was the head middle school band director at Calallen Middle School in Corpus Christi, Texas. Fugett is a sought-after clinician with Music for All and Yamaha. He has been an adjudicator for BOA since 1995 and Drum Corps International (DCI) since 1992. He was the DCI Percussion Judge Caption Head from 2003 through 2008 and served as DCI Judge Liaison from 2012 through 2015. Fugett now resides in San Antonio with his wife of 37 years, Robin.

**Randy Greenwell (Indianapolis, Indiana)** is the former Director of Bands and Performing Arts Department Chair of the nationally recognized Lawrence Central (LC) High School Performing Arts Department in Indianapolis, Indiana. During his time as a music educator, the Lawrence Central High School Marching Band was an 18-time Bands of America Grand National Championships Finalist and a two-time Grand National Champion. The Lawrence Central High School Marching Band was a 2001 Sudler Shield award recipient and a four-time Class A Indiana State Champion. They participated in prestigious national events such as the Tournament of Roses and Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parades. His wind ensembles were consistent state finalists, being named ISSMA Concert Band State Champion on five separate occasions. In addition, the LC Jazz Ensembles were awarded honor band status at several jazz festivals throughout his tenure at Lawrence Central. Greenwell was named a "Distinguished Citizen of Indianapolis" in 2001. He was inducted into the Music for All Hall of Fame as well as the Phi Beta Mu Hall of Fame in 2018. In April 2023, Greenwell was recognized by the National Federation of High Schools as their Regional Music Educator of the Year. Greenwell actively judges for Bands of America, Drum Corps International, and Winter Guard International. He also guest conducts honor bands and does clinics on a

variety of music education topics across the country. Greenwell currently serves on staff with The Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps as an ensemble specialist.

**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.

**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.

**Jager Loyde (Round Rock, Texas)** received his bachelor's degree in music education from the University of North Texas and his master's degree in educational leadership from Stephen F. Austin State University. He currently serves as a Director of Fine Arts in Round Rock Independent School District and Artistic Director of the Central Texas Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. Loyde previously served as the Assistant Director of Instrumental Music and Director of Bands at Cedar Ridge High School. Beginning his career at Westfield High School in Spring Independent School District, bands and orchestras under Loyde's direction have received consistent superior ratings in Texas University Interscholastic League Concert and Sight-Reading Evaluations. Complementary to these achievements, the Sudler Shield nominated programs under his direction have been consistently successful in several marching events, including Bands of America Regional

Championships, Super Regional Championships, and University Interscholastic League State Competitions. Loyde continues his professional impact by serving as a nationally recognized adjudicator, clinician, and conductor appearing at The Midwest Clinic; Music for All Summer Symposium; numerous state music educator conferences and marching championships; and many Bands of America Regional, Super Regional, and Grand National Championship events. Most recently, Loyde was a faculty member for the Bands of America Honor Band in the 2022 Rose Parade® and serves as an adjudicator for Bands of America and Drum Corps International. In his free time, he enjoys creating art and capturing complex concepts through minimalist photography. Loyde is grateful for the opportunity to continue to share his experiences and perspectives with educators, students, and community members who are passionate about the arts, personal growth, student achievement, and leadership.

**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.

**Dave Orser (*Kingston, Ontario, Canada*)** is the Music Director at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, a position he has held for the past 28 years. Orser's musical ensembles have received top honors, not only at the Provincial and National Levels, but throughout the United States as well. In addition to being a lifelong performer and arranger in the marching arts, Orser is an adjudicator for Bands of America and Drum Corps International.

**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. Additionally, he serves as an Education Consultant at Music for All in Indianapolis, Indiana. While fulfilling this role, his duties include serving 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.

**Todd R. Zimbelman (Salem, Oregon)** is the Director of Bands and Co-Director of the Symphony Orchestra at West Salem High School in the Salem-Keizer School District (Oregon). Zimbelman has held Director of Bands and Associate Director of Bands positions at the high school and college levels in Oregon and Texas. Marching bands under his direction have received several championship titles and caption awards. His wind ensembles consistently receive superior ratings and have placed first at the 6A Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) State Band Championships multiple times. His ensembles have attended national and international festivals and have performed at the Oregon Music Educators State Conference, the Western International Band Clinic, and the NAFME All-NW Conference. Students under his direction are regularly selected for All-City, All-State, and All-Northwest honor bands as well as perform and medal at the OSAA State Solo and State Chamber Ensemble Contests. Zimbelman's arrangements and compositions are performed at national and international festivals and competitions. His tone and technique books are used by several band programs across the United States. Zimbelman has adjudicated for several organizations, including Bands of America and Drum Corps International. He is currently a member of the American Bandmasters Association, College Band Directors National Association, National Association for Music Education, National Band Association (state chair), Oregon Band Directors Association, Oregon Music Educators Association (treasurer), and Phi Beta Mu.

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## **VISUAL PANEL**

**Lee Carlson (Palm Springs, California)** has been involved in the pageantry arts for over 50 years. He has spent the last 40 years as the drill designer and color guard instructor for the University of Southern California Trojan Marching Band. His high school teaching experience includes 18 years at Indio High School in Indio, California. Carlson has taught and written drill for many high schools, including four years with Kamehameha High School in Honolulu, Hawaii. He has instructed the Denver Blue Knights, Great Bend Argonne Rebels, and the Hutchinson Sky Ryders. Carlson has been a judge for Drum Corps International (DCI), Bands of America, Winter Guard International, and many winter guard and marching band circuits across the United States. He has served 21 years as a judge, four years as Visual Caption Head, and five years as Judges Training Coordinator with DCI. For the past five years, he has served in the position of Artistic Director and Director of Competition with DCI. Carlson has judged in Europe and Asia and has adjudicated the Drum Corps Japan Championships nine times. He has written for and taught many mass bands including the opening and closing of the Los Angeles Olympics (1984), Centennial of the Statue of Liberty (1986), and the Bicentennial of the French Revolution and the Centennial of the Eiffel Tower in Paris (1989). Carlson owns and operates a successful pottery studio in Palm Springs, California, where he has been an active member of the community for the past 39 years.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Tim Landess (*Indianapolis, Indiana*)** is the founder, president and CEO of Advantage Billing & Consultants, Inc. With over 20 years in the long-term-care industry, his billing and consulting company fills a niche role by solely servicing the long term care industry; a significant need for our aging population. Landess and his company assist providers across the United States with accounts receivable and financial management. Landess is also a licensed Health Facility Administrator in the State of Indiana. Matching his professional desire to educate and be of service, Landess has been involved in the marching arts for over 30 years. After spending his youth as a performer including marching with his high school band and then continuing on into Drum Corps, Landess became a Visual Designer/Color Guard Director for winter guards and marching bands across Indiana. For nearly two decades, his units were perennial state and national marching band finalists in the Indiana State School Music Association, and Bands of America Regional and Grand Nationals competitions. As Landess's professional obligations increased, he transitioned from teaching to judging. Landess began his judging career in 2003 and became a WGI judge in 2007. He is a member of the Florida Federation of Judges Association and is in regular rotation for Bands of America. Landess attended Ball State University and is originally from Portland, Indiana. He currently resides in Indianapolis.

**Meghan McCourt (*New York, New York*)** has experience designing and teaching with many winter guard and marching band programs at both the high school and collegiate levels. She is an adjudicator with Winter Guard International and Drum Corps International. McCourt works in Human Resources with Madison Square Garden Entertainment Corp. in New York, NY. McCourt started dancing as a child and began color guard as a freshman in high school. She pursued studies in Dance Education and Human Resource Management at George Mason University and is an alumnus of Dominion Winter Guard and Carolina Crown Drum and Bugle Corps.

**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. Orefice 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. Orefice 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.

**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.

**Robert Solomon (Los Angeles, California)** has been involved in the marching arts since 1979. He played trumpet and was drum major at El Camino Real HS in Woodland Hills, CA. Solomon continued to perform as a member of the color guard for the Velvet Knights Drum & Bugle Corps and at California State University, Northridge. He then turned to instructing and has designed for several top programs in Southern California, and continues today. He has been judging since 1996 and is an adjudicator for Winter Guard International, Drum Corps International, Bands of America, and various state and local associations. Solomon is a banker and lives in Los Angeles, CA.

**Mike Stone (West Hills, California)** has been adjudicating various pageantry competitions since 1997. He attributes his interest in pageantry to his high school music and marching band program. Stone has studied, performed, and taught in several music programs in California. He is recognized at the highest level of adjudicators for Drum Corps International (DCI), Winter Guard International (WGI), and Bands of America (BOA). Currently, Stone serves as part of the judge Liaison team for DCI. He also is the Chief Operations Officer for the Winter Guard Association of Southern California (WGASC). As a nationally recognized adjudicator, Stone is proud to be affiliated with DCI, WGI, BOA, WGASC, the Western Band Association, and the Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit.

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## **CHIEF JUDGE**

**John Phillips (Indianapolis, Indiana)** recently served as an Adjunct Professor at Florida Gulf Coast University and was also the Artistic Coordinator for the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra. Prior to moving to Florida, he was on staff at the University of Western Ontario where he conducted the Symphonic Band and taught conducting and music education classes. He has also been a faculty member at the University of Toronto and York University in the departments of music and education. In demand as an adjudicator and clinician, Phillips shares his unique brand of music education through workshops with State and Provincial Music Educators’ Associations, the National Association for Music Education, and as a presenter at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic. Throughout his career, he has contributed to numerous initiatives

with Music for All including the National Festival, the annual Summer Symposium, and the Bands of America Grand National Championships. Phillips regularly guest conducts honor bands across Canada and the United States. For twenty years, he conducted the Wind Ensemble at the National Music Camp of Canada, and has been a guest conductor at the International Music Camp. Phillips has served as Judge Administrator for Drum Corps International since 2000, and was inducted into the DCI Hall of Fame, Class of 2015.