



South Houston Regional Championship, presented by Yamaha

ADJUDICATION PANEL BIOGRAPHIES

October 5, 2024 - Webster, Texas



MUSIC PANEL

Andrew Buikema (Rockford, MI) has 25 years of experience in design and instruction in marching band programming and 14 years of teaching experience as a Director of Bands in Michigan (Grant, MI). His marching bands were incredibly successful at local, state, and national competitions and were regular participants in Bands of America (BOA) Regional and Grand National Championships. His bands and jazz bands were also regular participants in Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association festivals and clinics. His love for the marching arts began with experiencing the pageantry of drum corps in the early '90s by watching Drum Corps International finals and especially Phantom Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps, an organization that he would later join and perform with in 2000. Buikema studied music education at Western Michigan University (WMU) in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and he has a Master of Education from Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan. He was also a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and the "Sound of Western" at WMU. Buikema's adjudication experience includes BOA, Michigan Competing Band Association, Kentucky Music Educators Association, and Scholastic Bands. He is an active drill writer, clinician, and adjudicator. Buikema lives in Rockford, Michigan with his wife and amazing English bulldog, Rubble. He works as an Assistant Principal at Sparta Middle School.

Tom Dean (Newburgh, IN) retired in May of 2022 after 32 years teaching instrumental music in Indiana. He holds music education degrees from Ball State University (Indiana) and Bowling Green State University (Ohio). In 1993, Dean returned to his alma mater, Castle High School, and began a long and fulfilling career. Under his leadership, the Castle High School wind ensemble was named an Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) State Finalist 20 times and has been selected to perform at the Indiana Music Educators Association Convention. The marching band has been named an Indiana Class A State Finalist 22 times, was a 2016 Bands of America (BOA) Grand National Finalist and Sudler Shield Award recipient, and was the 2017 BOA Class 3A National Champion. During his tenure, the Castle High School Band traveled and performed at many prestigious contests and events throughout the country, but he is most proud of the many talented and hardworking students that he has taught through the years. Dean is a member of several professional musical organizations, has served 20 years as a member of Indiana State School Music State Board, was awarded an Eli Lilly Teacher Creativity Award, and received the 2003 Ball State University Alumni Achievement Citation. He continues to be an active clinician, consultant, adjudicator, and designer for many instrumental ensembles.

Will Pitts (Atlanta, GA) is a composer, conductor, and arranger. Growing up in Carrollton, Georgia, Pitts graduated summa cum laude from Emory University, where he studied saxophone, conducting, and composition. Pitts received a master's degree in music education from the University of Michigan, and he has completed additional graduate study in political science at Georgia State University. Pitts most recently served as the Brass Arranger for the Phantom Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps of Rockford, Illinois. As a member of the corps, he served as a Conductor for three years (2005, 2007-2008). Pitts was also honored as the Regiment's 2008 Mark Glasscoe Member of the Year. In addition to his role as arranger, he also served on the Regiment's management staff, and as a Brass Arranger and Instructor for the Spirit of Atlanta Drum and Bugle Corps. Pitts is active as a music designer, adjudicator, and instructor for high school band programs throughout the country. Marching ensembles performing his arrangements have been recognized as State Marching Band Finalists and Champions, along with Bands of America Regional Finalists, Regional Champions, and Grand National Finalists. His concert compositions and arrangements have been commissioned and performed across the world. He has served as a production consultant and talent for Tom Blair, Inc., Drum Corps International, and MTV. Pitts also currently works as a Post-Production Specialist for the Forever Dog Podcast Network and is a composer and orchestrator for a variety of media projects. As a music educator, Pitts has served on the faculties of Duncanville High School in Duncanville, Texas, and Pace Academy in Atlanta, Georgia. He currently serves on the faculty of the Westminster Schools in Atlanta, specializing in instrumental music, music technology, and film. He is also proud to serve as the Grade Chair for the class of 2028. Pitts lives in Atlanta with his wife, Emily, and his two daughters, Lilly and Charlotte.

Kyle Young (Carmel, IN) is currently Associate Director of Bands at Carmel High School in Carmel, Indiana. His responsibilities include co-conducting six concert bands, one of six jazz ensembles, and athletic bands. He also serves as an Assistant Director of the Carmel High School Marching Greyhounds. The Carmel Marching Band is a 28-time Bands of America (BOA) Regional Champion and most recently made their 27th consecutive appearance in the BOA Grand National Championships Finals. They are also six-time Grand National Champions. The Carmel Marching Greyhounds have been awarded the John Philip Sousa Foundation Sudler Shield two times in the ensemble's history. The ensemble has also performed at both the Tournament of Roses Parade and the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Prior to arriving in Carmel, Young served as a band director in the Mason City School District in Mason, Ohio. During his tenure in Carmel and Mason, ensembles have been invited to perform at the Indiana Music Education Association and Ohio Music Education Association professional development conferences, the College Band Directors National Association Regional Conference, and the Music for All National Concert Band Festival. Carmel Wind Symphony 1 is a nine-time state concert band champion. Both Carmel Wind Symphony 1 and 2 have earned a spot in the Indiana State School Music Association State Concert Band Finals on multiple occasions. The Carmel program received the National Band Association (NBA) National Blue Ribbon of Excellence award in 2018. Young received his bachelor's degree in music education from Wright State University and his master's degree from VanderCook College of Music. He was named the 2013 Alumni of the Year for the Wright State University School of Music. Young serves nationally as a clinician for concert and marching bands as well as an active adjudicator for BOA and Drum Corps International (DCI). He has also had the opportunity to judge DCI Championships several times. Young lives in Westfield, Indiana with his wife Kelly, their son Landon, and daughter Evelyn.

VISUAL PANEL

Marie Czapinski (Des Plaines, IL) 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 (WGI), Drum Corps International (DCI), and Bands of America (BOA). She is a co-founder of WGI, and she played a key role in the formation and development of BOA. Czapinski was also a DCI Championship adjudicator for 25 years. She has instructed numerous championship winter guards, drum corps, and marching bands, including several BOA Grand National Champions. She is well known for her clinic presentations, integrity, and creativity. Czapinski is an educational clinician, consultant, adjudicator, and the Corps Manager of the Phantom Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps in Rockford, Illinois.

Bruce Jones (North Huntingdon, PA) is from North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in education, Jones has been involved in the pageantry arts for 40 years. His experience includes being a performer, designer, instructor, and consultant for many national programs in drum and bugle corps, marching band, and winter color guard. Many of the programs he's worked with have been finalists in Drum Corps International, Drum Corps Associates, Bands of America, and Winter Guard International events, as well as state champions and state finalists. Jones has also been involved as a clinician at many national marching band and color guard workshops throughout the United States. Jones' judging background spans 30 years in which he has been involved in judging local, regional, and international events. He has adjudicated in such prestigious events as Drum Corps International Championships, Drum Corps Japan Championships, Drum Corps Europe, Drum Corps Indonesia Championships, and Bands of America, along with numerous state and regional marching band, color guard, and percussion competitions across the United States.

Juno Orefice (Wyoming, MI) started in the activity as a marching member of the Brooklyn Royal Eagles in 1971. In 1974 he marched with the Secaucus Meadowlarks who later merged with the Woodbridge Townsman to become the Royal Brigade. He has worked in the pageantry arts for over 35 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/Winds 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 (MCBA). He has been

Judge Coordinator since 2016. 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

Mike Back (Roswell, GA) 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 Mr. 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. Mr. Back lives in Roswell, Georgia with his wife Andrea.