



Southeastern Regional Championship, presented by Yamaha
ADJUDICATION PANEL BIOGRAPHIES
October 12, 2024 - Vestavia Hills, Alabama



MUSIC PANEL

Matt Jordan (*Jacksonville, AL*) currently serves as Associate Professor of Percussion at Jacksonville State University (JSU) in Jacksonville, Alabama. He is also the front ensemble arranger for Music City Mystique, the music coordinator and sound designer for the Bluecoats Drum and Bugle Corps (Drum Corps International 2024 World Champions), and a music designer for the “Commandant’s Own” United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps. Prior to starting at JSU, Jordan was the Concert Percussion Marketing Manager for Pearl/Adams Musical Instruments, and Assistant Director of Bands/Instructor of Percussion at Middle Tennessee State University. Jordan has worked as a percussion instructor and arranger with several Drum Corps International and Winter Guard International groups, including the Phantom Regiment, Carolina Crown, and Spirit of Atlanta. He is also very involved at the scholastic level as an arranger for indoor drumlines and marching bands. He has written for Max Percussion (Bangkok, Thailand), Bangkok Society Drumline, Franklin High School, Science Hill High School, McGavock High School, Dobyns-Bennett High School, and Father Ryan High School, among others. Jordan is very involved in the greater music and percussion communities, serving on both the Board of Advisors and the music technology committee for the Percussive Arts Society. He is also an active adjudicator with numerous marching arts circuits throughout the US, including Bands of America, the Southern California Percussion Alliance, Carolina Winter Ensemble Association, and more. Jordan completed a Doctor of Music degree from Florida State University, a master’s degree from the University of North Texas, and a bachelor’s degree from Middle Tennessee State University.

David Maccabee (*Las Vegas, NV*) was Director of Bands at United Township High School from 1986-2016. He previously taught in the Geneseo and Nokomis, Illinois, school systems. At United Township High School, he was director of all instrumental music ensembles, including Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Marching Band, and pep band. During Mr. Maccabee’s tenure, enrollment in the UTHS Band program has grown from 100 to nearly 170 members. Mr. Maccabee was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, and raised in White Bear Lake, Minnesota. He moved to Illinois at age 16, and graduated from J.D. Darnell High School in Geneseo, Illinois. In 1982, he received his bachelor’s degree in Music Education from Augustana College in Illinois. He received his master’s degree in Music Education from VanderCook College of Music Education in 1989. David Maccabee is a frequent guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator throughout the country. He has conducted numerous summer band camps, including Western Illinois University, the University of Iowa, and the University of Illinois. Mr. Maccabee has also served the Illinois Music Educators Association as Division Chair, All-State auditioner, and the IMEA Mentoring Council. His professional affiliations include the United Township Education Association, the National Education Association, the Illinois Music Educators Association, the Music Educator’s National Conference, the National Band Association, and Pi Kappa Lambda. Mr. Maccabee has received citations for excellence from the city of East Moline, the East Moline Rotary Club, John Deere and Co., United Township High School, and Western Illinois University. In addition, he has received the National Band Association’s Citation of Excellence on 6 different occasions. Under Mr. Maccabee’s direction, the United Township High School Symphonic Band earned a national reputation for excellence, performing at such prestigious events as the Bands of America National Festival (4 times), the Illinois Music Educators Association All-State Music Convention, the Western Illinois University Band Showcase, and on numerous occasions at the prestigious University of Illinois Super-state Band Festival. In 1998, Mr. Maccabee became the first recipient of the “Dr. Victor Zajec Award”, given to him in recognition of the United Township High School Symphonic Band performance at the 1998 Midwest International Band and Orchestra Convention. In 2000, Mr. Maccabee was elected to membership in the prestigious American Bandmaster’s Association. David is currently a co-Director of Bands at in the Palos Verdes High School in Las Vegas, Nevada, and serves as a program consultant.

Van Mathews (*North Richland Hills, TX*) has been an active educator, consultant, program designer 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 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 performing with the Suncoast Sound and Madison Scouts. Van instructed with the Madison Scouts, World Champion Concord Blue Devils , earning the Jim Ott Best Brass Award at DCI World Championships on six occasions and the Boston Crusaders. He has designed and coordinated for DCI's Madison Scouts and Crossmen. Van is a regular adjudicator for Bands Of America Regional, Super-Regional and Grand National Championship events, Indonesia Drum Corps Association, Indiana State School Music Association, and various state championships including Texas, Mississippi, South Carolina and Colorado. Prior to L.D. Bell, Van 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 performing university caliber literature and inspiring countless students to earn accolades and scholarships, many choosing to pursue musical careers. Van holds degrees from the University of South Carolina and University of Illinois and is a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Pi Kappa Lambda, and Gamma Beta Phi. He lives in North Richland Hills, Texas, with his wife and two children.

Tim Yontz (Fort Myers, FL) is Professor of Music, Head of Instrumental Studies, and Director of Bands at the Bower School of Music & the Arts at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) in Fort Myers, Florida. Before joining the faculty at FGCU, he was 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. Dr. 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 the founding Music Director of the Symphonic Winds of Southwest Florida. Dr. Yontz 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

Tim Ochran (Grayton Beach, FL) has served as a Bands of America (BOA) adjudicator since 1985. Since then, Ochran has had the privilege of being part of over 100 BOA Regional Championships and 20 Grand National Championship judging panels. He was also a member of the Music for All Board of Directors. Since 1993, Ochran has been an active Drum Corps International (DCI) judge and has served as the visual judge administrator as well as other DCI judge administrative roles. Away from the marching music activity, he is passionate about working with others to have a healthy, long life.

Warren Rickart (Washington D.C.) is an internationally recognized marching band and winter guard adjudicator and clinician. A veteran adjudicator for Winter Guard International (WGI) Sport of the Arts, Drum Corps International, and Bands of America, he has adjudicated their world championships and international and regional competitions for over 25 years. He has served as a member of the WGI Judge Administration team and as the WGI Equipment/Movement caption manager. Rickart was elected in 2008 to the Hall of Honor for the Atlantic Indoor Association. He is the former chief judge of the Southern States Judges Association and Education Director for the Atlantic Indoor Association. He was a member of the Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps and Miller's Blackhawks winter guard. Rickart has been visual caption head, color guard caption head, clinician, and consultant for numerous award-winning programs around the country. Rickart resides in Washington, D.C. where he is employed in the media industry.

Robert Solomon (Los Angeles, CA) 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.

CHIEF JUDGE

Jon Gomez (Phoenix, AZ) 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, and Conductor of the Grand Canyon University Wind Ensemble. 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. 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 Association Conference, and have toured internationally throughout Europe and China. Gomez is 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.