



PRELIMS:

Jeff Hood: Visual Ensemble  
Stacey Wasson Moore: Visual Individual  
Eric Jones: Visual Effect  
Scott Bersaglia: Music Ensemble  
Josh Ellis: Music Individual  
David Hazlett: Music Effect  
Percussion: Dan Schmitt  
Guard: Byron Valentine

FINALS:

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BIOS:

### **Stacey Moore Wasson**

Stacey has a long history in the pageantry arts as both a performer and educator, including traveling the U.S. as a visual ensemble member of Star of Indiana's Brass Theater. She has since provided instruction and design for many fine groups across the state of Kentucky including the Adair County, Paul Laurence Dunbar, and Madison Central High School Marching Bands. Also having years of experience with Drum Corps International, she has served as a technician with the Phantom Regiment and Caption Head with Spirit of Atlanta. Currently a member of the Tristate Marching Arts Judges Association, Stacey also adjudicates in the Central Indiana Track Show Association, Indiana State School Music Association, and Kentucky Music Educators Association circuits. Aside from the pageantry arts, Stacey serves in the role of District Instructional Coach, supporting both classroom teachers and school district initiatives, and holds a National Board Teaching Certification.

### **Byron Valentine**

Byron Valentine is originally from Greenville, South Carolina, and currently resides in Dayton, Ohio, where he serves as Lead Stretch Wear Designer for national Band and Colorguard supplier, FJM Inc.

Byron has worked on the design teams for programs throughout Ohio and nationally including Bellbrook HS, Centerville HS, Dobyons-Bennett HS, Fishers HS, Miamisburg HS, Allegoria, Artistry in BLUE, the Bluecoats Drum and Bugle Corps, Carolina Crown, the Colts, Juxtaposition Winterguard, Lexis Winter Guard, and Paramount Winterguard among others. He currently serves as the Artistic Director at Etude WinterGuard.

Byron also brings with him abundant knowledge and experience as the former Executive Director of Zydeco Colorguard (2007-2014.) While active, Zydeco was a perennial WGI World Championships finalist; two-time medalist, and the 2011 World Class "Fans Favorite" recipient. In addition to design and choreography, Byron is an accomplished Equipment, Movement, and General Effect judge for colorguard and marching band circuits both in Kentucky and throughout the United States.

### **John David Hazlett**

John David Hazlett is Director of Bands at McGavock High School in Nashville, Tennessee. Hazlett earned his Bachelor of Science in Music Education from Austin Peay State University, Masters of Arts in Instrumental Conducting from Middle Tennessee State University, and Educational Specialist degree (EDS) in Educational Leadership – Principalship from Arkansas State University.

Hazlett is an active composer and arranger; designing, arranging, and composing music and productions for numerous marching bands across the United States, including the 2019 Tennessee Governor's Cup State Champion program for McGavock HS. His original compositions and custom music designs have been performed both regionally, nationally, and internationally. His Three Moods for Brass Quintet was widely acclaimed and received third place in the National Young Composer's Competition and his Seance was performed in Pamplona, Spain. During his tenure at McGavock, he has continued the long-standing tradition of superior performances in both marching and concert venues. The McGavock Wind Ensemble was a featured ensemble at the 2017 Tennessee Music Educators Association State Convention for the first time in over 30 years.

Hazlett holds memberships in Phi Beta Mu Bandmasters Fraternity, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Pi Kappa Lambda Music Honor Society, Tennessee Music Educators Association, Music Educators National Conference, Tennessee Bandmasters Association, the Professional Educators of Tennessee and has served on the Executive Board of the Middle Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association. Mr. Hazlett is a two-time recipient of the National Band Association's Certificate of Merit for Marching Excellence. In 2014, Mr. Hazlett was named Educator of the Week by ABC WKRN Nashville and is a 3-time recipient of the CMA Foundation Music Teacher of Excellence Award in 2017, 2019, and 2022.

### **Jeff Hood**

Jeff Hood is a native of Adair County, KY, with Music Ed degrees from Western KY University and the University of Kentucky. He served as Director of Bands at Beechwood Independent Schools, George Rogers Clark, and Paul Laurence Dunbar. During his 7 year tenure, the Beechwood Band grew from 28 to 96 members. While at GRC, the band won the first KMEA State Championship, Regional Champions at 4 Bands of America Regionals, and was a Grand National Finalist at five consecutive Bands of America Grand National Championships, earning Best Marching 3 Times. During his tenure at Paul Laurence Dunbar, the Band was a KMEA State Finalist 22 years, won the Large Class Championship 6 Times, were Regional Champions at 4 Bands of America Championships. The George Rogers Clark and Paul Laurence Dunbar Bands marched in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. After retirement in 2015, Mr. Hood remains active as an adjudicator, and clinician.

### **Scott Bersaglia**

Scott Bersaglia serves as Worship Pastor for Grace Baptist Church in Somerset, KY. Prior teaching positions include Department Chair of Fine Arts and Director of Bands for Pikeville Independent Schools and Director of Bands at South Laurel High School, as well as

conducting positions at Campbellsville University, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and The University of Michigan.

Bersaglia is the Founder and Music Director of the Sacred Winds Ensemble and President of Sacred Winds Ministries. Noted ensemble performances include the Baptist Church Music National Conference in New Orleans, LA, and two appearances at the Kentucky Music Educators Association Conference. In 2019, the ministry completed its second international music and mission outreach to Guayaquil, Ecuador working with the Orquesta Sinfónica Cristiana del Ecuador, the Universidad de las Artes, the Centro Ecuatoriano Norteamericano de Guayaquil, and the Orquesta Sinfónica de Guayaquil.

Bersaglia earned a Doctor of Musical Arts in conducting from The University of Texas at Austin and a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Morehead State University. His principal conducting teachers are Jerry Junkin, Richard Miles, and Greg Detweiller. He is a member of the Kentucky Music Educators Association and currently serves as State Band Chair-elect. He also holds memberships in Phi Mu Alpha, Tau Beta Sigma, Kappa Kappa Psi, and Phi Beta Mu International Band Fraternities. Bersaglia resides in Somerset with his darling wife and their two lovely daughters.

## **Josh Ellis**

Josh Ellis has been in education for 20 years. He has taught all grades, K-12, in various Music, Humanities and Language Arts environments. He is a requested judge and clinician across the Midwest. Currently, Mr. Ellis is the band director at Avon Intermediate School East, a feeder to the storied Avon High School band program. His groups regularly receive "Gold, with Distinction" ratings at ISSMA contests and he was the 2013 Teacher of the Year for Avon East.

Preceding this position with Avon Schools he taught K-12 in MSD Perry Township in roles of Assistant Band Director, General Music Teacher, Language Arts Teacher and Humanities Teacher. While in the K-5 setting, he started the "Drumming Lions", a drumming group dedicated to students with behavioral IEPs. This group celebrated a fantastic performance season by performing at an Indiana Pacer Game.

Before and while he taught in Perry Township, Mr. Ellis was on staff with the award winning Avon Marching Black and Gold from 2006-2015. The Marching Black and Gold were named "Grand National Champions" in 2008, 2009 and 2010, as well as ISSMA State Champions 7 times during that stretch. Students that started band with Mr. Ellis and continued into high school to perform with the Avon MB&G, have never finished below 3rd in the nation.

Mr. Ellis's teaching career began at Goshen Community Schools (Goshen, IN) where he was the Assistant Band Director. While at Goshen, groups received accolades at the Purdue Jazz Festival (Judges Award 2006), the Percussion Ensemble was the WGI Concert Open Class Champion and World Class Runner-up. While at Goshen, Mr. Ellis became the youngest teacher to conduct two different ensembles at the Indiana Music Educators Associations Convention (2005 and 2006). He was recognized as an "Outstanding Educator" by the district in 2006.

## **Eric Jones**

Eric Jones is from Springboro, Ohio, and has over 20 years of experience in the pageantry arts. He performed with Carolina Crown Drum and Bugle Corps, Onyx Color Guard and Zydeco Colorguard. Eric was Co-Director of Zydeco Colorguard; a perennial World Class Finalist at WGI World Championships. He was also the Colorguard Director at Lakota West High School in West Chester, OH. There he led the team in performances at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, two Rose Parade appearances and multiple WGI World Championships finals performances including a second place finish in 2014. He was the Color Guard Designer for the Troopers Drum and Bugle Corps in 2013, Program Designer for Miamisburg HS Winterguard from 2015-2017, Show Designer and Choreographer for Allegoria Winterguard 2015-2016 and has designed and consulted for numerous programs throughout Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania and Texas. Eric is a member of the TriState Judges Association and has adjudicated in numerous states and circuits throughout the U.S.

## **Dan Schmitt**

Dan Schmitt is an Audio Engineer/Designer who just finished his second season on staff at The Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps, and has also worked with Carolina Crown and The Crossmen over the past decade.

Dan has had the pleasure of working and teaching alongside many astute educators and designers over the years. He has worked with more than a decade's worth of DCI finalist percussion sections, both BOA Grand National Finalist and Champions, and WGI class champions. This is where he has gained a wide scope of teaching/adjudicating ideology and insight. While cultivating an ear for the blend and balance of ensembles, electronic elements, and other audio challenges the marching arts activity presents, Dan has made a name for himself in the world of marching arts.

Dan's workload most recently includes consulting with marching ensembles, mastering podcasts, soundtracks, and other audio samplings. Dan serves as Percussion Director at South Oldham High School, in Crestwood KY, and as the Lead Audio Engineer at Rhythm X. He currently resides in Louisville KY, with his wife Amanda, and their two pups, Spud and Roux.