

**Name: Brett P. Owens – VISUAL ENSEMBLE**

Hometown: Lexington, Kentucky

Brett Owens has over 40 years of experience in marching music activities. He has served as Program Coordinator, Brass Arranger, Music and Brass Consultant, Visual Caption Head, Guard Technician and in management for both marching bands winter guards and drum & bugle corps.

In addition Mr. Owens has served as an adjudicator at Marching Band and Winter Guard contests throughout the United States since 1987.

**Name: Tom Mueller – MUSIC ENSEMBLE**

Tom Mueller is in his 20th year of teaching, the last twelve being in the Boone County (KY) School District. Tom is in his sixth year as the Director of Bands at Camp Ernst Middle School in Burlington, KY. He has been the Director of Percussion at Boone County High School since 1990 and has been an Assistant Band Director at Boone County High School since 2001. Mr. Mueller's bands consistently achieve distinguished ratings at Kentucky Music Educators Association District Concert Band Festivals. Tom has served as an adjudicator and clinician of marching bands and concert bands since 1987 in Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana and Florida. Mr. Mueller is a member of Phi Beta Mu, Music Educators National Conference and Phi Mu Alpha, and is a Music Teaching Fellow with the National Symphony Orchestra.

**Name: Robert Fischer – MUSIC ENSEMBLE**

Hometown: Germantown, Ohio

Robert Fischer currently serves as the Superintendent of Schools at National Trail Local in New Paris, Ohio. Prior to taking the position at National Trail, Mr. Fischer served as the Superintendent of Schools at Twin Valley Community Local in West Alexandria, Ohio, High School Principal at National Trail Local, 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Principal in the New Miami Local School District in Hamilton, Ohio and was the assistant principal at Chamberlain Middle School in Carlisle, Ohio. Before becoming an administrator in 2004, Mr. Fischer was the Director of Bands for 10 years in the Talawanda City School System, Brookville Local School System, and was the middle school band director in the Preble Shawnee Local School System.

As a band director, Mr. Fischer's marching, concert, and jazz bands earned numerous superior ratings at both district and state Ohio Music Educators Association adjudicated events. Mr. Fischer's marching bands also performed with great success in the Mid States Band Association including numerous top 10 finals placements. Mr. Fischer has served as a Marching Band and Concert Band adjudicator for the Ohio Music Education Association since 1999 and has been a member of the Central States Judges Association since the summer of 2006. Mr. Fischer has had the privilege of judging state championship events in Florida, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

Mr. Fischer's professional affiliations include the Lions Club International, Rotary International, Kiwanis International, Central States Judges Association, the Ohio Music Education Association, the Buckeye Association of School Administrators, the Ohio School Boards Association and the National Association of Secondary School Administrators. During his brief tenure as a band director, Mr. Fischer had the privilege of having such outstanding band directors as Bob Bass,

George Edge, Greg Mills, Marshall Kimball, Jack Liles, Sam Reynolds, and Gary Speck work with his bands. Mr. Fischer currently resides in Germantown, Ohio with his wife of twenty-three years, Jen, and their four children Kyle (20), Michael (18), Elizabeth (15), and Madelyn (12).

**Name: Charles Myers – VISUAL EFFECT**

Hometown: Ottawa, Ohio

Charles Myers is a native of Pittsburgh, Pa. and a graduate of Miami University. Mr. Myers retired after 30 years as the Band and Choir Director at Kalida High School. During that time the Kalida Band made 21 appearances at OMEA State Marching Band Finals, earning 12 Superior ratings. He now works as a freelance drill designer, color guard and visual consultant, marching band adjudicator and guest director, and is a member of OMEA, MENC, CSJA and a life member of Kappa Kappa Psi and Phi Mu Alpha. Chas has been an active marching band adjudicator since 1991 and has adjudicated at OMEA State Finals since 1997. As a member of Central States Judges Association, Chas has judged events in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, West Virginia, Tennessee and Louisiana.

Submit: Submit

**Name: Aaron Robin – MUSIC EFFECT**

Hometown: Lafayette, Louisiana

Aaron Robin served as a high school band director for 35 years. He was at Comeaux High School in Lafayette, Louisiana for 30 years. Mr. Robin began serving as an adjudicator in 1977, and has since adjudicated band events throughout the US. During his tenure as a high school band director, his bands received national recognition in the areas of marching, concert, and jazz performance. His bands were seen in many nationally televised events including the Rose, Presidential Inaugural, and Macy's parades. The band at Comeaux was a frequent participant at Bands of America events and the national adjudicator events.

Mr. Robin was a recipient of the John Philip Sousa Foundation Order of Merit, BandWorld's Legion of Honor, and the National Band Association's Citation of Excellence awards. Mr. Robin holds a Master's of Music Education and the Educational Specialist Degree from the University of Louisiana Lafayette. He also served on the boards of the Louisiana Band Director's Association, the Louisiana Music Educators Association, and the Executive Board of the National Adjudicators Association. He is currently retired from the Lafayette Parish School System and presently serves the Central States Judges Association as both an adjudicator and as the immediate past Executive Director.

**Name: Stephen Alia – VISUAL ENSEMBLE**

Hometown: Davenport, Florida

Stephen Alia is a professional visual designer for the marching arts. As the owner of Stephen Alia Visual Design, LLC, his active visual design clientele includes high school bands from Florida, Indiana, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Texas. He is also the designer for three college bands, including the Rutgers University "Marching Scarlet Knights," as well as a member of the design and instructional staff for the

Medellin Gran Banda from Medellin, Colombia, South America.

Stephen served as the Program Coordinator and Visual Designer for the Legends Drum and Bugle Corps, from Kalamazoo, Michigan from 2011 through 2013. Under his artistic direction, Legends was named a Drum Corps International Open Class Finalist each year and the 2012 DCI Open Class "Most Improved" corps.

Previously, he was a public school band director in central Florida for seventeen years and a member of the music education faculty of Southeastern University in Lakeland, Florida. Stephen was the Frostproof Middle-Senior High School Teacher of the Year in 2005 and has been listed in "Who's Who of American Teachers" twice.

Stephen earned a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from the University of Central Florida, where he studied trumpet with Lyman Brodie and John Almeida. He performed as a member of the Magic of Orlando Drum and Bugle Corps.

Stephen is an active judge for Drum Corps International. He adjudicates marching bands as a member of the Central States Judges Association, indoor guard, percussion, and winds with the Florida Federation Judges Association, and auxiliaries for the Florida Bandmasters' Association.

**Name: George Pokorski - SOLOISTS**

Hometown: Olive Branch, MS

George Pokorski directed band for 37 years, 32 in Arkansas before retiring in June of 2014. He received his B.M.E. and M.M degrees from the University of Memphis. George has served as a clinician or adjudicator in the states of Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Missouri, Ohio, Idaho, New Jersey, and Louisiana. He has presented workshops on drill design for the Arkansas Bandmasters Association and the Memphis City Schools. George is a member of the Central States Judges Association, and he has worked assignments as a US Bands adjudicator. George is a horn player and held the position of Assistant Principal Horn with the Memphis Symphony for 30 years. In Dec. of 2003, he was inducted into the Memphis Amateur Sports Hall of Fame in the field of "Sports Officiating". In 2004, George was named "Arkansas Bandmaster of the Year" at the ABA Convention in Fort Smith, AR. He was inducted into the Amro Music Educator "Walk of Fame" in 2017. George and his wife, Kenleta, now reside in Olive Branch, MS. They enjoy spending time with their three children and six grandchildren.

**Name: Josh Nelson – PERCUSSION**

Nashville, TN

Josh Nelson has been involved in WGI and drum corps for the last 20 years. An active teacher, arranger, visual designer, adjudicator, and clinician. Josh is the driving force behind Music City Mystique, 8-time WGI World Champion percussion ensemble (Nashville, TN). He has been involved with McM since 2000 and held the role of Executive Director since 2006. In addition to his role at McM he also serves as percussion director at Stewart's Creek middle and high school in Smyrna, TN.

Josh holds a Music Education degree from East Tennessee State University where he studied under Dr. Rande Sanderbeck. He lives in Nashville, TN with his wife Meagan and their two dogs Obi and Porkchop.

**Name: Patience Long – FIELD COMMANDERS**

Smyrna, TN

Patience Long is Executive Director for The Center for the Arts in Murfreesboro, TN. As a native of Nashville, TN, she was involved in her high school band program where she was drum major for two years. She then went to MTSU where she led the Band of Blue as the drum major for five years. Marching Band is where she met her husband of 17 years, Dr. Brian Russell, and have three upcoming marching band kids: Cadence (11), Chase (9), and Constance (6).

After graduating from MTSU in 2001, Patience began her career in fundraising at Volunteers of America of Western, N.Y. Since then, she has successfully raised money and awareness for organizations including Middle Tennessee State University, Gilda's Club of Rochester, N.Y., Advocate BroMenn Medical Center in Normal, Ill., and CASA in Nashville, Tenn.

Patience was appointed on the Murfreesboro Art Committee with the City of Murfreesboro, is a member of the Murfreesboro Rotary Club, board member of the Downtown Murfreesboro Business Association, a member of Rutherford Cable, and a member of the 2017 Leadership Rutherford Class. Patience was a finalist for the Murfreesboro Young Professional award in 2017 for outstanding community leadership.

**Name: Amber Lill – COLORGUARD**

**Signal Mountain, TN**

Amber Lill grew up in Nashville, TN and is a graduate of John Overton High School and Middle TN State University.

She was a member of the JOHS Colorguard, The Back to Back World Champion Winterguard, and also played clarinet in Concert Band and Wind Ensemble. She continued her career as a performer at Middle TN State University and Chimeras Winterguard for 5 seasons.

Amber has over 20 years of experience as an instructor, choreographer and technician at several programs including, Middle TN State University, Father Ryan H.S, John Overton H.S, Riverdale H.S, Centennial H.S., Mt. Juliet H.S., and Ooltewah H.S. She has been a Fall Colorguard adjudicator for the past 15 years.

She currently lives in Signal Mountain, TN with her husband David and two children, Madelyn and David Matthew.