

Benjamin Easley *Music Ensemble/ Music Effect*

Benjamin Easley serves as Director of Bands at Nolensville High School, the newest Williamson County Schools high school which opened in 2016. Prior to starting Nolensville Band, Mr. Easley began his Tennessee teaching career at John Overton High School. He previously served as Associate Band Director at Berkner High School in Richardson, Texas, where his concert ensembles achieved the UIL Sweepstakes Award and the Mighty Ram Band performed his original compositions and arrangements as finalists at the 2012 TX UIL 5A State Marching Contest and multiple Bands of America Regional Championships.

Under his leadership, Nolensville Band membership has increased by 450% since its beginnings in 2016. In addition to consistently earning unanimous superior ratings at Concert Performance Assessment and the ASBDA Award of Distinction in Concert Performance, recent Nolensville Band performances include appearances at the 49th Annual Gospel Music Association Dove Awards, ABC World News Tonight With David Muir, Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade, Nissan Stadium for the Tennessee Titans, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Tennessee Bandmasters Association Hall of Fame Concert at the 64th Annual Tennessee Music Education Association Professional Development Conference.

Honored as a four-time CMA Music Teacher of Excellence, Manilow Music Teacher Award winner, *School Band & Orchestra Magazine's* "50 Directors Who Make a Difference," 2018-2019 Nolensville HS Teacher of the Year, and member of Phi Beta Mu, Mr. Easley graduated *summa cum laude* with a B.M. in Trombone Performance, M.M. in Instrumental Conducting, M.M. in Music Education, and M.M. in Music Theory Pedagogy from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. His primary professional mentors include Jack Delaney, John Kitzman, Ray Conklin, Lynne Jackson, Brian Merrill, Frank Troyka, and John Easley. As a performing artist, Mr. Easley has collaborated and performed live with Grammy-winning recording artists including Josh Groban, Norah Jones, Shane & Shane, and Béla Fleck & the Flecktones. Active as a regional adjudicator and freelance composer and arranger, Mr. Easley designs and arranges for high school marching band programs throughout the Southeast. A proud member of the local community, he resides in Nolensville with his wife, Sarah, and their daughters, Ella (8) and Harper (6).

John Easley *Music Effect/Music Ensemble*

John D. Easley recently retired after thirty-four years as a music educator in the state of Tennessee. He spent thirty-one of those years as the Director of Bands at Union City High School in Union City, Tennessee. Before Union City he was Director of Bands at both Dresden High School and Camden High School. He received his Bachelors in Music Education and Masters in Administration from the University of Tennessee at Martin. During his tenure at

Union City the band program has been recognized both regionally and nationally in both marching and concert settings. The Union City Golden Tornado Marching Band was an eight-time finalist at the prestigious Contest of Champions at Middle Tennessee State University, a ten-time Class Champion at Bands of America Regionals and a six time Bands of America Regional Finalist. Under Mr. Easley's direction, the band also participated in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade, The Sunkist Fiesta Bowl Parade and the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. The band also had the distinct honor on two occasions to perform at the Arizona Memorial in Honolulu, Hawaii. Probably the biggest accomplishment of his tenure at Union City High School was maintaining a near forty percent ratio of the student body as members of the band during his thirty one year tenure. He is still very active as an adjudicator and clinician throughout the southeastern United States. Professionally he is involved as past president of the West Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association, past board member of the Tennessee Music Educators Association, past president of Phi Beta Mu Professional Band Directors Honor Fraternity, member of American School Band Directors Association, National Band Association and Tennessee Band Masters Association. Mr. Easley is enjoying his retirement as a resident of the Nashville area where he is involved in the music industry as the Middle Tennessee Educational Representative for Amro Music and gets to spend quality time with his grandchildren Ella, Harper, and James.

J.R. Seals *Guard/Visual Effect*

An active designer and adjudicator, J.R. Seals considers himself first and foremost a fan of the marching arts activity. His concepts have entertained, provoked, and inspired generations of students, directors, instructors, and fans. His engagement is rooted in a selfless desire to maximize each and every performance.

Through his involvement, clients have achieved numerous successes including State Marching Champions and Contest of Champions Finalists . From 2001-2018 he led the creative development of Union City High School in Union City, Tennessee. During his tenure the program earned Ten Bands of America Regional and Super Regional Class Championships. He owns

JRSeals Concepts and is the founding editor of TennesseeMarching.com. J.R. resides in Union City, Tennessee where he is the Men's Fashion Buyer for 5 Seasons Mens Shops Inc.

Jereme Frey *Visual Ensemble*

Jereme Frey, a 1999 graduate of the University of Tennessee, is in his 23rd year as Director of Bands at Father Ryan High School. Jereme's responsibilities include conducting the concert band, after school wind ensemble, and jazz band, arranging music for and directing the marching band, coordinating the private lesson program, and teaching Music Theory I and AP Theory classes. In his time at Father Ryan the Marching Band has seen success on the local and national level, being named class champions and making finals at Bands of America Regionals and Super-Regionals, winning the 2011 BOA Jacksonville State Regional, and making semi-finals at Bands of America Grand Nationals. The band was also awarded the 2011 Esprit De Corps award and is a three time Sudler Shield finalist. The Marching Band was also a 2012 participant in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The Father Ryan Winter Winds were the first-ever Winter Guard International World Class World Champions and have medaled every in year in competition except one. The Concert Band has consistently been awarded straight superior ratings at the Middle Tennessee State School Band and Orchestra Association concert assessment, and the Jazz Band has performed at countless festivals and local events including the Murfreesboro Jazz Festival. Jereme has been recognized as an outstanding teacher by the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts 4 times. He has served as the Middle Tennessee State School Band and Orchestra Association Jazz Chairperson for 19 years, and served as the State Jazz Chairperson for five years. Jereme is a member of M.T.S.B.O.A., Nafme, TBA, Phi Beta Mu, The American School Band Director Association, The Independent Schools Band Director Association, and the Catholic Schools Band Director Association, and is currently serving on the WGI Steering Committee and is also a Conn-Selmer VIP. Jereme is an active judge and clinician and performs professionally both on saxophone and drum set. He has recorded three albums released through a Sony subsidiary, three albums released on YK records based in New York City, and has recording credits on saxophone with several local Nashville groups.

Christopher Lester *Visual Effect/Guard*

Christopher Lester is a Cincinnati, Ohio native currently living in Nashville, Tennessee. He's a highly sought after instructor, designer, clinician, and adjudicator. Christopher has worked with and design for programs all across the United States, including: high school marching bands, BOA finalists, DCI organizations and World Class WGI color guards. He currently adjudicates for Winter Guard International as well as several of their affiliated circuits. Christopher has worked with young performers at all levels and regardless of their skill the joy for him is the same - the excitement everyone brings to their performance. It is his pleasure to join these young performers here today!

David England *Percussion*

David England currently teaches the Blackman Middle School Band in Murfreesboro, TN where he was selected as Teacher of the Year in 2008 and 2017. He has been teaching middle school band since 1994. He graduated from Middle Tennessee State University in 1994 where he studied with Lalo Davila. Since 1993, David has been the percussion arranger and an instructor at Father Ryan High School in Nashville, TN. Father Ryan has won three WGI World Championships and has been a perennial WGI Finalist, medalist and a fan favorite. Father Ryan is also a three-time winner of the PASIC indoor marching percussion standstill competition as well as several local and state awards. David is a composer for Row-Loff Productions and an artist with Innovative Percussion and Mapex/Majestic.

He is an active clinician having presented at the Mid-West Band and Orchestra Clinic, NAFME National Conference, ASBDA Regional conference, TnMEA Conference, TN PAS, and many others. David is also a very active adjudicator for marching bands and indoor percussion/winds. David marched with the Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps. He was the percussion supervisor and percussion arranger for the Music City Drum and Bugle Corps from Nashville, TN for the 2017 and 2018 seasons. He also served as an instructor for the Dutch Boy Drum and Bugle Corps. David and his wife Jennifer have four children, Breanna, Aaron, Angel and Damien, and two grandchildren, Aliza Dimple and John David.