

**Stones River Classic Judging  
Panel 2024  
Riverdale High School  
October 19, 2024**

**David Aydelott - Music Ensemble/Music Effect**

David Aydelott is a recently retired band director in Tennessee. Mr. Aydelott taught high school bands in Tennessee at Lexington, John Overton, Ravenwood, Franklin, and Siegel for 29 years. Additionally, he was the Director of Fine Arts in the Williamson County Tennessee School District for two years.

A recipient of the NBA's Certificate of Merit and the Citation of Excellence, Mr. Aydelott is an active clinician and arranger and has served as an adjudicator for DCI and BOA. Music for All named David Aydelott to the "Forty for Forty." In December 2014, the John Philip Sousa Foundation named Mr. Aydelott a Laureate of the Bandworld "Legion of Honor." Mr. Aydelott has held leadership positions in professional music education associations and served two years as a member of the Education Council for the Frist Art Museum in Nashville, Tennessee. He and his wife Renee have two children, Katherine and Meredith.

**John Easley - Music Effect/Music Ensemble**

A 1983 graduate of The University of Tennessee at Martin, John D. Easley retired in 2016 after 34 years as a public school band director in the state of Tennessee. His longest tenure was with the Union City School System as Director of Bands for 31 yrs., where the band program boasted membership of approximately thirty eight percent of the student population.

Under Mr. Easley's direction, the band program flourished, affording his students much success, both individually and collectively. A nationally recognized program, the Union City High School Marching Band is a four-time Tennessee Division II State Champion, as well as the winner of ten Bands of America Regional and Super Regional Class Championships, and an eight-time finalist at the prestigious Contest of Champions at Middle TN. State University. They have been accepted and marched In The Sunkist Fiesta Bowl Parade, Disney Days Celebration, and the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City. In 2005 and 2009, the UCHS Symphonic Band performed a full concert on the deck of the USS Missouri in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

In addition to his work with his own bands, John is consistently sought out as a consultant, clinician, workshop presenter, and adjudicator throughout the Southeast. One of the highlights of his career includes his time as a staff member with the United States Army All-American Band in San Antonio, Texas. Mr. Easley's professional affiliations include Phi Beta Mu professional band director fraternity (past president); WTSBOA (past president); Tennessee Music Educators Association (past board member); National Music Educators Association; Past Advisory Board Member for Bands of America; American School Band Director Association, and Tennessee Bandmasters Association. Mr. Easley is also an inductee to the WTSBOA Hall of Fame and was inducted into the Tennessee Band Masters Hall of Fame at the Tennessee Music Educators State Conference.

John is married to Delana Easley, former UTM Faculty Collaborative Pianist. They have been blessed with a wonderful family, all of whom are involved in music and the performing arts: Benjamin and Sarah Easley, Benjamin is Director of Bands at Nolensville High School, daughters Ella and Harper; Rebecca and Chris Lowry, Rebecca is former Director of Bands at Mill Creek Middle School and Chris is Associate Director of Bands at Rockvale High School, sons James and Issac; and Andrew and Hannah Easley. Mr. Easley is currently the Middle Tennessee Educational Consultant for Amro Music and he and Delana reside in Smyrna, Tn.

### **Neil Konouchi - Visual Ensemble**

Neil Konouchi is a session musician and orchestral tuba player based in Nashville, TN. He can be heard on numerous motion picture, TV, and video game soundtracks and has recorded and performed with artists including Jack White, Taylor Swift, Yo-Yo Ma, Alice Cooper, and many others. His credits also include the Destiny 2, Apex Legends, Fortnite, Minecraft, and Star Wars video game franchises. As an orchestral musician, Neil is the principal tubist for the [Chattanooga Symphony & Opera](#) and a frequent substitute/extra with the [Nashville Symphony](#). He has had the pleasure of appearing on several of the Nashville Symphony's multiple Grammy-nominated recordings. In addition to performing, Neil is an experienced music educator, arranger, and adjudicator. He has worked in various capacities with Bands of America finalist and semifinalist bands across the Southeast and has been part of the principal design team for the competitive marching ensembles at [Father Ryan High School](#) since 2008. He serves as an adjudicator for fall and winter circuits including SCGC, CWEA, and WGASC. Neil attended the University of Southern California where he studied with the legendary studio musicians [Tommy Johnson](#) and Jim Self and finished his coursework at the Berklee College of Music where his instructors included Greg Fritze, Charles Lewis, and Phil Wilson. Neil is proud to be a [Patrick Mouthpieces](#) performing artist.

### **Cody Thompson - Visual Effect/Guard**

Cody Thompson is a native of Kingsport, TN where his pageantry career began as a performer in his local high school marching band and winter guard programs. Cody relocated to Middle Tennessee in 2012 and studied Public Relations & advertising at Middle Tennessee State University. While living in Middle Tennessee he was a performer with the MTSU Band of Blue and Eclipse Winter Guard. In 2015, Cody relocated to Chattanooga, TN and became the Director of Color Guards at Soddy-Daisy HS. Under his leadership he established a long-standing tradition of excellence within the color guard at Soddy-Daisy HS. Under his leadership, the Soddy-Daisy HS Color Guard was named a 5-time WGI Regional Finalist, and a WGI World Championship Scholastic A Semi-Finalist in 2019. Since that time Cody has helped numerous programs throughout the southeast including Signal Mountain HS, Brentwood HS, White House HS, Ooltewah HS, Reverie A, Reverie Open, Eclipse Winter Guard and Music City Drum and Bugle Corps. Cody currently resides in Kingsport, TN where he works in the gaming industry for the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Bristol, VA and actively judges for US Bands, the Rocky Mountain Judges Association, Connecting Individuals Through Performing Arts, & the Atlantic Indoor Association.

### **Amanda Jones - Guard/Visual Effect**

The executive director of Eklipse Winterguard, Amanda "Jonesy" Jones, is home grown. She was a performer with Eklipse Winter Guard from 2002-2006.

While completing her student-teaching, Amanda transitioned to a staff member for Eklipse. Amanda learned from several talented directors, eventually taking the title as director in 2016.

By day, Amanda teaches chemistry and STEM at Riverdale High School in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. She has been the color guard director at Riverdale since 2011 and reintroduced winter guard to Riverdale in 2014. Amanda graduated from Western Kentucky University with a double major in chemistry and mathematics and is also ACS certified. Most recently, Jonesy has served as Guard director for the Austin Peay State University "Governor's Own" Marching Band.

### **Kevin Geis – Percussion**

A native of Huntsville, AL, Kevin has been active in the marching percussion community for over 20 years. His marching career includes seasons with Southwind Drum & Bugle Corps, the Santa Clara Vanguard, Music City Mystique, and The University of Alabama Million Dollar Band. Since moving to Nashville in 2011, Kevin has worked with middle Tennessee programs such as Page High School, Station Camp High School, and Brentwood High School. Kevin holds a BSBA from The University of Alabama-Huntsville and is currently the Marching Percussion Marketing Manager at Pearl Corporation, the world's leading percussion instrument manufacturer. Kevin resides in Hermitage, TN with his fiancé Casey.